



September 2015

# the inner circle

First United Methodist Church of Downers Grove

## Focus on Women, Children & Youth

From its beginning, United Methodist Women has focused on ministries with women, children, and youth.

<p><b>Sarah Circle</b> 7:00pm <u>Room 213</u></p> <p>Sept. 09/28</p> <p>Oct. 10/26</p>	<p><b>Mary Elizabeth Circle-1:00pm</b> <u>Chapel Hall</u></p> <p>Sept. 09/23</p> <p>Oct. 10/28</p>	<p><b>Rachel Circle</b> 9:00am <u>Room 213</u></p> <p>Sept. 09/24</p> <p>Oct. 10/29</p>	<p><b>Ruth Circle</b> 12:45pm <u>Chapel Hall</u></p> <p>Sept. 09/24</p> <p>Oct. 10/29</p>	<p><b>Joanna Circle</b> 11:00 a.m. <u>Chapel Hall</u></p> <p>Sept. 09/20</p> <p>Oct. 10/11</p>
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Dear UMW Sisters,

About this time last year, I wrote on the front of this newsletter that I would only be President one more year, as I planned to spend lots of time with my husband in his retirement. Well . . . that plan kind of fell through, didn't it? However, I still intend to pass the reins onto someone else. Three years of operating under the same leader is enough, so begin giving some consideration to filling my shoes. It truly isn't a hard job. Mainly, I write the agenda for the monthly meeting and preside over said meeting. Then, I encourage the other officers as they do their jobs!

We will also be seeking a Vice President and a Treasurer. These positions are very important in keeping our unit running as well as it always has. I know that so many of you are capable of filling these roles, so please give it some thought.

As I alluded to in the first paragraph, I am a newly single woman. This year has certainly tested my mettle, beginning with my husband leaving, followed by a broken wrist and the deaths of my sister and father-in-law. I want to thank all of you for being a constant source of support, kindness, strength and love. I cherish your friendship.

In God's Love,

Julie

**Joanna Circle**—young ladies in 6th through 12th grades  
**Meets in Chapel Hall - 3rd Sunday 11:00 am**

We finished up our pillowcases. We have 8 boy themed and 12 girl themed pillowcases to give to our PADS guests. We started collecting prescription medicine bottles over the summer. In September we will learn about Malawi and clean the bottles so they are ready to be shipped.

Our next meeting is Sunday, September 20 at 11:00 a.m. in Chapel Hall.

*Co-Circle Coordinators— Shelly Davenport and Julie Stone*

**Ruth Circle**—women of all ages—childcare provided upon request  
**Meets in Chapel Hall- 4th Thursday 12:45 pm**

Our May meeting was a salad luncheon at the home of Caroline Bertolino. We were elated to have Pastors Jim and Greta join us for an enjoyable luncheon. There were 12 Ruth Circle ladies in attendance. There was no meeting or program. We will be off for the summer and our next meeting will be September 24 in Chapel Hall with a topic relating to a discussion of types of slavery.

*Circle Coordinator— Caroline Bertolino*

**Sarah Circle**—mostly working women—no childcare available  
**Meets in the Room 213—4th Monday 7:00pm**

We had nine ladies in attendance at our May meeting. The theme was the all church book read, "A Long Walk to Water." Our guest speaker was, Olivia Bifulco, a 5th grade student at Hillcrest Elementary School. She shared how her class raised money to build a well in Africa. We also had a short discussion about the book.

Our annual summer salad supper meeting was held on August 31. Our hostess was Lilian Ficht and there were 12 in attendance.

Our September meeting will be held on Monday September 28th at 7:00 in the Adult Ed. Room. Cindi Roselieb will present a program entitled "A Short Course in Happiness." All are welcome to attend.

*Circle Coordinator— Gretchen Shearer*



**We are going to need your help!**

Please prayerfully consider a role on the leadership team.  
**Next year we will need a president, vice president, treasurer,  
program resources, and a couple circle leaders.**

Consider increasing your commitment to UMW by serving in one of these roles.

## **Miriam Circle— mostly women of grown children—meet in Oak Trace dining room** **Meets at various homes—4th Thursday 12:45pm**

This is a bittersweet newsletter article from Miriam Circle, as it is the last UMW newsletter article that Miriam Circle will be submitting. After careful consideration, the circle members have concluded that the number of circle members who can take on the leadership responsibilities necessary for the circle to operate has become too small, and so Miriam Circle is disbanding.

Our final meeting was on May 28, and we certainly went out in style. Six current circle members, one former member (Connie Ogden), and one guest met for lunch at the Oak Trace main dining room. Not only did we enjoy a delicious lunch, but it was also a precious opportunity for reminiscing about all that the circle has done over the years and the outstanding women who have been members. Of the members present, the one who had joined Miriam Circle the earliest was Edie Zitek, who joined in 1990.

It has been my privilege and pleasure to participate in Miriam Circle since 2009 and to serve as a co-leader with Frances Stone these past three years. Miriam Circle has been a very special group. The members didn't simply gather in a room at the church; instead, we hosted one another in our homes, which made every meeting into an elegant and personal social occasion. As a younger member of the circle, I have learned so much from the life experiences of my fellow circle members and enjoyed sharing their curiosity and interests in a wide variety of subjects, as reflected in the range of speakers and topics that the circle program chairs have scheduled over the years. The friendships and exchanges of ideas that have been facilitated by Miriam Circle are truly priceless.

Time passes and change is inevitable; rather than regret the need for the dissolution of the circle, I propose we all focus on how fortunate the DGFUMC UMW membership has been to have been able to count Miriam Circle among its circles for many years.

*Co-Circle Coordinator— Frances Stone and Laural Briggs*



Miriam Circle, December 2014: (seated, l-r) Edie Zitek, Connie Ogden, Lois Bruns, Charlotte Shank; (standing, l-r) Frances Stone, Jan Morey, Rev. Greta McDonald, Edris Byers, guest Cheryle Stone (daughter of Frances Stone), Garland Cramer

Also present: Marj Froemke, Laural Briggs

Absent: Doris Dalluege, Caroline Evanston

**Mary Elizabeth Circle**— mostly women of grown children—childcare provided upon request

**Meets in Chapel Hall-4th Wednesday 1:00pm**

May 27th twelve of us met at Oak Trace for our spring luncheon. It was a good opportunity to share our summer plans.

On July 22nd, we had a summer salad lunch in Chapel Hall. Fourteen of us attended plus two guests. We caught up on our joys and concerns and enjoyed getting together.

Our next meeting is September 23rd at 1:00 p.m. in Chapel Hall. Our program person, Jean Bahler, will do a report on the book of Ruth.

*Circle Coordinator—Joan Van Order*

## **IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM YOUR TREASURER.....**

Please turn in your pledges and any receipts that you need reimbursement for by December 1, 2015.

Place them in the UMW folder in the church office, attention Elizabeth Breese.

**Rachel Circle**—mostly mother's of young children—childcare always provided

**Meets in Rm. 213 - 4th Thursday 9:00 am**

Rachael Circle got together for a Summer Salad Supper in July at Stacey Ramsey's house. There were 8 members who were able to attend. Our next meeting will be on September 24 at 9:00. We will be planning the rest of our year and Cindi Roselieb will be presenting the program.

*Circle Coordinator— Stacey Ramsey*

## **Stay Connected! Keep in Touch!**

Browse the United Methodist Women website - [www.unitedmethodistwomen.org](http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org)

UMW Mission Resources website: <http://new.gbqm-umc.org/umw/resources>

DGFUMC website: <http://www.dgfumc.org>

FUMCUMW website: <http://www.dgfumc.org/fellowship/umw>

UMC General Board of Church and Society Faith in Action website:

<http://www.umc-gbcs.org/site/c.frLJK2PKLqF/b.2798475/k.7A8F Faith in Action.htm>

Facebook: group is called [United Methodist Women of DGFUMC](#)—find us and ask to join, then invite your friends to join.

Aurora District Facebook group is called [Aurora District UMW—Illinois](#)—find us and ask to join, then invite your friends to join.



## Purchase With a Purpose

Thank you for your continued support of PWP helping to raise money for UMW's mission projects by purchasing gift cards to use for your own shopping or to give as gifts. We have raised almost \$3000 so far this year and hope to reach our goal of \$5000.

Every Sunday we have Amazon, Dairy Queen, Home Depot, iTunes, Jewel, Kohl's, Meijer, Panera Bread, Speedway Gas, Starbuck's, Target, Ultra Foods, Walgreens, and Downers Grove Downtown Dollars ready to pick up at the table in the Parlor!

To make way for some different holiday specials I will be removing the Dairy Queen gift cards from the box as they sell out so if you want to have a final summer treat of ice cream buy your gift card first.

PWP orders are placed on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month through November. Anyone who has signed up for an account to order online from the convenience of home gets an email reminder on the day the order will be placed. Email Ina, at [inamairi@mac.com](mailto:inamairi@mac.com), if you would like to set up an account. The cards will still be delivered to church with our regular order but you can browse the gift card selection at home and don't need to remember your check book on Sunday morning!

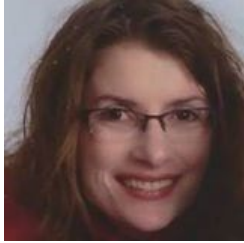
Manna has recently added some new retailers to the gift card program. Nordstrom available as a \$25 or \$100 card earns us 4% and may be used at Nordstrom, Nordstrom Rack and Hautelook. Bakers Square available as a \$25 card earns us 14%. Various cards offer an extra % bonus from time to time and I will try to keep everyone updated when these promotions occur.

Also don't forget the Benefit Mobile APP for your smart phone that allows you to buy gift cards as and when you need them. Download the APP, register with First United Methodist Downers Grove, Purchase With A Purpose and set up your bank account for direct debit, or a credit card. Some retailers, such as Whole Foods, allow you to buy the exact amount of your bill so you never have to carry a balance on the card.

Purchase With a Purpose is not just for members of UMW, encourage all your friends at church to participate.

<u>September</u>		<u>October</u>	
Edith Zitek	09/01	Melinda Brunell	10/02
Charlotte Shank	09/02	LeAlice Briggs	10/14
Dea Ashcraft	09/04	Laura Feste	10/19
Frances Stone	09/06	Helen Lotz	10/20
Joan Wilson	09/06	Kerri Crandell	10/21
Joyce Novotny	09/16	Mary Lou Gorden	10/21
Laural Briggs	09/19	Jean Bahler	10/22
Jennifer Segrest	09/25	Leslie Hillard	10/24
Electa Finley Chonko	09/28	Renie Curry	10/28
		Lynda Frederick	10/28

# In case you missed it in the *reachout*.....



## From your Missions Coordinator for Social Action National Seminar, August 2015 – InterRupting Indifference: Jesus, Justice, and Joy

Guided by our esteemed theologian Dr. Mai-Anh Le Tran, professor at Eden Theological Seminary, we examined Luke 19. Luke tells us that Zacchaeus climbed a tree to see Jesus better? Do you suppose he climbed the tree because of the madding crowd? We know, after all, that the run-of-the-mill tax collector wasn't favored by the people. So Jesus said that he was going to intentionally visit with Zacchaeus, and we learned of Zacchaeus' willingness to repay 4x those whom were cheated. Economic divide. Those holding the money, the debt. Those cheated. Where do you see the intersection of this parable and our 2015 economic divisiveness? Perhaps if we consider the shift from Zacchaeus being 'safe' in the tree versus 'saved' in the presence of Jesus Christ, we can begin to visualize what justice looks like in our current reality. Are we (are others) being safe for ourselves (themselves) or embracing the freedom in Christ to extend economic justice?

For five days, two hundred (200!) United Methodist Women from every conference in this country studied the characteristics, effects, causal relationships, and injustices of *Climate*, *Mass Incarceration*, *Income Inequality*, and *Maternal and Child Welfare*. We prepared prior to our arrival to the seminar using webinars and personal reflection on individual communities from which we came. Where do we see effects and answers to climate injustice in our community? Where do we see the effects and practices of mass incarceration in disproportionate number of black persons? How has our community answered to opening the accessibility of healthcare and related education for expectant mothers and infants (0-12 mos.)? Where do we see the practices and effects of income inequality?

I (along with Marcia Williams (Chicago Southern district) and Allison Anderson (Elgin district)) was humbly honored to represent the Northern Illinois conference in the most amazing gathering of diversity from our faith and mission-based sisterhood of United Methodist Women. Leadership and staff from UMW New York offices masterfully coordinated daily worship, site visits to ARISE Chicago and the Pilsen neighborhood, and the most dynamic professors and organizational leaders of societal equality. University of Illinois at Chicago was home to the seminar, and y'all should be really proud of the NIC conference leadership stepping up and out to extend hospitality to countless air travelers and tentative Chicago guests!

In the coming quadrenium (2016 – 2019) all 800,000 members including our AURORA DISTRICT of UMW will begin to have local conversations about these same areas of justice building. And beyond just TALK, we will move ideas into ACTION. These four topics of *Economic Inequality*, *Climate Justice*, *Maternal and Child Welfare*, and *Mass Incarceration* are broad and thick in rhetoric, research and statistics. In the months to come I will examine other parables from Luke 19 and how scripture and our faith imperative leads us to work toward just change in our Aurora District. May God's grace be among us as we unravel the challenging work of creating justice in our communities.

Thanks be to God! Glory be to God!

Leah Ostwald  
[LeahOstwald@gmail.com](mailto:LeahOstwald@gmail.com)

**September 26, 2015**  
**St. Andrew United Methodist Church**  
**250 N. Gary Ave.**  
**Carol Stream, IL 60188**  
**630-653-7116**

Our guest speaker will be:

**Rev. Jenny Weber**  
**“Women in Ministry and Mission”**

- 8:30-9:00      Registration, Refreshments & Resource Table
- 9:00            Gathering Music & Announcements  
                  Devotions:  
                  Response Moment & Book Review
- 9:30-10:15     “Women in Ministry and Mission” Rev. Jenny Weber
- 10:15-10:30    Break
- 10:30-11:00    Annual Business meeting
- 11:00-12:00    Worship, Installation of Officers, Communion

**Registration Fee is \$5.00 - Checks payable to “Aurora District UMW**

Send registration by September 21, 2015 to:

Erica McIntosh  
511 N Silverleaf Blvd.  
Carol Stream, IL 60188  
[swamiko@gmail.com](mailto:swamiko@gmail.com)

*Child Care is provided if registrations for child care are received.*

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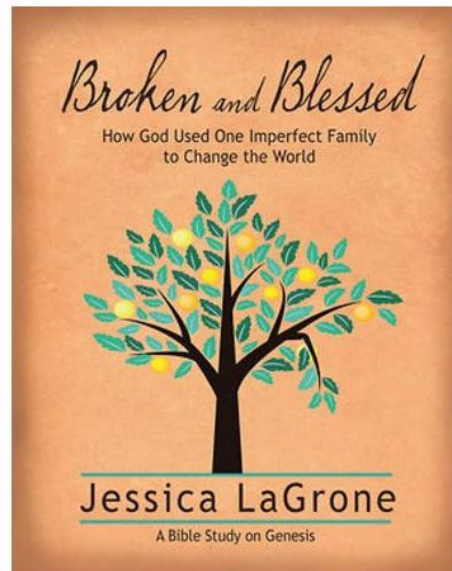
**REGISTRATION FORM**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Church \_\_\_\_\_  
Child Care (number of children & ages) \_\_\_\_\_  
Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_



# Women's Bible Study

## New THIS FALL



Starts Wednesday, September 30

Room 213

9:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

Ever wish you knew more about the Bible? So do we!  
Join us for a brand new weekly bible study for women this fall at  
Downers Grove First United Methodist Church.

Based on the book of Genesis, the *"Broken and Blessed"* study explores how God worked for good in the lives of very imperfect individuals and families, to bring good to the world.

Please join facilitators Pastor Greta McDonald, Kelly Towey,  
and Maggie Roth for good conversation, study time,  
and a chance to get to know more women in our congregation.

Everyone is welcome! Workbooks available for purchase at first meeting  
for \$10. You do not need to register ahead of time.

\*\*Free childcare provided in nursery.



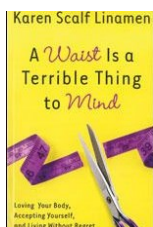
## PWP Rotation

January—Ruth  
 February—Mary Elizabeth  
 March—Rachel  
 April—Sarah  
 May—Ruth and Mary Elizabeth  
 June—Rachel and Sarah  
 July—need volunteers please!  
 August—need volunteers please!  
 September—Ruth  
 October—Mary Elizabeth  
 November—Rachel  
 December—Sarah

## God is good all the time— All the time God is good

- Wendy Nystrom's mom needs healing prayers.
- Frances Stone's husband, Garland, passed away. Prayers of peace for her and her family
- Elizabeth Breese's husband needs prayers for guidance with job struggles.
- Maggie Roth's daughter says hallelujah for a proper medical diagnosis.

## Who read over the summer?



### **Book No. 9 on my list to read.....**

Serial dieter Karen Linamen, who is way too familiar with up-and-down weight gain/loss, helps women develop a healthy and positive, yet realistic, relationship with their bodies. Through her own and others' soul-baring stories, she shows women the difference between achieving the perfect body and loving the body they have.

## IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER (mark your CALENDARS!)

Sept. 26	Aurora District Annual Celebration St. Andrews, Carol Stream	8:30 a.m.
Oct. 1	Leadership Team	9:00 a.m.
Oct. 8	General Meeting Chapel Hall	12:00 p.m.
Nov. 5	Leadership Team	9:00 a.m.
Dec. 3	Leadership Team	9:00 a.m.
Dec. 6	Bake Sale—Parlor	
Dec. 8	Christmas Tea Fellowship Hall	1:00 p.m.