

## Miami Valley United Methodist Women March 27, 2020



### New WEEKLY Miami Valley UMW E-News!

For the next several weeks your Miami Valley United Methodist Women leadership team will be providing a WEEKLY E-NEWS with updates, information and articles on how we can stay connected as UMW, stay informed and take action!

We will always start out with updates of dates for UMW and local mission project events, these are:

**Steak Supper at St. Paul UMC (local mission site)** - this semi-annual dinner was scheduled for tomorrow, March 28, it is now cancelled. Look for the next date for the supper in this E-News or at St. Paul's website:

<https://www.stpauldayton.org/>

**MV UMW Spring Mission Day** - The "Magical Mystery Mission Tour" scheduled for April 18 has been cancelled and postponed to a later date. All registration fees will be refunded, please contact district treasurer Kathy McGrath if you have any questions.

**The West Ohio Conference UMW spring spiritual growth retreat** scheduled for April 3-4 has also been cancelled.

**The UMW PRAYER CALENDAR REQUESTS** for the week of March 29-April 4 are available for you [HERE](#) - many thanks to Linda Miller UMW District President of CAS for compiling this useful resource for prayer.



### **HERE'S ONE OF YOUR STORIES!**

Sandra Sheridan was the guest speaker at the **Faith Community United Methodist Women's Annual Prayer Breakfast** that was held on Saturday, March 14 at Faith Community United Methodist Church, [100 Country Club Drive](#) in Xenia. Ms. Sheridan is a weekly columnist for the Xenia Gazette and shared stories and writings from her blog entitled *Verses From Mama*. She is

also a wife, mother, realtor, and office manager for Sheridan and Assoc. Guests were there from the Xenia community as well as from the Miami Valley UMW Leadership team and a wonderful time was enjoyed by all!

**Please send news or a story from your local UMW to**  
[mlbflorkey@gmail.com](mailto:mlbflorkey@gmail.com)

### **THE PURPOSE OF UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**

**"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."**

### **Do you SEW? Or do you know someone who does?**

**KETTERING HOSPITAL** is welcoming volunteers to make **HOSPITAL FACE MASKS** from their homes. The directions for sewing the masks is attached [HERE](#). As you sew these, be sure to put the wire in the top part of the masks if possible. It makes for a more secure fit around the nose, twist ties have been used and complete directions are on the instructions.

**When the masks are complete**, you can drop them off at Soin, Kettering or Sycamore Hospitals at the main entrance. These hospitals will provide a bin inside their main entrances starting Saturday (3/28) for completed masks.

Questions? Please contact Marcia Florkey by clicking [HERE](#)

## SOCIAL ACTION HIGHLIGHTS

**WHY SOCIAL ACTION?** Often the leadership of UMW has been asked, why is social action and advocacy important?

It is because our work as far back as 1869, when Methodist, Brethren and Evangelical women saw the inequities of treatment of women, youth and children around the world, they felt called by God to do something to stop the pain and suffering. The first women missionaries were sent to India because of the non-existence of medical care and education for women, which resulted in many deaths and needless suffering. Today that calls continues to many parts of the world, our country and even our own communities.



United Methodist Women interprets the biblical passage from Luke 4:18 as both a model and a mandate for Christian social action and advocacy:

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

United Methodist Women has been challenging social injustice for almost 150 years. Members improve the lives of women, children and youth nationally and internationally. United Methodist Women continues its advocacy work on peace and justice, education, the rights of children, human rights, and farm workers' rights, to name a few.

In all advocacy efforts United Methodist Women supports its work with a scriptural basis and adheres to the denominational mandates in the Book of Discipline and Book of Resolutions of The United Methodist Church.

**Here are some actions that you or your local UMW unit can support in the ongoing work of United Methodist Women that brings wholeness to body, mind and soul!**

**END the SCHOOL to PRISON PIPELINE** - As United Methodist Women members and friends, we are called to do all we can to interrupt the school-to-prison pipeline. Children of color, especially, are far too often targets of broken and biased systems. We know that racial disparities are rampant in schools, with Black girls about six times as likely to be suspended as white girls.

Our legislators have a unique opportunity to help end school pushout by supporting an important new bill, HR 5325, the Ending Punitive, Unfair, School-Based Harm that is Overt and Unresponsive to Trauma (PUSHOUT) Act of 2019. The Ending PUSHOUT Act will:

- create a \$2.5 billion fund to incentivize schools and states to abandon unfair and discriminatory disciplinary policies and practices that push children of color out of the classroom;
- strengthen civil rights monitoring and enforcement; and
- establish a task force to address school pushout, with particular attention to the needs of girls of color.

Participating states and schools would be supported to invest in restorative practices and trauma-informed care using counselors, social workers and mental health professionals. Funds could not be used for police in schools. While this bill is not a one-and-done fix, it would be a substantial step forward in the ongoing work of interrupting the school-to-prison pipeline and ending school pushout.

Send an email today to encourage your federal congressperson to sign on as a co-sponsor of the Ending PUSHOUT Act today!

**[CLICK HERE TO TAKE ACTION TODAY](#)**



### **SUPPORT ST. PAUL COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

Please remember St. Paul with your prayers. We still need canned vegetables, fruit, meat, and soup; shelf milk; pasta and sauce; pork and beans; bread and crackers. If you can help financially, **send checks to: St. Paul Outreach; 101 Huffman Ave.; Dayton OH 45403**. Or visit their website to donate at:

**<https://www.stpauldayton.org/donations>**

Anybody that has ever visited St. Paul will recognize staff member, Robin Gann, our heart and soul. She is at the church daily making sure St. Paul is still a welcoming place even with the necessary restrictions put in place to safeguard the population. Robin's smiling face and positive attitude is a much needed balm in this uncertain time. Thank you, Robin, for being the source of strength that holds St. Paul together. We love you! We will continue to serve our neighbors in East Dayton for as long as possible, including the residents of Huffman Place, a seniors facility across the street from the church, and the residents of Good Shepherd Ministries, a recovery and re-entry home.

### **SUPPORT Wesley Community Center**

Wesley Community Center is in need of your help during this time of COVID-19. Even though many activities have been temporarily closed down, the needs of women, children and youth do not stop for Wesley

**Community Center, our UMW National Mission Institution in Miami Valley.**

**Please consider sending an extra donation check to:  
Wesley Community Center, 3730 Delphos Ave., Dayton  
OH 45417 OR through Wesley's website at:**

**<https://wesleycenterdayton.org>**

**Also a special WISH LIST has been created on Amazon for you to send items directly to the center. The items are limited it to Diapers, Feminine Hygiene products, Beans, Rice, and Water. When ordering be sure to click on the Wesley Center for the chosen address.**



**click HERE to go to Amazon, Wesley shopping**

**CONTACT INFORMATION FOR OUR OTHER LOCAL MISSION and SOCIAL ACTION PROJECTS IN THE MIAMI VALLEY that YOU or YOUR LOCAL UMW ORGANIZATIONS CAN SUPPORT with your DONATIONS during these difficult times:**

**PREBLE COUNTY:**

**JACOBS LADDER** - "Eliminating hunger, one child at a time" Serving children and teens in Preble County [www.jacobsladder-ohio.org](http://www.jacobsladder-ohio.org); Mail: P.O. Box 626, Eaton, OH. 45320

**SOJOURNER RECOVERY CENTER** - Comprehensive alcohol and drug addiction treatment facility for women. Call 513-868-7654; [1881 US 127, Eaton, OH 45320](#); their website is [HERE](#)

**SHELBY COUNTY:**

**ALPHA COMMUNITY CENTER** - Serves the community through meals, food pantry, children/adult programs and rent/utility assistance. 937-498-9758; email: [info@alphacommunitycenter.org](mailto:info@alphacommunitycenter.org) or [www.alphacommunitycenter.org](http://www.alphacommunitycenter.org)

**CHAMPAIGN COUNTY:**

**SYCAMORE HOUSE** - Provides hope and assistance for women, infants and children. 937-653-3737 or [315 Sycamore St., Urbana, OH 43078](#)

**CLARK COUNTY:**

**THE OPEN HANDS FREE STORE** - Supports the material and spiritual needs of people in Springfield and Clark County with groceries, clothes and household items. 937-323-5815

**GREATER MIAMI VALLEY:**

**OASIS HOUSE** - Offers hope and support to women victims of sexual exploitation with life skills, program referrals, personal and household



goods and mentoring. Call 937-898-7811 for specific needs; located at the Life Enrichment Center, 425 N Findlay St., Suite 308, Dayton, OH. 45404

## Welcome Spring!

**During this time of keeping ourselves and those around us safe and healthy, we will publish good news and information for spiritual growth and social action. Also updates of what is happening in UMW at the local, district and national organization levels.**



**Do you have a story to tell? Or do you have a question about UMW? We want to stay connected with you! Please send stories, pictures, questions and suggestions to Marcia Florkey at [mlbflorkey@gmail.com](mailto:mlbflorkey@gmail.com).**

**We appreciate your help in keeping your addresses and e-mail addresses up to date, so we don't have to spend money on returned mail! Please send any changes to MV UMW secretary, Evelyn West at [ewest0345@gmail.com](mailto:ewest0345@gmail.com). THANK YOU!!**

Miami Valley District United Methodist Women | [10700 S. Charleston Pike, South Charleston, OH 45368](https://www.google.com/maps/place/10700+S+Charleston+Pike,+South+Charleston,+OH+45368)