



# The Connecting Link

Newsletter of  
The United Methodist Women  
Mahoning Valley District  
East Ohio Conference

Spring 2011

## News from the president Judy Yungbluth

A new year, new officers, and old and new challenges.

As we begin to plan for 2011 our conference president, Donna Kaye Montemayor encourages us to read and reflect on the following scriptures:

For Courage:

Isaiah 41: 10 & 13

For Strength:

Psalms 46: 1-11

For Faith:

II Corinthians 4:  
8-9 & 16-18

For Patience:

Hebrews 12: 1-2a

Keep these scriptures

so you can draw renewal from them when the need arises.

I am looking forward to a year filled with forward motion as we strive to reach out to youth, women and children at home and around the world. Open your minds and hearts to God's will and lead your groups in faith and the knowledge that we are doing His work. Be willing to take "Creative Risks".

Spring Gathering is just around the corner. This year we will be at Salem UMC on April 26<sup>th</sup>. Gretchen Reed, our vice president, is planning a spirit filled meeting with

our own Iris Andrews bringing the message. I hope you will plan to attend, and I encourage you to send in your reservations as early as possible.

This newsletter is a very important tool in planning for the year. Keep it for reference on dates and times of upcoming events and also for officer names and contact information.

If you have questions or concerns that I can help you with, please contact me. I will make myself available to your local units if you need me, or if other officers

### Inside this issue

SOCM	1
Spring Meeting	2
2011 Officer List	3
Cluster List	4
Social Issue: Human Trafficking	4
Spring Meeting registration form	5
Date to Remember	5
Pennies	6

need assistance you can contact the appropriate district officer.

May God bless all of you as you work for Him.

## SCHOOL OF CHRISTIAN MISSION

July 15th—1 day sampler

July 15-17—3 day event

### Studies:

Spiritual Growth: *Coming Out on the Side of Grace: Forgiveness & Reconciliation*

Mission Study: *Joy to the world: Mission in the Age of Global Christianity*

Geographical: *Haiti*

Plan now to attend. The registrations will be available at the Spring District Gathering in Salem.

A great time is being planned for all including a New Year's Eve Party on Saturday night

## ...from Nominations Margaret Whitacre

Let us all renew our commitment to the mission work of United Methodist Women.

Do you know someone in your unit or a sister unit that knows someone to take a position on our district.

Please inform the nomination chairperson in your unit.

Let us lean on the collective wisdom of the body of Christ so that our lives can be filled with spiritual overflow.

*Stand up for what is right, and you will strengthen others to do the same.*



MVD UMW  
SPRING MEETING

DATE: Tuesday, April 26, 2011

PLACE: Salem UMC  
244 N. Broadway Ave.  
Salem, OH 44460-2836

THEME:  
"Christian Women of Strength"

GUEST SPEAKER:  
Iris Andrews,  
Conference UMW officer

Time: 9:00 a.m. --2:30 p.m.  
Salem First UMC  
244 N. Broadway Ave.  
Salem, OH 44460-2836

**Directions to Salem UMC:**

Directions to Salem First UMC:  
Exit State Route 11 at US 224 exit turning onto E. Main St./US-224.  
Turn left onto S. Broad St./US-62/ OH 46.  
Take the first right onto Lisbon St/US 62.  
After 3.2 mi. turn right onto Western Reserve Rd. which will become Yo. Salem Rd. for 6.5 mi.  
Yo. Salem Rd. will become N. Lincoln Ave.  
Turn Right onto E. 3rd St.  
Turn left onto N. Broadway Ave.  
244 N. Broadway is on the left. The church is large and a dark color. Enter the parking lot just past the church.

**...from the vice president  
Gretchen Reed**

Greetings faithful members of UMW,

Our Spring District Meeting will be held at **Salem First UMC** on **April 26, 2011** from 9:00 to 2:30. Theme for the day will be **"Christian Women of Strength"** using the Scripture Nehemiah 8:10; **"...for the joy of the LORD is your strength."** Our speaker will be **Iris Andrews**. Those of you who have attended Schools of Missions will recognize the name Iris Andrews. She is a motivational speaker and serves our Lord in multiple capacities.

Your registration form is in this newsletter and is due on April 1st. The Salem UMW has been so gracious to accept hosting this event, and we want to help them with their

planning by having our reservations in on time. Thank you!

Please remember to send me the list of names of those who have passed away in 2010 so they can be included in the memorial service during the meeting. There was a special form in you UMW packet from the Fall Gathering. It was due Feb. 14th, but if you haven't sent it, please do it immediately. You can e-mail me at [GRTeach32@aol.com](mailto:GRTeach32@aol.com), if you prefer.

We have extended the lunchtime for more fellowship and sharing. A great time to renew old friendships and make new one.

Our Fall Gathering will be held at Warren Tod Avenue UMC on Tuesday, Sept. 27, 2011.

This date is earlier than usual because the Mahoning Valley District UMW is hosting the **East Ohio Conference 2-day Annual Celebration at Church Hill UMC on October 28th & 29th.** Church Hill UMW is hoping for some help from other UMW units in our district.

Please encourage your unit members to attend our Mahoning Valley District UMW Gathering in Salem on April 26th. I look forward to seeing familiar faces and to meeting new ones. Let us come and grow as Christian Women of Strength.

**"Strength and honor are her clothing, and she shall rejoice in time to come."**

Proverbs 31:7

**Still time to get your award information in for Spring District Meeting**

There is still time to get your lists of names in for the various awards we give out at the Spring Meeting. We try very hard to recognize all the hard work done by the local units, BUT we need your help. The following

is a list of all the awards and recognitions and their respective Mission Coordinator in charge.

- 1. Reading Program I, II & III to Linda English

- 2. 5-Star units & Individuals to Barbara Edwards
- 3. Mission Today Units to Barbara Zetterquist
- 4. Memorials to Gretchen Reed



## ...from the Spiritual Growth Coordinator

### Joan Gearhart

As a quilter, I have realized there are many similarities between the art of piecing fabrics and growing spiritually.

First, one must select a quilt PATTERN to follow. In order to grow in our spiritual life we select a PATH (pattern) to walk. Next we choose fabric and colors for our quilt. As we walk the PATH in our spiritual life, we choose a direction or a goal resulting from a "special happening" that makes us want to reach a solution to our questioning about our problem. A quilter chooses the fabrics, cuts the pieces, and sews them into a perfect

square. We are doing the same thing spiritually--blending experiences into changing our faith life and committing to follow Jesus, aiming for perfection.

Along the way, work progresses on the quilt as we sew the squares into the pattern we selected and watch the design take shape. Isn't this the same as the changes taking place in our lives? Our spiritual pattern blossoms; a whole person emerges. Once the quilt top is completed, it is then prepared for hand quilting. Once our spiritual life takes on a new meaning, both the quilt and we are ready to be stitched together

in company/community with other believers and Christ.

Each is built on layers. A quilt top; our original image; followed by soft, warm batting for the quilt, and on love, faith, believing and allowing Jesus into our hearts for ourselves. The final layer for the quilt is a colorful backing; the final layer for us is the strength we have found through commitment, reaching out, study, and above all knowing we are loved by Jesus. Isn't it wonderful to find ourselves lovingly stitched together and that our spiritual growth has begun a new pattern in our lives.

## ...from the secretary

### Barbara Beach

I am happy to be back with the UMW District Team.

*"For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But, don't use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love." Gal.5.13*

We have a common goal: **MISSIONS**.

We soon will be sliding into spring. Ecclesiastes 3 tells us there is a season for all things, and these are a few of those things for

this season.

Are your reports sent in?

1. Names of those who passed this year
2. Names of those completing reading Program levels
3. Mission Today Goals Sheet
4. Officers' list to the secretary

These forms were in your fall packet and need to be in to the respective district officers as soon as possible.

Are you planning for this year to be a 5-Star Unit or Individual?

Is your unit planning to be a Mission Today unit this year?

If you haven't planned these things before now, the time to start planning is now.

Please send any position changes, address, e-mail etc. to me. Communication is a two way street and we cannot effectively do our part if we are not kept up to date on these matters by you.

## MVD Officers

**President**  
Judy Yungbluth  
5380 Wilson Sharpville Rd  
Fowler OH 44418  
330.638.3814  
jyungbluth@stanwade.com

**Vice President**  
Gretchen Reed  
1638 Keefer Rd.  
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330-539-6260  
GRTeach320@aol.com

**Secretary**  
Barbara Beach  
194 Argyle  
Boardman, OH 44512  
330-782-5950  
donbeach@zoominternet.net

**Treasurer**  
Barbara Edwards  
3073 Youngstown-Kingsville Rd  
Cortland OH 44410  
330.638.5538  
barbaraedwards28@gmail.com

**Spiritual Growth**  
Joan Gearhart  
797 Hallock Young Rd.  
Mineral Ridge, OH 44440  
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JQUILTS89@aol.com

**Program Resources**  
Linda English  
2866 Penny Ln  
Austintown OH 44515  
330.799.8603 cell: 330.719.0905  
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**Membership, Nurture & Outreach**  
Barbara Zetterquist  
2171 Arms Dr  
Girard OH 44420  
330.759.3288  
BRZETT@att.net (note change)

**Education & Interpretation**  
Greta Kaufman  
822 County Line Rd  
Columbiana OH 44408  
330.482.6076  
faithsaysitall@yahoo.com

**Social Action**  
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48 N Garland Ave  
Youngstown OH 44506  
330.747.1500  
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**Communications**  
Regina McAlister  
5479 Cadwallader-Sonk Rd.  
Fowler, OH 44418  
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mcalisterregina@yahoo.com

**Nominations Chairperson**  
Margaret Whitacre  
17847 Mill Rd  
Lake Milton OH 44401  
330.654.4246



### DISTRICT UMW CLUSTERS 2011

District Officers: Margaret Whitacre 330-654-4246  
Sue Kirkland 330-533-0186

Boardman First Bunker Hill  
Boardman Lockwood Ohltown  
Western Reserve Smith Corners

District Officers: Judy Yungbluth 330-638-3814  
Barb Edwards 330-638-5539

Masury Church Hill  
Brookfield Vienna  
Fowler

District Officers: Joan Gearhart 330-284-2168  
Barbara Beach 330-782-5950

E.P. Centenary Canfield  
E..P. Emmanuel Poland  
East Fairfield New Spr. Trinity  
Columbiana

District Officer: Barb Zetterquist 330-759-3288  
Judy Kidder 330-385-8896

E.L. Good Shepherd Riley's  
E.L. Boyce Salineville  
E.L. Penn Wellsville Central  
E.L. First

District Officers: Greta Kaufman 330-774-1348  
Linda English 330-719-0905

Lisbon Berlin Center  
Deerfield Salem First  
Palmyra Mt. Carmel  
West Austintown

District Officers: Ruby Graham-Kuhns 330-542-2566  
Alice Schwartz 330-793-8852

Braceville Niles First  
Newton Falls Warren First  
McDonald Warren Tod Ave.

District Officers: Gloria Finkley 330-747-1500  
Gretchen Reed 330-539-6260

Struthers Yo. Trinity  
Yo. Centenary Korean Church  
Richard Brown

Ladies, please feel free to contact your District Officer and invite her to one of your meetings. Or if you have questions, call her. She's there for you.

(Editor's Note: To our **non-unit churches**, if you are interested in having an officer give a program to the ladies of your church, contact Judy Yungbluth @ 330-638-3814. She will be able to discuss your needs with our programs.)

## SOCIAL ISSUE: Human Trafficking

"The Church has an important role to play in protecting women and girls against violence and abuse," says John Shorb. "It seems that there is a conspiracy of silence in local congregations where people are not sure what to do with it. They can't believe that someone they sit with in the pew, pray with and read the Bible with, is a victim, or capable of being a perpetrator."

On the Today Show, they sponsored a special regarding the upcoming Super Bowl and how hundreds of young girls are being shipped into Houston from third world nations having been promised a good paying job. However, they are then placed in brothels and abused beyond words. Why do we as UM Women not protest this? Why is our government allowing this? Why are the law

agencies in Texas allowing this?

We cannot continue to be silent any longer. Please find your copy of *Response*-June 2010 and read it carefully. Share it with your unit and discover how each of us can take action. We must protect young girls from human trafficking.



# Spring District Gathering Registration

Return by April 12, 2010 to:

Barbara Edwards 330-638-5538  
3073 Youngstown Kingsville Rd  
Cortland, OH 44410

DATE: Tuesday, April 26, 2011

PLACE: Salem UMC

THEME: "Christian Women of Strength"

GUEST SPEAKER: Iris Andrews from Conference UMW

TIME: Registration - 9:00 - 9:30 A.M.,

Meeting- 9:30 A.M.—2:00 P.M.

Church Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Reservations @ \$8.00 each: \_\_\_\_\_ Total amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Names of those attending: (Please Print)

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Number of children for nursery care: \_\_\_\_\_ Ages: \_\_\_\_\_

(Please bring a sack lunch for your child) BE SURE TO NOTIFY US IF THE CHILD WILL NOT BE COMING AFTER THE RESERVATION DEADLINE

...from the treasurer

**Barbara Edwards**

## CONGRATULATIONS!! YOU DID IT in 2010!

Thanks to your generosity, the Mahoning Valley District made our Pledge to Missions for 2010. Our total Mission Giving for the year was \$42,083.18. That's a lot of food, clothing, and shelter for women, children, and youth around the globe! Each of you has been a part of making our 2010 pledge and of increasing our

total giving, making the world a better place for women, children and youth.

After I receive your remittance sheets and tally the totals, I send the conference UMW treasurer our District quarterly report along with our payment. My due dates are as follows:

- March 20
- June 20
- September 20
- December 20

At our spring meeting at Salem United Methodist Church,

there will be information in the unit packets about being a 5-star unit, rainbow unit and becoming a 5-star women. If you need information before then please let me know.

Thank you to the units that have returned their 2011 pledge cards, if you still need a 2011 pledge card let me know. As you receive God's gracious blessings, return the kindness and be a blessing to someone else today.

### Dates to REMEMBER

- March 18 & 19: District Lay Speaker Training
- April 1: Deadline for ALL submissions for awards at Spring Meeting
- April 12: Reservation Deadline for Spring Meeting
- April 26: Spring District Meeting @ Salem UMC
- May 1: UMW Sunday
- June 12-16: East Ohio Annual Conference
- July 15: Mt. Union SOCM one-day sampler
- July 15-17: Mt Union SOCM
- October 28-29: EOC UMW Annual Celebration @ Church Hill UMC
- September 27: Mahoning Valley UMW Fall Annual Gathering @ Tod Avenue UMC
- December 1: New Officer Information Due:

## Membership, Nurture & Outreach—Barbara Zetterquist

Nurturing members is key to the growth of United Methodist Women, and a good place to start membership recruitment. When you create an environment that nurtures current members, you create an environment that is welcoming to new members. Here are some tips to enhance your nurturing:

1. Be a "self-appointed" host at every meeting to create an at-home feeling for all who attend; longtime and new members.
2. Keep attendance records so no one can drop out without being noticed. When individuals miss too many meetings, they are often hesitant to return.

3. Express encouragement and appreciation. Thanks should be done person-to-person and with-in meetings of your whole group. A smile or word of appreciation goes a long way.

4. Celebrate members joys.

5. Be sensitive to individual situations, such as workload and family events or crises, that may make it difficult for a woman to participate or follow through on a task.

6. Provide programs, resources and opportunities to be in mission that are challenging and stimulating.

These will motivate them to develop their fullest potential.

7. Check on every absentee with a visit or phone call. This shows you care and can also uncover needs she may have that the UMW can meet.

8. Introduce and bring together members of various ages, interests and needs. Don't just introduce them and leave. Rather, stay with them for a meeting.

9. Some women need to share their talents. Find out what they like to do, then invite them to lead programs, help plan events, make refreshments, or do whatever best uses their gifts.

10. Listen actively to show you care.

11. Let it be known you like what you are doing as a member of United Methodist Women.

**Enthusiasm is contagious.**

### ***A Women's Heart..***

By Maya Angelou

'A woman's heart should be so hidden in Christ  
That a man should have to seek Him first to find her.'

When I say... 'I am a Christian' I'm not shouting 'I'm clean living,'  
I'm whispering 'I was lost, Now I'm found and forgiven..'

When I say... 'I am a Christian' I don't speak of this with pride.  
I'm confessing that I stumble and need Christ to be my guide.

When I say.. 'I am a Christian' I'm not trying to be strong.  
I'm professing that I'm weak and need His strength to carry on..

When I say.. 'I am a Christian' I'm not bragging of success.  
I'm admitting I have failed and need God to clean my mess.

When I say... 'I am a Christian' I'm not claiming to be perfect,  
My flaws are far too visible, but God believes I am worth it.

When I say... 'I am a Christian' I still feel the sting of pain...  
I have my share of heartaches, so I call upon His name.

When I say... 'I am a Christian' I'm not holier than thou,  
I'm just a simple sinner Who received God's good grace, somehow!



***Jesus loves me. This I know!***

# A PAGE FOR THOUGHT

## CARROTS, EGGS & COFFEE

A CARROT, AN EGG, AND A CUP OF COFFEE... You will never look at a cup of coffee the same way again.

A young woman went to her mother and told her about her life and how things were so hard for her. She did not know how she was going to make it and wanted to give up. She was tired of fighting and struggling... It seemed as one problem was solved, a new one arose.

Her mother took her to the kitchen. She filled three pots with water and placed each on a high fire. Soon the pots came to boil. In the first she placed carrots, in the second she place eggs, and in the last she place ground coffee beans. She let them sit and boil; without saying a word.

In about twenty minutes she turned off the burners. She fished out the carrots and the eggs and placed each in bowls. Then she ladled the coffee out and put it in a bow.... Turning to her daughter, she asked, "Tell me what you see."

"Carrots, eggs, and coffee," she replied..

Her mother brought her closer and asked her to feel the carrots. She did, and noted that they were soft. The mother then asked her to take an egg and break it. After pulling off the shell, she observed the hard boiled egg.

Finally, the mother asked the daughter to sip the coffee.. The daughter smiled as she tasted its rich aroma. The daughter then asked, "What does it mean, mother?"

Her mother explained that teach of these objects had faced the same adversity: boiling water. Each reacted differently. The carrot went in strong, hard, and unrelenting and came out softened and weak. The egg had been fragile. Its thin outer shell had protected its liquid interior, but the inner liquid hardened in the boiling water. The ground coffee beans were unique, however. After they were in the boiling water, they had changed the water.

"Which are you?" she asked. "When adversity



*A bell is not a bell until you ring it;  
A song is not a song until you sing it.  
Love in your heart is not put there to stay;  
Love is not love until you give it away.*

*Oscar Hammerstein II*

knocks on your door, how do you respond? Are you a carrot, an egg, or a coffee bean?"

Think this way: Am I the carrot that seems strong, but with pain and adversity do I wilt and become soft and lose my strength?

Am I the egg that starts with a malleable heart, but changes with the heat? Did I have a fluid spirit, but after a death, a breakup, a financial hardship or some other trial, have I become hardened and still? Does my shell look the same, but on the inside am I bitter and tough with a stiff spirit and hardened heart?

Or am I like the coffee bean? The bean actually changes the hot water, the very circumstance that bring the pain. When the water gets hot, it releases the fragrance and flavor. If you are like the bean, when things are at their worst, you get better and change the situation around you.

When the hour is the darkest and trials are their greatest do you elevate yourself to another level? How do you handle adversity? Are you a carrot, an egg, or a coffee bean?

**May you have enough happiness to make you  
sweet, enough trials to make you strong,  
enough sorrow to keep you human, and  
enough hope to make you happy.**

Mailed on: 2/22/11

The MVD EOC UMW newsletter is mailed bi-annually to local unit and non-unit churches.

When you were born, you were crying and everyone around you was smiling..

Live your life so at the end, you're the one who is smiling and everyone around you is crying.

Mahoning Valley District  
United Methodist Church  
United Methodist Women  
P O Box 11260  
Youngstown OH 44511

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Newsletter of  
The United Methodist Women  
Mahoning Valley District  
East Ohio Conference



## Pennies for Peace!

Do you recall that at our Fall District Gathering we were asked to save pennies and bring them to the Spring District Gathering so we can help build school for girls in Pakistan and Afghanistan?

Well, the Spring District Gathering is just around the corner so this is a reminder for you to get your pennies gathered, count them and bring a check from your unit to the Gathering. We are asking that you take your pennies to the bank and bring a check. Let's see how many schools we can build for the young girls in Afghanistan.

1 penny = a pencil

2-3 pennies = an eraser

15 pennies = one notebook  
\$20 = one child's school supplies for one year  
\$50 = one treadle sewing machine and supplies  
\$100 = maternal healthcare supplies for one year  
\$300 = one advanced student's annual scholarship  
\$600 = one teachers annual salary

Children in over 400 mountain villages are on the waiting list hoping to learn in a new school. We are offering alternatives to the cycle of terrorism and war.

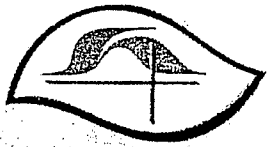
Come, bring your penny money on April 26th to Salem.

Check out the NEW website @

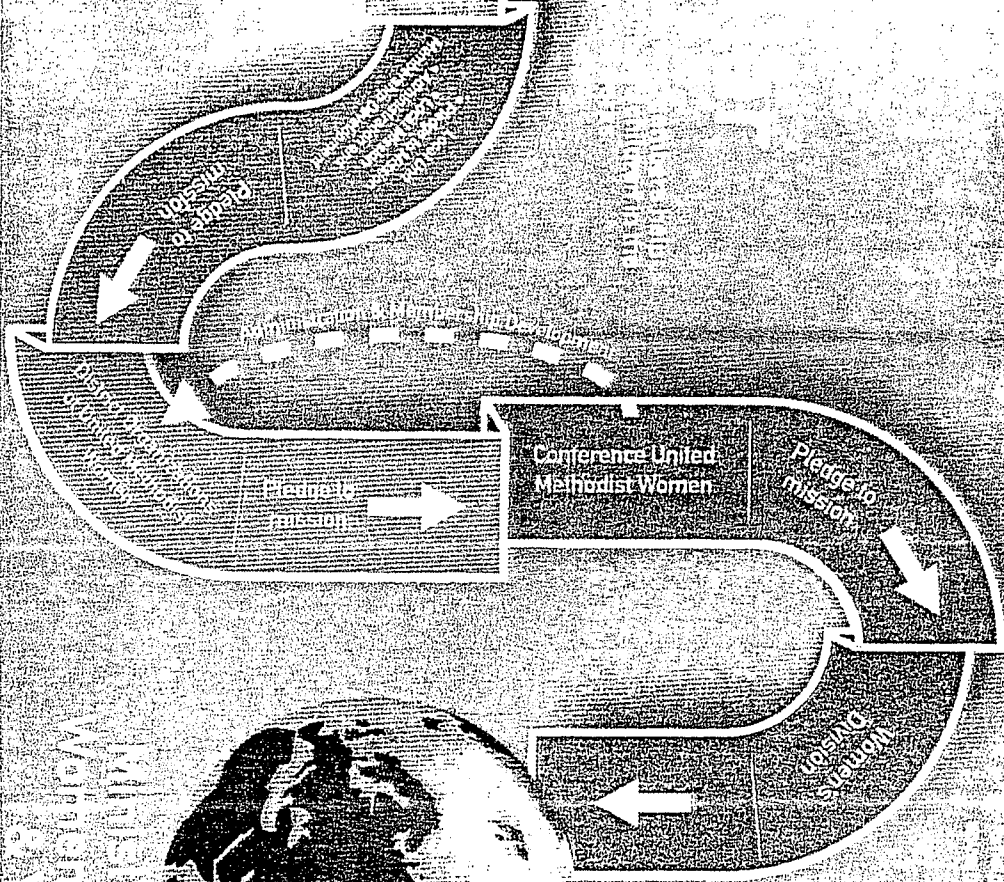
[www.mvdistumc.org](http://www.mvdistumc.org)

## Our Purpose

The organized unit of the United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose PURPOSE is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.



**United  
Methodist  
Women**  
FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION



MINISTERIAL ALLIANCE  
WOMEN'S SOCIETY