



The Inner Circle

November 2016

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.

Sarah Circle 7:00pm <u>Room 213</u>	Mary Elizabeth Circle-1:00pm <u>Chapel Hall</u>	Rachel Circle 9:00am <u>Room 213</u>	Ruth Circle 12:45pm <u>Chapel Hall</u>	Joanna Circle 11:00 a.m. <u>Chapel Hall</u>
Jan. 01/23	Jan. 01/25	Dec. 12/15	Dec. 12/15	Dec. 12/18
Feb. 02/27	Feb. 02/22	Jan. 01/26	Jan. 01/26	

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



- ◆ Edith Zitek passed away. Prayers for her family.
- ◆ Joan Van Order's grandson was killed in a mugging. Prayers for her and her family.
- ◆ Bonnie Lehmann's family needs prayers for strength during some very difficult times.
- ◆ Julie Stone's daughter is about to become a foster mom. Congratulations and prayers for her new journey.

Downers Grove FUMC UMW received a very generous gift of \$5,000 from the trust of Art and Donna Arnett.

We are very thankful for their thoughtfulness and generosity.

Stay Connected! Keep in Touch!

Browse the United Methodist Women website - 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>

Aurora District UMW website: <http://sdavenportarch.wixsite.com/auroradistrictumw>

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.

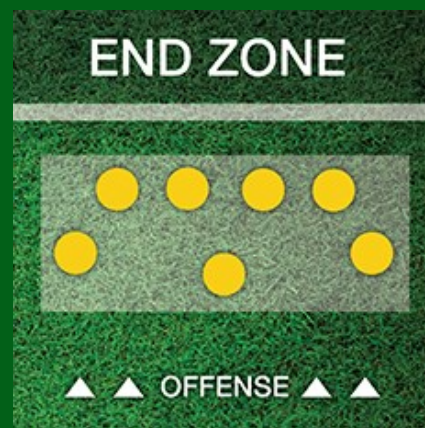
Aurora District Facebook group is called [Aurora District UMW—Illinois](#)—find us and ask to join, then invite your friends to join.

NICUMW Facebook group is [Northern Illinois Conference—United Methodist Women](#)—find it and ask to join.

Let's Box 'em up and Stack 'em up

In football, the phrase "stack the box" is used when the defense puts its players in a rectangular formation ("in the box") to stop the offensive team's rush in its tracks. Traffickers run a game on the vulnerable and we aim to stack the box against them, to intercept their game and to box 'em up for prosecution.

Friday, February 3, 2017 a silent vigil will be held in Chicago to raise awareness for human trafficking. Leah Ostwald needs several people to join her defense at Daley Center Chicago. If you are interested in stacking the box against human trafficking, please contact Leah Ostwald at leahostwald@gmail.com



Will Protect You

by Rosemary Doyle

I will protect you
no matter the trouble you face
no matter the danger
I will be there
always to protect you

I will protect you
from all your fears
never will you have to shed a tear
I will be there
always to protect you

I will protect you
no matter which road you choose
I will lead you through
I will be there
always to protect you

I will protect you
from the hate you face
no one will hurt you
I will be there
always to protect you

I will protect you
from pains you might face
I'll shield you
I will be there always to protect you

never fear
I'm right here



Rachel Circle—mostly mother's of young children—
childcare always provided
Meets in Rm. 213 - 4th Thursday 9:00 am

Rachel circle will meet at the home of Maggie Roth on December 15th at 9:00 am for a Christmas brunch.

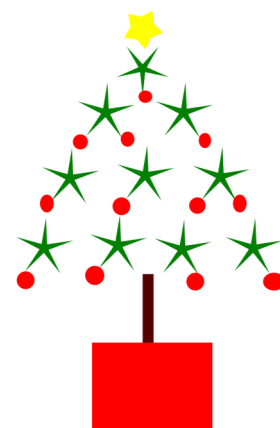
Circle Coordinator - Maggie Roth

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

Ruth Circle met a week early in November, due to Thanksgiving. Leah Ostwald was our guest speaker, and she educated us about the ongoing concern of mass incarceration. She learned about this topic when she recently attended a UMW event in New York City.

Our December gathering will be our annual cookie exchange.

Circle Coordinator—Julie Stone





Sarah Circle—mostly working women—no childcare available

Meets in the Room 213—4th Monday 7:00pm

Sarah circle met on October 24th at the Church in room 213. Lilian Ficht presented a program *I am the Vine* from “Knowing God’s Power” and led the discussion. We talked about how we are called to be a vine and what that might mean for us. As usual, we shared Joys and Concerns and enjoyed treats (Thanks Nancy Bifulco!).

We had our combined November/December meeting on November 28th at the church, since our usual meeting would be the day after Christmas. Pastor Jim joined us and led a discussion on Advent as waiting for Christ. Nancy Bifulco has volunteered to take over as treasurer for next year. Thank you to Lenore Pitstick for your service. Gretchen Shearer will continue as circle coordinator for one more year, hopefully with help from the circle members for program planning.

Circle Coordinator– Gretchen Shearer

Joanna Circle—young ladies in 6th through 12th grades

Meets in Chapel Hall - 3rd Sunday 11:00 am

We will meet on Sunday, December 18th, 11:00 a.m. in Chapel Hall. There will be an opportunity to make a bookmark or a winter door hanger. We will also decorate cookies.

Co-Circle Coordinators– Shelly Davenport and Julie Stone

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

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

Twelve of us met on Nov.30th to kick off the Christmas season with our holiday circle meeting. Our co-hosts LeAlice Briggs and Joyce Novonty served a delicious Cherry cake. Our program, “Making a Difference in the Lives of Others,” was given by Jean Bahler and was a follow up on “Prayer and Gratitude” from our assignment from last month. Yes we get homework. All of us brought new toys or books for the PRC birthday bags. Judy Bittikoffer filled her car with about 40 toys and 18 books to deliver to PRC. Judy also brought 15 Christmas cards for us to sign .These were for our shut-ins and missionaries. Devotions were led by Bonnie Lehmann. We discussed our projects and will collect for our new Bridge Family in January. Another project we are interested in is Providing Hygiene Kits to homeless women. Thank you to LeAlice Briggs for bringing this issue to our attention. Another issue is to just greet new people we see at our services or in the parlor.

No December meeting but we all plan on attending the Christmas Tea on December 6th. Our next meeting will be January 25th and Pat Pyburn and Jean Remington will be our hostess’s. Our program will be on Gratitude.

Circle Coordinator—Joan Van Order

Purchase With a Purpose

A big thank you to everyone who has shopped, shared, worked at the table on Sundays, sorted gift cards and ordered this past year. Your Purchase With a Purpose makes a difference in the lives of women and children everywhere. We are getting close to our goal of \$5,000 profit from PWP.

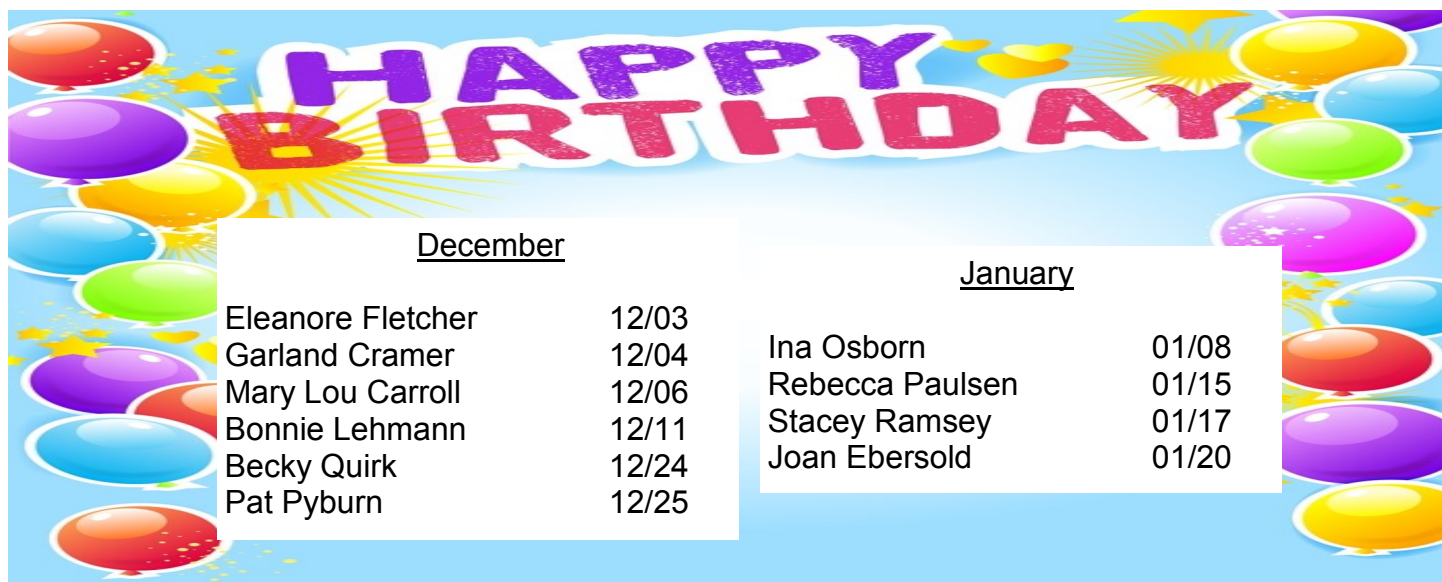
If you need a last minute gift or stocking stuffer we continue to have Amazon, Home Depot, iTunes, Jewel, Kohl's, Meijer, Panera Bread, Speedway Gas, Starbuck's, Target, Ultra Foods, Walgreens, and Downers Grove Downtown Dollars ready to pick up at the table in the Parlor every Sunday!

Our last order of the year will be placed on December 11th and arrangements can be made for you to pick up your order in the church office during the week. Check and Carry of our regular cards and order pick up will continue through the holidays and on January 8th, 2017 we will resume order taking twice a month.

The Benefit Mobile APP for your smart phone will allow you to continue shopping with a purpose all through the holidays. 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. Almost \$900 of our total profit comes from this APP.

If you have been shopping and using your Kohl's charge card plan to pay your bill with gift cards in \$25 (available every week) and \$100 denominations. When you receive your bill, order the cards you need on Sunday so that you'll be in time to pay your bill. You can pay it at the check out as well as customer service!

If you have any questions talk to Ina on Sunday or email inamairi@mac.com.



<u>December</u>		<u>January</u>	
Eleanore Fletcher	12/03	Ina Osborn	01/08
Garland Cramer	12/04	Rebecca Paulsen	01/15
Mary Lou Carroll	12/06	Stacey Ramsey	01/17
Bonnie Lehmann	12/11	Joan Ebersold	01/20
Becky Quirk	12/24		
Pat Pyburn	12/25		

Aurora District "UMW Growth Event" Saturday, January 28, 2017

"Called to Grow, Called to Serve"

Channahon UMC

24751 W. Eames, Channahon, IL. 60410

8:30 a.m. Registration and Resource Table

9:00 a.m. Welcome, Announcements, Breakfast,

Workshops Dismissal at Noon

Registration Fee is \$5.00 – Checks payable to "Aurora District UMW"

Send registration by January 14, 2017 to:

Cherri Taylor

624 Washington Dr.

Shorewood, Il. 60404

Racermom16@aol.com

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There will be the following classes, plus officer training Please complete the form below for each person attending. Do we Accept Each Other, Making Peace with the Earth, Telling our Story, Putting Faith, Hope and Love Into Action with Younger Women, Youth and Children, Making With Earth.

Church/Town _____ Phone _____

Name _____

Child Care Needed for (number of children & ages)

Special Food Requirements _____-

Payment enclosed (\$5 each to Aurora District UMW) _____

Bridge Family News!!!!

UMW will once again be helping to provide a little help to the Bridge Family. The rotation for the year is below. Please purchase gift cards from the Purchase With A Purpose table. Julie Stone will take your donations to the family.

January—Mary Elizabeth

February—Ruth

March—Rachel

April—Sarah

September—Mary Elizabeth

October—Ruth

November—Rachel

December—Sarah

Thank you in advance for your generosity!!

Year end news and changes to watch for in 2017

- DGFUMC UMW met its \$6,000 pledge to Aurora District. In addition, we were able to send a \$4,500 love gift. Thank you for your generosity in supporting the many efforts of United Methodist Women.
- The Leadership Team has made a change to the UMW general meetings. We will have a spring tea luncheon April 27, 2017 at 12:00 p.m. hosted by Mary Elizabeth and Ruth Circles and the Christmas Tea will be December 5, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. hosted by Rachel and Sarah Circles. Please mark your calendars!

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

Jan. 20-22, 2017	Winter Mission u Camp Reynoldswood, Dixon, Illinois	
Jan. 28	Aurora District Leadership Breakfast and Training Channahon UMC, Channahon, Il.	8:30 a.m.
Feb. 4	Leadership Team	9:00 a.m.
Apr. 22	Aurora District Spiritual growth event Minooka UMC, Minooka, Il.	8:30 a.m.
Apr. 27	Spring Tea Luncheon provided by Mary Elizabeth and Ruth Circles Chapel Hall	12:00 p.m.
May 4	Leadership Team	9:00 a.m.
July 22	One Day mission u Downers Grove FUMC	8:30 a.m.

Submit articles to Shelly Davenport at sdavenportarch@gmail.com or (630) 512-0370