



United
Women
in Faith

Vol. 38 Issue 2

The Growing Edge

**Puget Sound Missional District
United Women in Faith**

July 2022

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A President's Perspective

*Jasmine Ray-Symms, Interim President
Puget Sound Missional District*

The Love of a Parent

1 John 3:1 ESV “See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are.”



Recently, my mother fell and shattered her femur bone right above the knee. She required surgery, a week in the hospital, and is now recovering in a nursing home. Throughout it all I've tried to be there for her, visiting her regularly and bringing her what she needs. The experience has blessed me as I get the chance to take care of her as she took care of me. It's been a way to say, “thank you.” A minor repayment after all the years she spent raising me. I have an awareness of how blessed I am that this is even an option that we have a relationship that, while rocky in the past, has healed sufficiently that I can show her love and we can enjoy each other's company.

As I've contemplated this experience, I realized I can have that same reaction to God's love. As a child of God, my service to Him and the sharing of my love with others is a minor repayment compared to all God has done for me, but it's a way to say, “Thank you, God!” As United Women in Faith (UWF) we are called to serve God in our communities and in the world. It's an opportunity to see how blessed each of us are: financially, security, support, and community. We give back out of love what we have been given. We bless others as we have been blessed.

Jasmine Ray-Symms
PSD Interim President



Planting Seeds

We have a small UWF group in our church in Monroe. We spent much of the last year with three of us on zoom. Even as a small group, we were able to fellowship and support one another. As our church reopened, we asked our Lutheran sisters (we share a building and a pastor and are exploring uniting into a

single congregation) to join us. Our numbers swelled to nine one month and I was excited about the direction our local unit was headed. But, as summer approached, and activities increased, we saw a drop. Then we decided to close out our school year with a summer potluck. There were four of us. One was a good friend, and one was my mother. There were multiple reasons why. A few women were recovering from injuries. A few more were out of town or had scheduling conflicts. And then we discovered we had COVID positive cases at our church service the Sunday before and everyone was concerned about spreading or contracting the virus. I was very disappointed.

I received multiple apologies and regrets. I had to keep reminding myself that ministry isn't a popularity contest, and it isn't just about the results as much as the seeds being planted. I had mailed invitations to every woman in both congregations. I knew I wasn't likely to get a huge response (although I wanted that!) but I hoped that every woman would hear the message that they are welcome in our group; they are wanted in our group. We're going to try another potluck in the Fall to kick off the **new year** instead of wrapping up the old one. I'm going to spend the summer reminding myself that it's not my job to fill the seats, it's God's job. He's at work even when I can't see it. So, say a prayer for me and our budding group and I will do the same. And I'll watch for God's work in anticipation of His blessings whether I am gifted with seeing those seeds bloom or just the peace to know they are being planted.

Jasmine Ray-Symms
Monroe UWF President

From The Treasurer

Hi there – I am Kendra Smith your Conference Treasurer filling this position until a replacement can be found for District Treasurer. So, if you have questions or need information, please feel free to contact me. I will be attending Mission u in July and hope to see some of you there and many more of you at the Puget Sound District Annual Meeting on September 10th.

There are things that are changing as we transition into our new name and new web sites and even a new format with Mission u. The banking changes will be slower and will take a bit longer to happen. Please continue to write your checks for quarterly remittance to Puget Sound District UMW just as you have in the past. As I write this 2nd quarter is due and 3rd quarter will be due end of August.

Dates are significant if it is important to your unit to receive 5 and 7 Star Awards. It takes time to compile information for booklets for meetings etc. so dates are important for that reason. Funds are not held any longer than

necessary and are sent to National UMW promptly.

Please give prayerful consideration to being a treasurer of your local unit or district when asked. I am here to answer your questions and to be of assistance to you.

Kendra Smith
17420 93rd Ave NE
Bothell, WA 98011
206-390-9736



Program Resources

There are four plans in the Reading Program. You can select books from the 2015 through 2021-2022 reading lists if not read for previous reports.

Plan 1: 5 books a year

Read one book from each category and regular reading of “**response**” magazine.

Plan 2: 10 books a year

Read two books from each category and regular reading of “**response**” magazine.

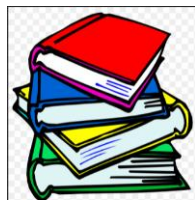
Plan 3: 15 books a year

Read two books from each category, plus “5” additional books from any category and regular reading of “response” magazine.

Plan 4: 20 books a year

Read two books from each category, plus “10” additional books from any category and regular reading of “response” magazine.

A BOOK STUDY



The updated 2021-2022 United Methodist Women Reading Program Guide is available for viewing online

at :<https://www.umwmissionresources.org/downloads/ReadingProgramCatalog2021.pdf>

Reporting form:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/18e03KdSpMPWTCLcoG-UbnmqFJrp7jVs0/view>

From the website: The Reading Program encourages members to think critically about current issues through an annual selection of member-reviewed books. It offers an excellent opportunity to deepen your spirituality and to broaden your understanding of our mission work. .

Hi Ladies:

On June 2, I checked out “Faith Talks” for the first time. The topic was “Friendship and Forgiveness.” Jennifer R. Farmer was the host. She said “To sustain relationships, one must learn forgiveness. To live well, one must learn forgiveness. To enjoy emotional freedom, one must forgive.” Other participants in the Faith Talk were Amanda Hoyt (Jennifer’s friend) and the Reverend Cheryl Taylor of St. John AME Church.

I found the Faith Talk very inspiring (much like a good sermon at church) and the speakers had good ideas on how to forgive someone.

Rev. Taylor felt forgiveness is not an option. She suggested first praying to God for guidance and then asking God to help you to forgive that person. She said “healing comes from forgiving and forgiving is a continual process.” Jennifer said “Forgiveness does not mean re-engaging in toxic and unhealthy relationships; it is a means of freeing us from the harm done to us.”

I strongly encourage members to check out Faith Talks if you have the opportunity. **If you listen to two Faith Talks, they will count as a book read in the Spiritual Growth category of the Reading Program and three Faith Talks count as a bonus book in the same category.**

From the Nurturing for Community category of the 2022 Reading Program is “Before We Were Yours” by Lisa Wingate. *“Born into a world of wealth and privilege, Avery Stafford seems to have it all. A loving daughter to her father, a US senator, with her own ambitious career as a lawyer, and a handsome fiancé waiting for her in Baltimore, she has lived a charmed life. But when Avery returns to Aiken to help her father weather a health crisis and a political attack, a chance encounter with May Crandall, an elderly woman she’s never met before, leaves Avery deeply shaken. Avery’s decision to learn more about May’s life will take her on a journey through a hidden history of stolen children and illegal adoption. A journey that will reveal a secret that could lead to devastation...or redemption.”* Based on one of America’s most notorious real-life scandals – in which Georgia Tann, director of a Memphis-based adoption organization, kidnapped and sold poor children to wealthy families all over the country. [from OCLC World Cat summary]

Described as a “riveting tale,” I would wholeheartedly agree. I read this page-turning novel in 3 days. The novel was presented as a mystery and I needed to know how the characters were connected. I strongly recommend this novel as a good read.

Don’t forget the August 15th deadline for the 2022 Reading Program. Report your reading numbers to me directly.

Naomi Foote
Program Resources Secretary
naomifoote@hotmail.com

Books, books, books

We encourage you to reach out to other churches to find some of the books on the list if you cannot find them at the local library. We realize you do not all have access to electronic versions of the books, so we are still reading real books.

Mission Today

Gold Unit: Complete at least 16 of the criteria, 10 of which must be marked with a star.

Silver Unit: complete at least 8 of the criteria, 4 of which must be marked with a star.

Mission u

Mission u is projected to be July 22-24, 2022, at Wesley UMC, Yakima, WA. This year, we plan to meet in person.

FROM THE WEBSITE: All our 2022 curricula are based on Luke 13, as we turn to stories of Jesus that have anchored Christian communities in challenging times for over 2 millennia.

Our adult curriculum, Who Can We Be Together: brings participants deeper into Jesus' teachings to explore what it means to be in community.

"Mission u" is the primary mission education event for the Conference. The event provides opportunities for everyone: women, men, pastors, families, youth, and children to grow in understanding of the mission of the church in the current world context as well as initiate opportunities for spiritual and educational experiences.



Social Action

How Socially Active Are YOU ?

How does a person get started on anything?

1. You learn about it, Check online at your local library for resources.
2. Network—listen to others tell their stories
3. Get to know others who have a similar interest,
4. Connect with existing groups or organizations, or start your own.
5. Write letters and/ or call officials, or letters to the Editor

Check out the Creation Justice Movement available first Wednesday each month 10 AM PT via ZOOM

Contact Jeannie Lish for additional information and contact United Women of Faith online

NOMINATIONS

Did I hear you say "Not Me!"

You've most likely heard the expression "If you want to get something done, ask a busy person!"

Are you aware of the District? Are you concerned that leadership opportunities at our Puget Sound Missional District **MUST** be filled if we are to continue as a vital, caring, inspiring, loving women's movement? **Your assistance is needed to help fill these United Women in Faith (UWF)** (formerly United Methodist Women - UMW) District Positions: President, Secretary, Treasurer,

Program Resources, Social Action,
Nomination's. Please contact Joanne Hall
djhall2@hotmail.com
or me, Jeannie Lish,
Jeanninelish@gmail.com

How are the women in your church? Is your UMW still surviving, active, hosting events? Are you doing well? I praise God for you, knowing that you have continued to have a vital, energetic 'sisterhood' that are doing, accomplishing, encouraging, and sharing your love in many ways! Also, for you who are (like me) a "Lone Scout" with no local unit. Thank you for your faithfulness.

Some of us are so dedicated to our own local church or community that we forget that part of our strength as women comes from our connectedness to others —whether it is in our town, our district, our state, our region, or our nation. I am impressed with what our leaders in UMW —now **United Women in Faith (UWF)** are encouraging with our new "Brand" name, logo, materials, access to helpful links, new ideas, and new ways of doing God's work through each of us; individually and collectively, and with excellent leadership training opportunities.

I love to read, write, and be creative, but working outdoors pulling and digging overgrown, neglected WEEDS in our yard, garden, and planting areas, trimming shrubs, and chasing rabbits, have consumed HOURS of my time during the past few months. At my local Arlington United Church, I am our Lay Member to Annual Conference, Chair of our Worldwide Missions Team, participate in a seasonal Women's Bible Study, help with yard care, bring flowers for the altar, and help with other activities. My husband and I play our band instruments with the N. Cascades Concert Band, attend Village Theatre's live performances, enjoy traveling with our travel trailer, etc. Even after all of this, I have a passion to serve, both in UWF

and hopefully can help rebuild Church Women United (CWU) which is an ecumenical, multi-denominational women's movement. Together, we can help make positive



differences. Even small steps do mean progress. Please pray and join us!

Jeannine "Jeannie" Lish
425 923-8267 cell

*****Another Note*****

The Nominations Committee is working on getting a complete slate of officer nominees for all District positions of the District team to lead the Units of our District.

The local and District Units grow when women represent a mix of experiences, expertise and backgrounds as represented members on the team.

The development of leadership skills is encouraged when women are given the opportunity to be on the team.

Help the United Women in Faith membership thrive in our District Units. Please be open to saying yes when asked to be on the District team.

Joanne Hall
Djhall2@hotmail.com 425-870-6297



Your nominations team is listed below:

PLEASE CONTACT ANYONE ON THIS
LIST FOR A DISTRICT POSITION.

Joanne Hall
425-870-6297
djhall2@hotmail.com

Jeannine Lish
425 923-8267 — cell
jeanninelish@gmail.com

(3) Nominations Member – Open

Open spots in Puget Sound Missional District Team	
President	Open
Secretary	Open
Spiritual Growth	Open
Program Resources	Open
Membership, Nurture, and Outreach	Open
Nominations member (3)	Open

Job descriptions are available online.
<https://www.pnwumc.org/uwfaith/resources/conference-job-descriptions/>

I can do it!!!!

Please volunteer to be part of the future.



A Message from Coupeville

. UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH – June 2022

We have had a good year and we want to share our story.

For Easter, we purchased tulips to honor members that have passed and the tulips were left on the altar. We also delivered tulips in pots to many ladies now living in assisted living facilities. We also contacted See's Candy for a fundraiser. We took pre-orders and everything was sent to us, free shipping. We made \$800 profit. The ladies voted to donate the money to the local charity Small Miracles. Small Miracles provides medical financial assistance to residents of the 98239-zip code and those in the 98277-zip code who are also in the Coupeville School District.



The Coupeville May Luncheon was back this year and we hosted a Salad Potluck. The luncheon was held on May 10 at 12 PM. Guest speakers for the event were Colleen Lura and her husband Pastor David Lura who reflected on Spiritual Women who travelled an influential journey. The following women were honored for their many years of faith and service: Marjorie Arnberg, Pat Coffey, Alice Raymond, Darlene Sherman, and Nancy Wilson.

Looking forward, the UWF is taking a break for the summer. Monthly meetings will resume on Tuesday, September 13. Members are encouraged to rest or work on their projects for the CUMC Christmas Bazaar as needed.

Save the date: UWF Puget Sound District Annual Meeting will be held here at Coupeville UMC on Saturday, September 10,

2022. I think there are 27 churches in our district. The Guest Speaker will be Estella Wallace.

We are asking people to return empty and clean Jelly jars, especially those bought at the Christmas bazaar. These jars will be reused for jams and jellies for the 2022 Christmas Bazaar on December 3. We make the best Pepper Jelly (served on cream cheese), so you can try it.

Judy Good
President, United Women in Faith

OPEN INVITATION

We invite all churches in the District to share their stories, events, and goals. Hope you will tell your story in The Growing Edge.

Assembly 2022



Assembly is over. We did have a couple people locally that attended.

Karen Guthrie and Karen Stokes attended the Assembly online and really enjoyed their experience and they learned a lot that they can apply to their current group. They were invigorated by their experience. They thought it was worth attending and would do it again. They would encourage others to join next year.

Staying in Touch

Communication is so important District and the Local churches. We are tracking your leadership in the local churches and we want to stay in touch throughout the year

Let us know if you change officers, change membership, change contact information, or there is a change in church leadership.

Gay Johnson
Puget Sound Missional District
Communications Coordinator

THE SHARING LINE

The newsletter of the Pacific Northwest Conference United Methodist Women is

The Circuit Writer – SeaTac District
Crest to Coast Currents – Crest to Coast District.
Timely Reflections – Inland District
The Flame Newsletter – Seven Rivers District
(The Flame currently not publishing)

The Growing Edge: Puget Sound District

The Growing Edge is a digital newsletter from Puget Sound Missional District, United Women in Faith and is produced three times per year. It is distributed in PDF format by email.

Copies sent via email to:

- ❖ Local UMW Officers
- ❖ District UMW Officers
- ❖ Conference UMW Officers
- ❖ District Communications Coordinator

LIKE US on our Facebook Page
“Pacific Northwest Conference of United Methodist Women

YOU ARE INVITED

Puget Sound Missional District Annual Meeting- Sept 10, 2022

You are invited to Coupeville WA for the District Annual Meeting this year. We are suggesting carpooling. We also would encourage walking on the ferry and catching transportation on the other side. There is a bus or the President of Coupeville UWF has offered to pick up those that need more assistance. We are reminded that this is island living and this is not a rush, rush, city life. They are promising a lovely event and a salad potluck and classic dessert. Registration is only \$10 to cover the cost of lunch. For those that cannot attend in person, the meeting will be live-streamed. For all that can come, it is time to meet in person again. Mark your calendar for Sept 10.

Coupeville awaits you.

A Note from the Editor

I see a lot of openings in the District Team. I remember a few years ago sitting at an annual meeting when they were asking people to help on the district team. The current president was doing three jobs and that seemed too much.

One of the job openings was the Communications Coordinator. The primary job was to write this newsletter three times a year and to attend the district meetings. I thought I could help. I could type and prepare a newsletter from content sent by others. I raised my hand.

I have met wonderful people in this job, and I have ventured above and beyond my local unit. It was a good choice for me. What about you? Could you help?

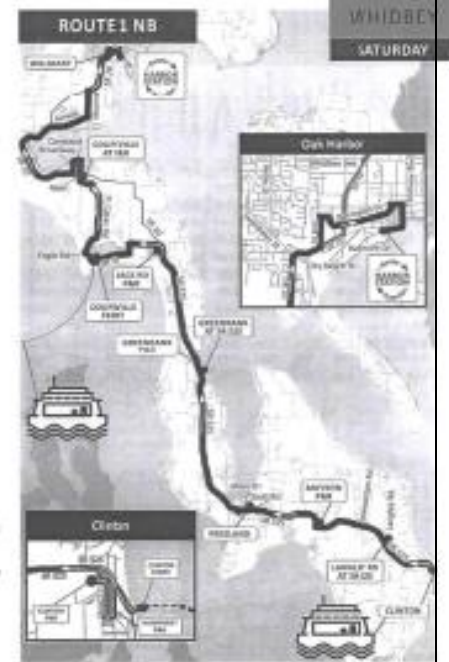
Gay Johnson, Communications
Coordinator,
gajedmonds1325@yahoo.com



ROUTE 1 NORTHBOUND									
Depart Clinton Ferry 11:00 AM	Clinton Ferry 11:15 AM	Clinton Ferry 11:30 AM	Clinton Ferry 11:45 AM	Clinton Ferry 12:00 PM	Clinton Ferry 12:15 PM	Clinton Ferry 12:30 PM	Clinton Ferry 12:45 PM	Clinton Ferry 1:00 PM	Clinton Ferry 1:15 PM
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6:45	7:00	7:15	7:30	7:45	8:00	8:15	8:30	8:45	9:00

Contact Judy 6000
360-714-1514
for more information

Solid type denotes PM times
Book 3rd - departure services on request to Coupeville Park & Ride. Call Route Information
360-678-7777 for request pickup.
Route goes through Langley, via northbound pier on Langley Rd
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2022 PNW UMW Conference Calendar (all are welcome)

July 21-22, 2022	Summer Conference UMW Exec Meeting	Selah UMC Selah, WA
July 22-24, 2022	Mission u	Wesley UMC Yakima, WA
September 10, 2022	Puget Sound Missional District Annual Meeting—All are welcome	Coupeville UMC Coupeville, WA
September 17, 2022	Inland Missional District Annual meeting	Spokane Valley UMC Spokane Valley, WA
September 17, 2022	Seven Rivers Missional District Annual Meeting	West Highlands Kennewick, WA
September 2022	Crest to Coast Missional District Annual Meeting	TBD
September 24, 2022	SeaTac Missional District Annual Meeting	Zoom
October 13-14, 2022	Fall Conference UMW Exec Meeting	Bothell UMC Bothell, WA
October 14-15, 2022	Conference UMW Annual Meeting All are welcome	Bothell UMC Bothell, WA
2024	Western Jurisdiction Quadrennial Meeting	TBD

Mark your calendars now for upcoming events

ONE MORE THING>>>

Memorials

We are reminded that you will be turning in your list of memorials for the Annual Meeting in September. Please submit that information to Interim President Jasmine Ray-Symms. Please submit any ladies that have passed over the past 2 years, August – August. We are giving you due date of August 1, but if you have news after this date, please send it in. This information will be added to the bulletin of the meeting, and they will be named out loud at the meeting. We want to honor them, their service, and their membership in United Women in Faith (formerly UMW).

Jasmine Ray-Symms	jasisymms@outlook.com	425-223-9866
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