

United Methodist Women

United Methodist Women (UMW) was originally known as the Ladies Aid Society and later changed to the Women's Society of Christian Service (WSCS). When the Methodist Church was named the United Methodist Church, the name was changed to the United Methodist Women (UMW).

The Wesleyan Service Guild was organized in 1934 as a part of the WSCS that met at night for working women. With the 1968 merger with the EUB Church it became one of the evening circles of UMW. Five circles comprise the UMW. A part of their purpose is to participate in local and global ministries of the church. Here, the women support the youth ministry, Hope House in Ottawa, World Missions and other agencies needing help.



The United Methodist Women preparing mincemeat to sell for a fund-raising project.



The First United Methodist Church Stephen Ministry Team from the left: Kelly Henry, Deanna Fox, Marcia Smith, Robin Wadkins, Laura Huggard, Mary Royse, Kay Haas and Michael Deegan.

Stephen Ministry

The Stephen Ministry is a transdenominational Christian education organization that provides high quality training and resources to strengthen and expand lay ministry in congregations.

The Ottawa First United Methodist Church enrolled in the Stephen Ministry Program in March 2002. It gave the church an effective way to train and organize members to provide one-to-one care to individuals struggling with a crisis.



The Stephen Ministry Team selling popcorn and soft drinks at the Ol' Marais River Run Car Show

The United Methodist Youth Fellowship

United Methodist Youth Fellowship Epworth League was a youth fellowship group for young men high school and college age. It was active in the 1930s and 1940s. Queen Esther was the name of the group for young women of the same age. In the 1950s these groups combined and were known as the Methodist Youth Fellowship. With the merger with the Evangelical United Brethren Church in 1968, the group became the United Methodist Youth Fellowship (UMYF).



A Youth Fellowship meeting with Liam Deegan in charge.



Community Use

The Church is open for use by many other groups in the community such as:

Narcotics Anonymous
(twice a week)

4-H Meetings

Parents Day Out

Dance group practice

Basketball

Boy Scouts

Emergency Shelter

*A photo of Boy Scout Troop 77 taken in 1934.
They have been meeting at the Church since 1928.*

J.A.M.

JESUS AND ME—is a program for children 3 years of age through sixth grade. It focuses on developing young faiths and good Christian fellowship, choirs for all ages of children, Christian education, supper, recreation and worship. It meets on Wednesday evenings from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

United Methodist Men

United Methodist Men is open to all men of the Church. They began meeting as a group in the late 1970s then became less active until 1995 when under the direction of Dale Fox and encouragement of Rev. Kent Melcher, they began meeting regularly the second Saturday of every month for fellowship and devotions. They support groups within the Church as well as Boy Scouts and local agencies needing help.

Ann Landers

In 1961, during Reverend Knight's pastorate, the Church was completely filled to overflowing and into the basement when Ann Landers spoke in Ottawa in observance of "Mental Health Week". She was invited to come to Ottawa by the editor of the Ottawa Herald, Bob Wellington. She commented "It isn't often that a little Jewish girl like me gets invited to speak at a Methodist Church."



The Youth Group helping with a Habitat for Humanity Project in the summer of 1995.



The Youth Mission trip to Santa Barbara, California, to work with the homeless population in that community.