

## DISTRICT SPRING MEETING

The UMW Spring meeting will be held on Saturday, March 30 from 9:15 am - 2:30 pm at the Savoy UMC located at 3002 W Old Church Rd, Champaign 61822.

Our guest speaker will be Kelly-Jane Monahan, a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, who currently serves as the Phoenix Coordinator for C-U at Home. Her keynote address is "Homelessness".

C-U at Home is a local non profit organization that houses and supports the most vulnerable homeless population in Champaign-Urbana on their journey to restoration. The Phoenix Daytime Drop-In center is a place where those in need can shower, do their laundry, access the internet and a public phone, be connected with resources that can help them reach their goals, utilize social work services, play cards, games, instruments, and build lasting and meaningful

relationships with those who care for them unconditionally.

Kelly-Jane collaborates with other organizations in the community who serve our friends without an address to help best care for and empower those in need. Her goal is to work with her colleagues toward addressing the root causes of homelessness and find long-term, sustainable solutions.



Cost of lunch is \$10. Names of registrants and registration fee should be mailed to Dee Smith, 2302 Verona Court, Champaign, IL 61822, by Friday, March 22. Child care will be provided. Please indicate on your registration form names and ages of children. Moms should also bring a sack lunch and snacks for their children.

The registration form can be found on the back page.

## LESSIE BATES DAVIS NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE

We are pleased to announce that Barb Rascher has agreed to be one of our Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House representatives. Thank you so much!

Lisa Graves, our contact person at LBDNH, requests these items to be brought to the Spring meeting - Gift Cards: McDonald's, Subway, Dollar General, Family Dollar, Wal-Mart, Target, Gas cards, etc. If you wish to donate other items, please let Lisa know. Her phone number is 618-874-0777 Ext. 1113.

Thank you in advance for all you do for our brothers and sisters in need.

Patty Russell  
215 Forest Glen  
Tuscola 61953  
217.521.0425  
prussell61953@yahoo.com

Barb Rascher  
802 E Larmon St  
Tolono 61880  
217.766.3578  
rascher@illinois.edu

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

The Connor Corner .....	2
The Treasurer's Note .....	2
2019 Shepherdess List.....	3
Spiritual Growth.....	3
Social Action.....	4
Love Gifts .....	4
Calendar .....	5
Nominations .....	5
Registration Form .....	6

## COMMUNICATIONS

After several years of being away I'm back as your Communications Coordinator! I look forward to working with the district UMW leaders and with all of you as I do my best to share UMW events, activities and issues within our district and conference.

Feel free to contact me if I can help you in any way.

Pat Setzler                      217.369.4071  
304 Silver Lake Ct              IroquoisRiverUMW@gmail.com  
Savoy 61874

## COMMENTS FROM THE CONNOR CORNER

Congratulations, you have arrived at another New Year!

A new chance to start again, a new opportunity to set and achieve goals. We have never shied away from big goals. Do you want to increase membership? Do you want to increase Mission Giving? Jesus gave us some challenges when he said "If you did it for the least of these... You did it to me". If what we did last year didn't reach your goals, it probably will not work this year. Look around you at church, and outside of church.

Future UMW members are seeking change in their lives. Younger women are seeking action. Invite and offer transportation to these women. Read the Response Magazine and books on our reading list then share them with others. Maybe mark an article you think they would be interested in. Try a new mission project or share what you have learned about National Missions or International Missions, in a new way.

Is your unit ready to make your Big goals for Christ? Big Goals take more than one person to accomplish. Big Goals should scare you a little. Big Goals expand your comfort zone. Don't just recite the Purpose of United Methodist Women. Use it as a guide to set your goals. By the way, you can use your Mission Today Report form to help you develop those goals. And I thank those presidents who got there Mission Today Form to me early. God bless you.

I covet your prayers for a successful year. Success will look like more women committing to the Purpose of the United Methodist Women, more participation in IGRC UMW activities such as Spiritual Growth Retreat and Mission U attendance. A complete docket for Nominations for IRD officers this September. More first time attendees and UMW units represented at Spring and Fall IRD meetings. No one, including myself, can accomplish this goal alone, so I covet your prayers and your involvement in achieving these goals.

It is also not too late to donate to The Legacy Fund. National still has hope of reaching their goal of \$60 Million to secure funding for UMW moving into the next 150 years. This is another goal that cannot be reached without you. At our District Spring Meeting in Savoy, we will be actively celebrating 150 years of Mission through UMW and it's predecessor organizations. I remember how active we were as the WSCS ( Women's Society of Christian Service).

God speaks to us through the prophet Isaiah Chapter 1:16 & 17 - "Put an end to evil; learn to do good. Seek justice: help the oppressed; defend the orphan; plead for the widow".

Wishing and praying for a dynamic 2019 for all of us.

Some of the highlight from IGRC UMW this year are the IGRC UMW Annual Conference Celebration which will be October 12, 2019 at Christ UMC in Fairview Heights. Location is a little further south than we have had it recently. The church is beautiful. Mark your calendars!!

Mission U this summer will be extra special as our Bishop Frank Beard will present the Spiritual Growth Study that all participants attend. Title: Practicing Resurrection: The Gospel of Mark and Radical Discipleship.

Notice our District Personal Growth Study is scheduled in the spring this year. Hope you can join us and that this date change works better for your calendar.

When this newsletter is published the Conference Spiritual Growth registration deadline will be past. I hope you were able to join me in Chatham for this annual event. We had a well- known speaker, Barbara Woolridge.

Susan Connor  
1431 CR 800 N  
Sullivan 61951  
217.259.1649  
radtech20032003@yahoo.com



### TREASURER'S NOTE

Happy 2019 Ladies!

I am excited to be stepping into the role of District Treasurer. I am working with MaryBess to transition everything over to me. If you have sent something to MaryBess in the last month she will forward it to me, but please note that all information can now be directed to my attention.

The learning curve is high so thank you in advance for your patience, but I can't wait to work with all of you!

Bethany Socie  
907 Foley  
Champaign, IL 61820  
217.419.0299  
bethanysocie@gmail.com

## EDUCATION & INTERPRETATION

Hello fellow IRD UMW members! My name is Sharon Goller and I'm your new Education & Interpretation officer. My job this year is to get members to Mission U. You will see me with my pom-poms cheering for you to go to Mission U. I look forward to serving you this coming year.

Sharon Goller  
100 Parkview Lane #206  
Savoy 61874  
217.607.9320  
Sharon@goller.net

## 2019 SHEPHERDESSES

### Roberta Benschneider

Countryside  
Hindsboro  
Rossville  
Urbana Wesley

### Dicksie Blankenship

Bellflower  
Farmer City  
Loda

### Jamie Essien

Bismarck  
Mt Vernon  
Savoy

### Sharon Goller

Arcola  
Centerville  
Tuscola

### Judy Hudgens

Champaign Faith  
Paxton  
Watseka

### Carolyn Paullin

Champaign First  
Danville St James  
Weldon

### Sandy Rich

Camargo  
Villa Grove  
Weedman

### Patty Russell

Bement  
Broadlands  
Urbana First

### Pat Setzler

Mahomet  
Middlefork  
Tolono

### Pam Socie

Danville First  
Hoopeston  
Rankin

### Cheryl Van Ness

Crescent City  
Donovan

### Bobby Walker

Catlin  
Indianola  
Sullivan

## SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Greetings Dear Ladies,

Isn't it wonderful to have a new beginning in 2019! This year we rejoice in your service and praise your commitment to helping those who cannot help themselves. We celebrate the gains we've made through the power of our Lord and your willing hands.

Isn't it fabulous that we have an eternal power source that brings light to our hearts, minds, and souls? As I had a momentary panic this morning when our power went off, I thought of the darkness that could surround me. It was only physical darkness and chill, and I had the tools to fight those conditions. I was preparing to put on a few more layers of clothes and find a flashlight when the power came back on. Discomfort was averted!

Not all darkness is as easily abated. There are physical conditions that are not so easily remedied. Pain and disability (ours or others) make us feel like a dark cloud is above our heads. Our hearts get discouraged by the less fortunate circumstances of others. Our souls sink into dark holes when we witness the downfall of people near to us and those of the world. How can we possibly rise above all of the gloom?

As Christians, we do not have to dwell in the darkness. With the Lord as our source of light that defeats the night around us, we are able to claim the God given promise of a bright and glorious morning. As children of God, we dwell in His presence. He comforts us under His wings until we are ready to fly; He marks our course and sends us on our way; and He empowers us to make a difference wherever we go in His name. Whether we are going around the world or down the block to the grocery store, if we are fueled by God, we can do great things or little things "with great love". We can be a beacon of light for others!

"Lord, You created us to belong to you and to live in Your light! Every moment we thank You. Amen."

Philippians 4:19

In God's Love,

Carolyn Paullin  
36330 E 300 N  
Bellflower 61724  
309.722.3339  
paullinc@wirelessdatanet.net



## SOCIAL ACTION

*"Everybody can be great because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and vert agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love." - Martin Luther King, Jr*

Greetings!

My name is Jamie Essien and I am your new Social Action coordinator. I am a member of Countryside UMC where I am the youth group leader and co-president of our UMW group.

Above is a quote by Martin Luther King, Jr. I find it extremely appropriate in today's climate of very emotionally involved social issues. The Bible certainly gives us many tools to deal with touchy issues in society that need tending to, and I think MLK hits the nail on the head. The bottom line is: we all can serve. Jesus makes it very clear that we are to love above all else. THAT is something we can all do.

In Psalm 34:18 we hear the very familiar verse *"The Lord is close too those whose hearts have been broken. He saves those whose spirits have been crushed."* If we are called to be like the Lord, friends, then who should we also be near? Yes, the broken hearted and those who are struggling. It's often overwhelming to pick a certain social injustice to stand up for, so may I urge you to start here? Start with comforting a single mom who is hurting, take a

moment to talk to a person without a home, make a meal for a struggling family, give a smile to someone who doesn't look like you. Start small and simple.

If we have Jesus in us then we all have the power to change a life. Don't overthink it. YOU have the power to make a difference and God has given you a very specific and unique way to do that. Don't second guess it.

My favorite bible verse and story can be found in Mark 5:41: He (Jesus) took her by the hand and said "Talitha Koum" meaning "little girl I say to you, arise!" So I leave you with that. ARISE. Make a change. Be the change.

I look forward to serving with you! Please let me know if you would be interested in having me come to one of your UMW meetings where we can chat and discuss social issues and how we can make a change together!

Jamie Essien  
2007 Peach St  
Champaign 61820  
217.480.2698  
jmessien@ymail.com

## VICE-PRESIDENT

I was asked recently how I pick programs for the district meetings. Let me say first that I do not do it alone. We have a great leadership team and I value their input. I also value all of your input that you give through the evaluation sheets you fill out. The leadership team reads them all and then I go through them again to look at your suggestions for speakers and topics. Keeping in mind the emphases of our Social Action principles, I look for intersections of interest that would inform us all of topics impacting children and youth both locally and in the broader world.

When a topic is picked, I then begin the search for a speaker to address

that topic. In trying to be a good steward of the district budget, I book speakers who do not charge for their services (although we do offer our keynote speakers an honorarium for coming).

That's how the process works and, again, I value your input through the evaluation sheets we collect at each meeting. If we have missed a topic of importance to you, please let me know.

Pam Socie  
1533 CR 2200 E  
St Joseph 6183  
217.469.2782  
psocie@gmail.com

### LOVE GIFTS FOR CUNNINGHAM CHILDREN'S HOME



- Men's white socks
- Gift Cards: Wal-Mart, McDonald's, Subway, etc.



### LOVE GIFTS FOR LESSIE BATES

### DAVIS NEIGHBOR- HOOD HOUSE

Gift Cards: McDonald's, Subway, Dollar General, Family Dollar, Wal-Mart, Target, Gas cards, etc.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
March 2	9:15am	District UMW Leadership Mtg	Savoy UMC
March 15-16		IGRC UMW Leadership Mtg	
March 30	9:30am-2:30pm	District Spring Mtg	Savoy UMC
April 5-6		Festival of Quilts	Cunningham Home
April 20		Deadline for May/June/July Newsletter	
May 4	9:30am	District UMW Personal Growth	Middlefork UMC
June 6-8		IGRC Annual Conference	Peoria

## NOMINATIONS

Hi Ladies,

Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House has a new representative replacing Linda Grose. Barb Rascher will be joining Patty Russell working together to spread the word about LBDNH's activities to us all. The district misses Linda who lovingly served Lessie Bates faithfully for several years.

The district still needs to replace Terry Benson as Secretary of Program Resources. Also, we are going to need two representatives on the Nominations Committee for 2021 and 2022.

Please contact me if you have an interest or know of someone who might in assuming the vacant positions. Let's work together to fill these positions for 2019. We're almost there!

Judy Hudgens  
978 N Martha's Ct  
Rossville 60953  
815.889-4975  
judy.hudgens@gmail.com



## CUNNINGHAM CHILDREN'S HOME

Dear Ladies of Iroquois River District.,

Happy Winter. I hope everyone is having a good "down time" and we will be ready to start a new year of spreading our love.

Cunningham Children's Home had a wonderful Christmas season. It is always such a blessing for Roberta and I to be able to spend time wrapping all of the wonderful gifts that are given to our kids each year.

Exciting times on campus - the New School is in session and what a beautiful school it is. A true blessing.

Blessing is a word that always gets me to thinking. According to the dictionary, a blessing is a request for a favor - and the way we can bless others. First, we can bless others by praying for them; second, we can bless others by asking God's favor on events and situations and third, we can bless God. We do this by expressing our thanksgiving for His character and what he has done.

Psalms 19: 14 "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my strength and Redeemer." Our words and actions as we work for Cunningham Kids, does bless our God.

Please be ready for the Festival of Quilts this year on April 5 and 6 We look forward to seeing you there and seeing all of the blessings coming our way.

Love gifts to bring to the spring meeting are: men's white socks and gift cards (Wal-Mart, McDonalds, etc.).

Roberta and I love to visit your units and spread the word of Cunningham. Please give us a call.

Roberta Benschneider  
205 E Fourth St  
Broadlands 61816  
217.834.3575  
rbenschneider@juno.com

Bobby Walker  
406 W Diller  
Broadlands 61816  
217.834.3617  
bswalker24@gmail.com



Iroquois River District  
 United Methodist Women  
 303 S Mattis Ave, Ste 206  
 Champaign IL 61821

PLEASE  
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**Address Service Requested**

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 Mailing Address Line 4  
 Mailing Address Line 5

**IROQUOIS RIVER DISTRICT UMW SPRING MEETING REGISTRATION FORM**

Local Unit Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Number Attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Lunch Reservations at \$10/person: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Child Care needed:  Yes  No

Name/Ages of Children: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please bring a sack lunch and snacks for each child. No peanut butter or other nut products.

Please send this form and checks payable to Savoy UMW by **Friday, March 22**  
 to Dee Smith, 2302 Verona Court, Champaign, IL 61822