

THE SHARING LINE

A PUBLICATION OF UNITED WOMEN OF FAITH — PACIFIC NORTHWEST CONFERENCE

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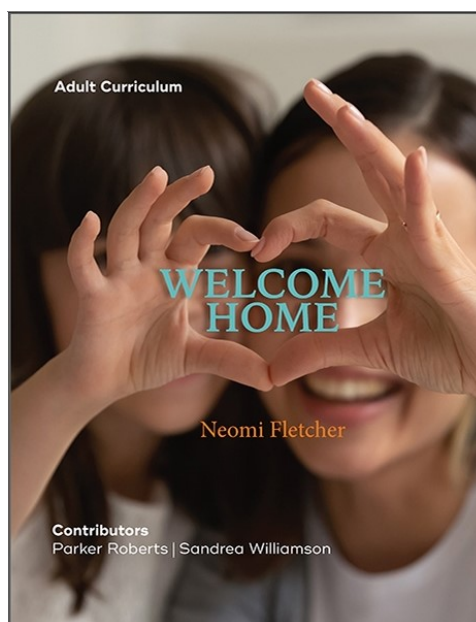
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DEB'S DISPATCH

MAKING MISSION AND MINISTRY HAPPEN THROUGH MISSION GIVING



I am excited about our adult curriculum for Mission u 2024... "WELCOME HOME". It explores the images of God, embracing kinship, untangling personal tensions, receiving the Kin-dom at hand, defining a place called home, presenting home to others, and more. I hope that you will plan to attend Mission u this year (July 25-27) in Yakima at Wesley UMC. They are a wonderful example of welcoming us "Home." Even if you are not able to attend, I strongly encourage you to take advantage of the study books prepared for adults, children, and youth within your local settings.

A guiding thought I would like to share from this curriculum is: "God invites us into the kin-dom. We are then provided with opportunities to extend the kin-dom to others, so the family of God continues to grow (John 20:20-23; James 5:13-20). The opportunity to present another with

(Continued on page 2)

As we move through this Epiphany Season and begin to prepare ourselves for Lent; I am surrounding each of you with my love and prayers. Now, more than ever, we call on the strength of our Creator and the support of our Sisters, United in Faith, to be open to hear God's call for us in our lives.

THE PURPOSE

United Women in Faith seeks to connect and nurture women through Christian spiritual formation, leadership development, creative fellowship, and education so that they can inspire, influence and impact local and global communities.



United
Women
in Faith

(Continued from page 1)

the ability to establish a new concept of home allows us to move deeper in our discipleship. Now, we are not just inviting others into a relationship with implications for future hopes, but we are inviting them into a relationship that has very real implications for what is taking place on a day-to-day basis in the flesh”.



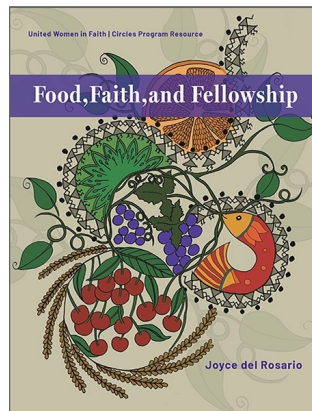
How are you actively welcoming other women into our home of United Women in Faith... experiencing purpose through passion and action in ministry with women, children, and youth?

Have you seen the **DAILY PRAYER GUIDE for 2024**? The theme is “Let Us Break Bread Together.” I use it daily as part of my regular meditation practice. I have presented a challenge to our conference leadership team, and I am also extending this challenge to each of you...review the list of our National Mission Institutions found in this resource and locate one that you would like to learn more about and start building a relationship. The ministry of these many institutions

would not be possible without our **MISSION GIVING**, which each of us commits to regularly. Personally, I have chosen the Navajo United Methodist Center in Farmington, New Mexico, which provides transitional living for survivors and families of domestic violence, sexual

assault, and stalking. I am looking forward to hearing about the relationships you build with your chosen National Mission Institution.

Another inspiring resource is our **2024 UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH CIRCLES PROGRAM RESOURCE!** Our theme focuses on “Faith, Food and Fellowship” and was created by a familiar name to many of you (as she is part of our Pacific Northwest Conference), Joyce del Rosario. There are monthly programs with overarching themes of Faith Practices, Relationship to Self and One Another, Food Access and Food Justice, and Creating with and for One Another. I find each monthly program to be thought-provoking and adaptable for any number of participants. I truly believe these programs provide a



strong basic foundation for inviting others to our table. How about combining with other women in your community for a Food Justice or Earth Care presentation?

And, of course, **RESPONSE**. It has a fresh new look with some positive changes made in response to suggestions of readers. The Bible study in the January/February issue would be valuable for any group, large or small, as we take a look at the “woman at the well.” Also, the influence section has great articles submitted by readers. I was especially excited to see one by our Spokane unit, Fowler United Women in Faith, and submitted by Sharon Stovall! You won’t want to miss it.

On an important note.... our ongoing **MISSION GIVING** makes these resources available and keeps us connected in our purpose of inspiring, impacting, and influencing! May we continue to give out of gratitude for all that we have been given in order to make an impact on women, children, and youth locally, nationally, and globally!

Can I hear an **AMEN**?

Deb Avery

Pacific Northwest Conference United Women in Faith

*Humbly serving as your president 🙏
360-281-0766, davery51@q.com*



DISTRICT & CONFERENCE OFFICERS LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT DAYS

April 19 through April 21, 2024

Lazy F Camp and Retreat Center, 16170 Manastash Road, Ellensburg, WA 98926

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: MARCH 10, 2024

REGISTRATION

Name for Nametag _____ Email _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____ Home Phone _____

Church _____ Cell Phone _____

District _____ Office _____

Doctor or Healthcare _____ Phone _____

Emergency Contact _____ Phone _____

Can we use your photo in promotional materials? Yes ☐ or No ☐

Do you need a lanyard for your name badge? Yes ☐ or No ☐

Food Allergies: _____

ADA needs: We are happy to help you prepare for an enjoyable experience! Please share your challenges or concerns. If we don't know before the event, we may not be equipped to assist:

- If you are taking **medications** at this time and are bringing them to the retreat, please have the list in your luggage or with you in case there is a medical emergency.
- If you have **special needs, dietary needs, or restrictions** that would affect your participation, *please attach* this information to the registration form.
- In signing this form, I hereby certify that this information is correct and complete as far as I know. I hereby give permission to the Retreat Leadership to provide routine health care, administer prescribed medications, and seek emergency medical treatment, including ordering x-rays or routine tests. In case of a medical need, I understand that every effort will be made to contact the above-named emergency contact person. In the event they cannot be reached, I hereby give permission to the physician selected by the Retreat Leadership to secure and administer treatment, including hospitalization. I agree to release any records necessary for insurance purposes. I authorize the use of photos for future publicity.

Signature _____ Date _____

Please check where appropriate

- ☐ Skyline Cabin—Upper Bunk (includes five meals, a towel, and bedding)
- ☐ Skyline Cabin—Lower Bunk (includes five meals, a towel, and bedding)
- *SKYLINE ASSIGNMENTS ARE ON A FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVE BASIS.**
- ☐ Ridgeview—Upper Bunk (includes five meals; provide your own towel and bedding)
- ☐ Ridgeview—Lower Bunk (includes five meals; provide your own towel and bedding)
- ☐ Trading Post—Upper Bunk (includes five meals; provide your own towel and bedding)
- ☐ Trading Post—Lower Bunk (includes five meals; provide your own towel and bedding)

Please send the completed
registration form to
Jenny Bygland
at 21445 94th Pl S,
Kent, WA 98031
Email
jbygland@kentmethodist.com

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

FLOW LIKE WATER

“Water has taught me how to be in the flow, to release and cleanse what no longer serves me or us. There is power in letting go what is not ours to carry, or what others, in their unskillfulness, have tried to place upon us.” —Brenda Salgado.

As we continue reflecting on what we will carry with us into 2024 and what we will leave behind, I invite us to consider:

How will I embody the vision and mission of United Women in Faith in the Pacific Northwest as I show up in different spaces? Is it participating in the reading program? Having more connection points with one another? Finding additional opportunities to lead, speak, or write? Recognizing the gifts of each person I encounter?

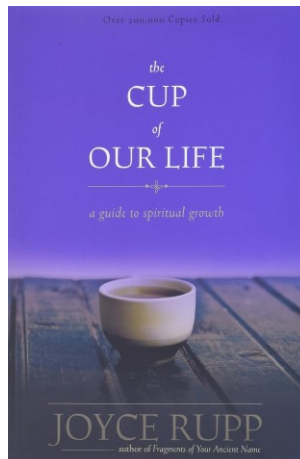
What does embodying that vision and mission look, sound, and feel like? Draw it out, write it, sing it, model it with playdough. Then, share that reflection with someone.

What will you carry? What will you leave behind? What will you help others carry? What will you ask others to help you carry?

Remember, you are not alone.

Sophia Agtarap
Spiritual Growth Coordinator
United Women in Faith
Pacific Northwest

SOPHIA SHARED THE FOLLOWING AT THE OPENING OF THE JANUARY EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING.



The Celtic approach to God opens up a world in which nothing is too common to be exalted, and nothing is so exalted that it cannot be

made common. — Esther de Waal

Introduction to *The Cup of Our Life*

I remember vividly the day I first began pondering the cup as a symbol of my inner journey. It happened on a Wednesday morning as I sat down for a regularly scheduled midweek prayer with the two co-pastors of Windsor Heights Lutheran Church. On that particular morning, Norm had asked Dick and me to bring our empty coffee mugs to prayer. As we settled in, Norm invited us to hold our cups, to look into them, and to think about our spiritual lives. At that moment, the symbolism of the cup awakened me to the deeper part of myself. What happened was amazing. I had no sooner looked into the empty cup when tears began forming in my eyes. What was this about? Why this great surge of sadness? Where did this deep emotion come from? As I struggled with my tears and continued looking into the empty cup, I discovered that

I was feeling much more spiritually drained than I had realized. Looking into the empty cup was like looking into my hollow self. Since that time, I have found the cup to be a powerful teacher for my inner life. The ordinariness of the cup reminds me that my personal transformation occurs in the common crevices of each day. The cup is an apt image for the inner processes of growth. The cup has been a reminder of my spiritual thirst. As I've held it, filled it, drunk from it, emptied it, and washed it, I've learned that it is through my ordinary human experiences that my thirst for God is quenched. In the cup, I see life, with its emptiness, fullness, brokenness, flaws, and blessings.

A cup is a container for holding something. Whatever it holds has to eventually be emptied out so that something more can be put into it. I have learned that I cannot always expect my life to be full. There has to be some emptying, some pouring out if I am to make room for the new. The spiritual journey is like that—a constant process of emptying and filling, of giving and receiving, of accepting and letting go. The cup has taught me many valuable lessons for my spiritual growth. I have learned that my life holds stale things that need to be discarded and that sometimes, my life feels as wounded as a broken cup. I have learned that I have flaws, chips, and stains, just as any well-used cup may have, but that these markings of a well-traveled life need not prevent me from being a valuable gift for others. I

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

have learned that the contents of my life are meant to be constantly given and shared in a generous gesture of compassion, just as the main purpose of a cup is to have its contents given away. I have especially learned gratitude for all those moments when the unexpected has transformed my life into an abundant cup of blessings. Notice the rim on a cup. It is circular, with no beginning or end, a symbol of wholeness. In the circle, all is connected to form an oneness. The spiritual life is a journey toward becoming whole, a day-to-day movement of continually growing into the person we are meant to be. The cup's rim or circle daily reminds me of this longing for wholeness and connectedness.

Rupp O.S.M., Joyce. *The Cup of Our Life: A Guide to Spiritual Growth* (p. 1-2). Ave Maria Press. Kindle Edition.

Author: <https://joycerupp.com/the-cup-of-our-life/>

MEMBERSHIP NURTURE AND OUTREACH

United Women in Faith are striving to serve others. How this looks will vary depending on who you are. Since taking the office of PNW Conference Membership, Nurture, and Outreach Coordinator, I have again started taking the Response magazine. This is one way to be inspired and connect with the mission of United Women in Faith. Our church has this magazine in their library. You, too, can subscribe or check out this magazine. If you have read the current issue, try sharing it with a friend. Then, possibly discuss or share about one of your favorite articles. It will give you hope and inspiration for the work we need to be doing. The work we accomplish is dependent upon the giving of our time, talents, and offerings.

At my local unit, we prepared and participated in the World Thank Offering by involving the whole church. At a unit meeting, boxes were assembled as we shared experiences of mission work and service. The following Sunday's children's moment involved explaining what a thank

offering might involve. The children were then asked to pass out boxes to members of the congregation. Later in the month, the congregation was reminded to return the boxes the following Sunday and share their stories of thankfulness. Again, a children's moment focused on the World Thank Offering. The children were able to share what they were thankful for as they filled additional boxes with change that was brought in.

As we nurture ourselves and reach out to others around us, remember this: The actions we are willing to take will be our lifeline to meeting the needs and goals of United Women in Faith. It is in the doing that we are truly serving.

Feel free to share your stories as well as ask questions. I am here to serve you and work with you in this faith journey.

*Gail Simpson,
Membership Nurture and
Outreach Coordinator
United Women in Faith
Pacific Northwest*

OUR LEGACY GOAL: EVERY MEMBER PARTICIPATION

- Inspire every member of United Methodist Women to make a gift to the Legacy Fund at least \$18.69 per year over and above her Pledge to mission for five years.
- Most of our foremothers did not hold the purse strings of their household, but they set aside two pennies a week or \$1 a year to be in mission with God! Can today's women set aside at least 36 cents a week or \$18.69 a year?
- Even if only 50% of our members gave as little as \$18.69 a year for the next four years, we would raise almost \$30 million! (400,000 members x 4 years x \$18.69)
- Our foremothers continue to stand by us through more than \$1.3 million a year in interest on endowments that they established. Let us stand beside future generations of United Methodist Women through the Legacy Fund!

Let us inspire every member of United Methodist Women to make a gift to the Legacy Fund of at least \$18.69 per year over and above her Pledge to Mission.





United
Women
in Faith

United Women in Faith, National Office
Attention: Legacy
United Women in Faith
Church Center for the United Nations
777 United Nations Plaza, 11th Floor
New York, NY 10017
212-870-3900
uwfaith.org

1869
Society

THE 1869 SOCIETY

LETTER OF INTENT FORM

YES! I HAVE INCLUDED UNITED METHODIST WOMEN OR UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH IN MY ESTATE PLANS.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

TYPE OF GIFT:

- ☐ Will / Living Trust
- ☐ IRA / Retirement Account
- ☐ Life Insurance
- ☐ Bank, Brokerage, or Other Financial Account
- ☐ Charitable Trust
- ☐ Other (please specify) _____

MY FUTURE GIFT TO SUPPORT THE LEGACY FUND:

- ☐ Is a percentage of my estate and is worth approximately \$ _____
- ☐ Is in the specific amount of \$ _____
- ☐ I wish to keep the value of my future gift confidential

DONOR RECOGNITION CHOICES:

- ☐ I/we wish to remain anonymous and do not want this gift acknowledged in public.
- ☐ I/we would like to be acknowledged as a member of the 1869 Society with the following wording:
- ☐ Name as you would like it to appear: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please return this form to the above address.



This fillable pdf of this document is on our website: <https://www.pnwumc.org/uwfaith/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/1869-Society-FAQ-Letter-of-Intent-updated-2022.pdf>.



United
Women
in Faith



THE 1869 SOCIETY FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT EXACTLY IS THE 1869 SOCIETY?

In the Spring of 2018, United Methodist Women, now United Women in Faith, established the 1869 Society to thank and honor individuals who have named United Methodist Women's or United Women in Faith's Legacy Endowment Fund as a beneficiary of their will, trust, retirement plan, or life insurance policy. We decided upon the name "1869 Society" since it was the year of our founding. Those individuals who remember The Legacy Endowment Fund through a planned gift demonstrate a particularly thoughtful and generous way to connect their personal legacy with our organization's future.

WHY DID YOU ESTABLISH THE 1869 SOCIETY?

For many years, United Methodist Women has been remembered in people's wills and estate plans. And we have benefitted from this generous support. As awareness grows of the variety of ways to contribute philanthropically to United Women in Faith, we believe that this type of giving will increase in the years ahead, and we want to recognize these donors.

WHAT DO I SAY TO OTHER PEOPLE WHO ASK ME ABOUT THE 1869 SOCIETY?

If you are a member of the 1869 Society yourself, ask others to join you. If they want to learn how they can become a member, they may contact the Development staff in the national office at 212-870-3705 or by emailing legacy150@uwfaith.org for further details.

CAN I BE ANONYMOUS?

Absolutely! Consider, though, that your membership could encourage others. In this way, you are supporting the mission, programs, and future of United Women in Faith by witnessing to additional creative ways of making a gift. Remember that some people may ONLY be able to contribute through a bequest, for example, and you are helping to bring this possibility to mind for them.

WHAT IF I CHANGE MY MIND?

When a gift is revocable (e.g., a bequest), you can change your mind. If there are new circumstances in your life that you would like reflected in your will differently, just let us know of the change. Also, if you are unsure, please feel free to call us for a confidential conversation.

HOW WILL MY GIFT EMBRACE THE FUTURE?

At its heart, the 1869 Society is a way to say "thank you" and to let you know how grateful we are for your thoughtful support. We extend our gratitude to you on behalf of all the women and children we serve. Your planned gift will grow as part of The Legacy Endowment Fund. Proceeds from the invested funds will endow future core expenses so that even more money can be directed to support and grow vital mission work throughout our country and the world. The Legacy Endowment Fund is a permanently invested Endowment Fund that will forever be a source of income for United Women in Faith. You will leave a Legacy.

DO I NEED TO UPDATE MY ESTATE PLANNING WITH THE NEW NAME?

No, you do not. United Methodist Women is now doing business as United Women in Faith and will continue to accept gifts to United Methodist Women, as well as United Women in Faith.





Day of Giving

Save the Date:
Saturday, March 23, 2024

Faithfully Forward

uwfaith.org/dayofgiving

Save the Date: March 23, 2024

Faithfully Forward Join United Women in Faith as we step faithfully forward, uniting hearts and hands to create a brighter, more compassionate tomorrow for women, children, and youth. Give to The Legacy Endowment Fund on the Day of Giving, March 23.

WAYS TO GIVE

- **Online at:** uwfaith.org/dayofgiving
- **By phone:** 800-278-7771 (8 am–5 pm EST, Mon.–Fri.)
- **Text:** “**FUTURE**” to **20503**
- **By check to:**

United Women in Faith, Attn: Legacy
777 United Nations Plaza, 11th Floor
Church Center for the United Nations
New York, NY 10017

Write “**Day of Giving**” in the memo section.



United
Women
in Faith

150
next
THE LEGACY ENDOWMENT FUND

Together we are building our Legacy!



United
Women
in Faith

The Legacy Endowment Fund is a permanent investment that supports the work and the future of United Women in Faith.

MISSION U

Mission u is the annual mission education opportunity for the Pacific Northwest Conference. We meet at Wesley UMC in Yakima, WA, for three days of learning and fellowship. Wesley UMC is our location of choice because of its size, its hospitality, and that it is centrally located for participants arriving from northern Idaho and all of Washington State.

Save the dates of July 25-27, 2024. We will reserve a block of rooms; children and youth are welcome to join, and an age-appropriate curriculum will be provided.

The curriculum for this year's study is entitled: "Welcome Home," by Neomi Fletcher, with Contributors Parker Roberts and Sandra Williamson. The book is available for purchase through the United Women in Faith website: [Mission u | United Women in Faith \(uwfaith.org\)](https://missionu.org). This link opens to the order page for the Adult curriculum book, as well as those for Youth and Children.

Plan to attend this Spirit-filled gathering. We are working to identify opportunities for home hospitality where some may stay in the home of members of the congregation while participating at Mission u.

The United Women in Faith reading list has been compiled for 2024. So many of our members are dedicated readers. Here is a link to the Reading Program Catalog for 2024:

[United Women in Faith - 2024 Reading Program Catalog \(uwfaithresources.org\)](https://uwfaithresources.org)



— JULY 25-27, 2024 —

THE KIN-DOM IS
AMONG YOU

**DRAWING CLOSER
TO GOD AND
ONE ANOTHER**

Come! Let's explore together the heart of Jesus' good news and what fresh vision it offers us as we seek to be in mission today. Children, youth, and adults are welcome!

Yakima Wesley UMC

14 N 48th Ave.
Yakima, WA 98908

Learn more: pnwumc.org/uwfaith



United
Women
in Faith

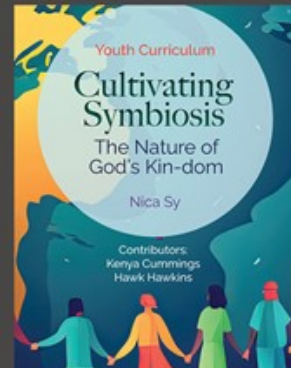


Remember, you can go back five years to compile your report of books read for the year. Some used United Women in Faith books will be available for purchase at Mission u.

Plan to come to Mission u this year. Bring your children or grandchildren along for a great weekend.

Jan Catrell

*Assistant Dean, Mission u
jcatrell@yahoo.com*



2024 WESTERN
JURISDICTION

Get
Together!



United
Women
in Faith

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO REGISTER!

JURISDICTION

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

**QUADRENNIAL
EVENT**

MAY 9-11, 2024

REGISTRATION

**DECEMBER THROUGH
APRIL 15, 2024: \$345**

APPLY FOR A SCHOLARSHIP!

PAGES 4



WJUMW.COM

ENDOWMENT FUND DISBURSEMENTS FOR 2024

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR WESTERN JURISDICTION QUADRENNIAL MEETING

On January 11, 2024, the Endowment Committee adopted the following disbursements for 2024: \$930 for Pledge to Mission and \$2,790 for leadership distributions. Combined with the \$1,500 reserved for leadership in 2023, this allows \$4,290 for the Western Jurisdiction Quadrennial Meeting, May 9-11, 2024, in Anchorage, Alaska.

The committee voted to offer scholarships with a maximum of \$400. Applicants must have contributions from both the local church/unit and the district. District presidents will contact those women who have already registered and urge them to apply. The application form is available on the website www.pnwumc.org

Ja net' Crouse,
Endowment Committee Chair



SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

WESTERN JURISDICTION QUADRENNIAL MEETING

May 9-11, 2024, Anchorage Alaska

Scholarships are available for up to \$400.

Please obtain support from your Local Church/UWF Unit and District UWF first.

Application Deadline: February 15, 2024

Applicant Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (including area code) Home or Cell: _____

Email: _____

Have you already registered for the Western Jurisdiction event? Yes ☐ No ☐

Do you plan to share what you learn with others? Yes ☐ No ☐

Why do you want to attend Western Jurisdiction?

Additional funding is provided from the following sources:

Local Church _____ \$ _____

Local UWF _____ \$ _____

District UWF _____ \$ _____

Total \$ _____

Download and complete this scholarship application and
email the form as an attachment to Ja net' Crouse at crousejw@crouses.com.
For questions, call 509-884-8415.

NEWS FROM THE MISSIONAL DISTRICTS

INLAND MISSIONAL DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS

As Inland Missional District President, I appreciated being included in the very first United Women in Faith Conference Officer Training by National on January 23rd. While the purpose was to share information for resources, it provided all 438 of us on the Zoom call with a comprehensive view of United Women in Faith, an inspiring message from our new CEO, Sally Vonner, our vision until 2029, inspiration through the beloved “Hymn of Promise,” a helpful breakout session for each officer, and more. Two hours well spent!

Our District Annual Meeting in September was exceptional in quality but disappointing in attendance. For a smaller Sandpoint Unit to host, neighbor Bonners Ferry provided the morning refreshments. Deaconess Lynn Swedberg provided an outstanding interactive keynote program on accessibility. Small breakout groups worked on components of the accessibility audit both inside the church and on its grounds. We came away with an abundance of new ideas and learning.

Another example of Local Unit cooperation in our District is Fowler and Audubon Park, which began meeting together in December. These Spokane units are close in proximity with small numbers, so they enjoy supporting one another in this way.

Once again, I participated in the Idaho Legislative Event Forums held via Zoom on January 28 and

February 4. The first Forum focused on Maternal Health with several important bills of concern to us before the Idaho Legislature. Mike Cunningham, Idaho Medical Association, was the speaker. Education issues were the focus of the second Forum, with Rod Gramer, President of Idaho Businesses for Education, the presenter. For those able to get to Boise, there is an opportunity to meet with legislators in person on February 12 for Capitol Advocacy Day. Our District Social Action Coordinator is an Idaho resident and represents our area in planning the events with the Oregon Idaho Conference.

We are pleased to have five members of our District Executive Team registered for the Western Jurisdiction event in Anchorage in May, one of whom is on the Jurisdiction Team and one a nominee. We have been looking at ways to best support the other three members financially through scholarship assistance.

Considering the weather, road conditions, and expense, we continue to hold our fall and winter Executive Committee meetings via Zoom. This has been an efficient use of our time and funds, as well as kept us safe from being out on undesirable road conditions. We miss the in-person fellowship and appreciate that even more when we meet for spring and summer sessions.

As I write this article, we are still in the planning stage for our 2024 Annual Meeting. Tentatively, we

may be hosted again by one unit with the assistance of its neighbor unit. Watch for a final decision! Our District is experiencing the benefits of a spirit of cooperation!

Khia Shaw, formerly UMW Director of Membership and Engagement, recently appointed United Women in Faith National Transformation Officer, facilitated the breakout session of the Conference Officer Training for District officers. She told us that 80 were expected but that it was a much smaller group. She asked us this question, “Why Is United Women in Faith Important to Me?” Not being one to tolerate a silence, I volunteered to respond. As briefly as possible, I shared that I had long felt the most important reason for being in UMW was its supportive community. Since a planned surgery in September had unexpected complications that resulted in a prolonged recovery, I have been the recipient of the support of my sisters. My sisterhood from near and far has continued to support me to this day. Khia thanked me for my “powerful story.”

One of the four goals of National United Women in Faith is to mobilize members to inspire, influence, and impact their communities and the world. My sisters have done all three for me personally! Our community begins with us, working where we are, with our family and neighbors, and then beyond. May we each be inspired to reach out today to that person who needs our sisterhood!

*Judy Dirks,
Inland Missional District President*

MISSIONAL DISTRICT NEWS CONT.

PUGET SOUND MISSIONAL DISTRICT

Sometimes, the old expression, “Better late than never,” reflects how some of us operate. It has been part of my way of living for too long; having so many interests and a big sense of curiosity have created a deluge of “collectible stuff” (mailings, magazines, minutes, etc.) over the years. My computer contributes to my insatiable desire, and all those “cookies” add enticing new emails - links not requested, but interesting! I am starting to simplify, downsize, discard, eliminate, and pass on to others anything of value. I want to start a new chapter in my life.

I receive updates on FAN (*Faith Action Network*) and plan to participate in the *Interfaith Advocacy Day* in Olympia on February 8, then return home for our granddaughter Grace’s 7 p.m. high school band concert in Arlington. For a number of years, I’ve followed “*Interfaith Power & Light*” as they work for a safe climate. I often respond to emails from our state and national senators and representatives and others working for justice regarding endangered humans, wildlife, destruction of the forests, and our fragile lands.

Our Puget Sound Missional District has secured the Marysville UMC for our District Annual meeting on Saturday, September 7. We will have our 2nd District Team meeting on Thursday, February 22, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. by Zoom. We’re still encouraging adding more women to

our District Team and will be calling churches to re-engage with United Women in Faith.

We are living in a fragile world--environmentally, politically, educationally, and socially, as we try to deal with the homeless, the hungry, and the humanitarians working for many types of justice. We pray for our almighty God to be with us, direct us, and help us as we work for peace.

Somewhere, I found the following list of ways to have Democratic Organizing; it’s a nice reminder of how we can focus in our groups!

1. Be inclusive.
2. Emphasize bottom-up organizing.
3. Let people speak for themselves.
4. Work together in Solidarity and mutuality.
5. Build just relationships among ourselves.
6. Commit to self-transformation.

Blessings,

Jeannine “Jeannie” Lish
Puget Sound Missional District
President
(425) 923-8267

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We, the members and friends of Arlington United Church (a merger of the United Methodist and the Evangelical Covenant denominations), respectfully honor the first peoples who have continuously inhabited this land around Arlington and the

Stillaguamish River for thousands of years. We acknowledge that the area in which we gather is within the traditional territory of the *People of the River, the Stoluckwamish River Tribe, and the Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians*. They experienced genocide, ethnic cleansing, theft of their lands and water, and forced removal. On October 27, 1976, the Tribe achieved federal recognition and treaty rights and was made eligible for federal services. In 2014, the Tribe was granted a 64-acre reservation by the federal government. They have continued to acquire land in this area, are leading contributors to the area’s natural resource preservation and social outreach programs, and are active contributors to building Arlington’s future. They are teaching their children the cultural traditions of their ancestors, such as harvesting cedar and grasses for weaving, fishing, hunting, and gathering. And through their dancing, drumming, and singing. They believe that everything has a spirit and that they are caretakers of these lands and waters. We thank our Native American brothers and sisters for sharing their land and resources with us. We will strive to work with them to preserve their lands and to ensure all living things therein will thrive. We pray that God and His Holy Spirit support us in this joint endeavor

VICE PRESIDENT'S CORNER—REFLECTION OF THE 2023 FALL QUARTER:

NATIONAL:

- Attended the conference Fall Executive meeting at Olympia UMC.
- Attended Governance Committee monthly meetings to update our national standing rules.
- Co-hosted bimonthly JW Cohort meetings.
- Participated in National educational opportunities, such as Faith Talks, Author Talks, Climate Justice, First Tribal Screening, etc.
- Monthly Zoom meetings with Marchelle Phelps, NE Jurisdiction President
- Registered for JW event and Legacy dinner in Alaska.
- Registered for officer training debrief.
- Registered for VP training.
- Duties as assigned.

CONFERENCE:

- Attended the Fall Executive meeting at Olympia UMC.
- I attended our Annual Meeting in Olympia and was provided home hospitality by Terry and Sue Raymond. 'Ainise 'Isama'u, National President and keynote, and her daughter Poli were also hosted by the Raymonds. Thanks

- Installed as 2024 conference Vice President after my duties as National Director are officially over at the end of June.
- Attended weekly Zoom conference reading group meetings. Currently reading *I'm Black. I'm Christian. I'm Methodist.*

DISTRICT:

- I attended Juli Reinholz's memorial, representing both Seven Rivers church and United Women in Faith.
- No district meetings or events were scheduled.

LOCAL:

- Copresident for unit
- Attended both monthly business and program meetings.
- Presented the program in November and hosted the unit in December.
- Participated in the unit reading program. The current read is *The Seeker and the Monk.*
- Coordinated the Christmas Bazaar fundraiser.
- Working on an Outreach Sunday each month where the missions of the church and of our unit are emphasized, including our foodbank, our Cold Weather Shelter, and the clothing center. A hands-on project is done during coffee hour on that Sunday. February is "Birthday Bags" for FISH.

- Continuing to emphasize our Western Jurisdiction event and our unit money available to help with expenses for anyone interested in attending.

Always feel free to contact me with any questions, concerns, or ideas. I look forward to seeing you at the Western Jurisdiction Event in May. So many new possibilities as we elect directors to represent Western Jurisdiction. 253-732-2244

Respectfully submitted,

Stell Wallace

National Board of Directors

PNW Conference

Seven Rivers District

Ellensburg UMC

SERVE AS A VOLUNTEER EVALUATOR WITH THE READING PROGRAM

Blessings!
I am writing to share an exciting volunteer opportunity with United Women in Faith's **Reading Program**.



Did you ever wonder what goes into shaping the [United Women in Faith Reading Program](#) each year? At the heart of the Reading Program is the work of numerous volunteer evaluators who read and review a list of assigned books, offering careful and candid feedback regarding the books' overall quality and alignment with our mission. In 2024, we will be evaluating potential books for the 2026 Reading Program, again relying on the extraordinary work of a great team of volunteer evaluators.

Are you interested in serving as a volunteer evaluator for the Reading Program this year? If so, please take 10 minutes to [complete the 2024 interest form here](#).

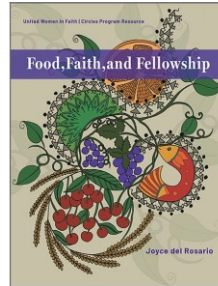
We will consider interest forms on a rolling basis throughout the year, but completion by **February 1st** is preferred, as it allows us to plan appropriately for the spring cycle book assignments.

Peace,

*Emily Jones
Executive for Racial Justice
United Women in Faith*

LOOKING FOR PROGRAM RESOURCES?

Our print materials for the Daily Prayer Guide, Program Resource and Mission studies for 2024 are available for purchase. **You can find the 2024 resources through this [search link](#) on the web store.** Click and order today.



The **Daily Prayer Guide 2024** theme, "Let Us Break Bread Together," calls to mind that we are created to be in community and

welcome all to God's table. Daily prayers and devotionals are reminders of the steadfast love of God and invite us to the table, encouraging a deeper connection with God and one another in community. ([M3376](#) \$19.99) A digital-only version of the Daily Prayer Guide on our [digital platform](#).

The **2024 United Women in Faith Program Resource** invites all to join God's banquet table at monthly gatherings. Explore through Scripture and hands-on activities what it means to be a community – not just within our circle, but with all of creation – embarking together on a journey about food, spiritual practices, and God who welcomes us.

NEW! Get your **free** Program Resource [promotional poster](#) and share the excitement and information about your upcoming program! Experience this resource and be part of the community with monthly gatherings on our online platform via [Mighty Networks](#). [M3379](#) \$14.99

GET LOVE RIBBON CARDS AND SUPPORT MISSION GIVING

BRING JOY IN THE MORNING, AFTERNOON, AND EVENING. ALL YEAR ROUND!

We are the only Conference to have a Love Ribbons ministry, a lovely way to celebrate our friends and family while supporting the United Women in Faith mission.

The conference executive team voted at their winter meeting to increase the cards cost of each card to \$2.00 as a way to increase mission giving). Love Ribbon income is part of Mission Today and included in *The Pledge To Mission*. Units must go to their District Treasurer for supplies and purchases, and credit goes to your unit.

ENCOURAGE PURCHASES!

There is a wide variety for all occasions. I'm here to help in any way I can! **With God, Anything Is Possible!**

*Fran Houser
timandfran1952@gmail.com
Phone 509-882-4239*

You can contact us about Love Ribbons through our website. <https://www.pnwumc.org/uwfaith/resources/love-ribbon-cards/>





COMMUNITY PANTRY NEEDS YOUR HELP!

With the current economic situation and the very high prices, those in our community who are low-income wage earners struggle to just pay the rent and put food on the table for their families. There is no money left over to buy household necessities like toilet paper, cleaning products, personal grooming supplies, and diapers. These consumable items are becoming very expensive and run out quickly.

To help these struggling families, we are starting a new community-wide pantry program sponsored by the Hispanic Ministry of the Mount Vernon First United Methodist Church to serve our community. This pantry will be housed in the church and administered by Pastor Zulma Tifre, with an opening date in early July.

The goal is to provide some of the non-food items needed in the day-to-day running of the household.

This month, we will be collecting these items: diapers, laundry supplies, kitchen supplies, cleaning supplies, personal hygiene items, and paper goods.

Don't miss this opportunity to be a blessing to others. For more information, contact Pastor Zulma Tifre at pastorzulma@mvfumc.org.



UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH NATIONAL UPDATE

OUR VISION

Turning faith, hope, and love into action on behalf of women, children, and youth around the world.

OUR MISSION

United Women in Faith seeks to connect and nurture women through Christian spiritual formation, leadership development, creative fellowship, and education so that they can inspire, influence, and impact local and global communities.

OUR LOCAL PURPOSE

To be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ, to develop a creative, supportive fellowship, and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

WE BELIEVE LOVE IN ACTION CAN CHANGE THE WORLD.

- We have opportunities for membership both within our local churches and individual membership “all access” as a way to help women connect with other women around areas of justice, soul care, and spiritual growth.
- Through our partnership with Faith Action Network, Legislative Advocacy events, our ongoing work addressing our Charter for Racial Justice, and our focus on justice issues such as breaking the school-to-prison pipeline, maternal health, food insecurity, climate care and more, we continue to be challenged to ask

the “hard questions” and take action individually, locally and globally.

- We support our ministry with women and children through pledged “Mission Giving” throughout the year. Additionally, we promote “Legacy Giving” as an endowment that will assure that leadership development within this organization, which has been vital to the entire church for over 154 years, will continue to make a difference in the future.
- Leadership Development and Education for the Transformation of our world at the local, district, conference, and national level is ongoing through an ever-increasing array of opportunities such as Annual Gatherings, Spiritual Growth Retreats, participation in the Reading Program, Faith Talk Webinars, Response Magazine, Daily Prayer Guide, Mighty Networks, Assembly and Jurisdiction Gatherings every four years.
- Our role in supporting our annual “Mission u” in a cooperative manner with our Conference Board of Global Ministries provides a transformative educational opportunity for all adults, children, and youth.
- We have members actively participating on the boards of both of our National Mission Institutions within our own

conference...Atlantic Street Center and Tacoma Community House. In this way, we are kept up to date on the services and needs of these organizations “close to home.”

We encourage you to explore United Women in Faith and the many opportunities for making a difference through the following sites:

QUICK LINKS

[Communications training courses from United Methodist Communications.](#)

[United Women in Faith E-Store.](#)

[United Women in Faith Digital.](#)

[Registration for jurisdiction events.](#)

[General Conference newsletter.](#)

[General Conference blog.](#)

[Disaffiliation FAQs.](#)

[Podcasts and webinars.](#)

[response magazine.](#)

NEW NATIONAL ADDRESS

Due to recent issues with receiving mail at 475 Riverside Drive and potential postal fraud, United Women in Faith is using our alternate office address at the Church Center for the United Nations for regular mail. That address is:

United Women in Faith Church
Center for the United Nations
777 United Nations Plaza,
11th Floor New York, NY 10017

NATIONAL NEWS CONT.

COMMUNICATION RESOURCES

Wondering what your job description is? Need the brand book, a PowerPoint template, or an example communications plan? Want some help with newsletter design, copyright, or promoting events? At [this link](#) is a collection of resources that can help. Enjoy!

I've also put together online training courses for conference communications coordinators. The courses are open to everyone receiving this e-mail. Now is the time to check them out if you haven't already, or you can revisit them any time you need a refresher.

To take the courses, log into our online learning platform, Bridge, at unitedmethodistwomen.bridgeapp.com. If you've used Bridge before, the courses **United Women in Faith Conference Communications Coordinators and Conference Communicators: Using the New Visual Brand** should appear under your "My Learning" tab. If you're new to Bridge, you will have received an e-mail from Bridge letting you know you're registered (back in January). Let me know if you need access.

If you'd like to share these courses with your district-level counterparts or others on your team, let me know, and I'll get them added to the list!

If you need help troubleshooting Bridge, contact Bridge tech support at support@bridgeapp.com or 855-637-1950, or you can e-mail distancelearning@uwfaith.org.

GENERAL CONFERENCE NEWS

The next United Methodist **General Conference is set to take place from April 23 to May 3, 2024**, in Charlotte, North Carolina. Yes, that's just five months away.

A lot is at stake at this gathering. I'm not exaggerating when I say **the church needs you**. A great way to stay informed and help others stay informed is by signing up for the United Women in Faith's [General Conference newsletter](#). We also have a [General Conference blog](#) that will be regularly updated with news, perspectives, and profiles of members of United Women in Faith serving as delegates. Currently, the blog is exclusive content for those who've signed up for our member portal, so be sure to [create your free account](#).

Read the first issue of the General Conference newsletter [here](#).

Make sure you're a part of these conversations shaping the future of the church. If you have any questions or General Conference news to share, please e-mail me at tbarnes@uwfaith.org. Help me stay plugged in as well!

DISAFFILIATION FAQs

As of today, [just under 7,000 churches have disaffiliated](#) from The United Methodist Church, with [more expected to follow](#) before the cutoff date of Dec. 31, 2023. This often-heartbreaking season will hopefully be coming to an end, but United Women in Faith members will still have questions and will be looking to you for answers.

You can share and access a regularly updated, **frequently asked questions resource** on United Women in Faith and Disaffiliation at tinyurl.com/UWFaithFAQs.

Please do reach out to me at any time if you have questions or need clarity. You can also contact membership@uwfaith.org.

Despite—or maybe even because of—this contentious season, **now is the perfect time to invite women to United Women in Faith**. This time of discernment has given us a body of people who have searched their hearts and souls and come out the other side with a new understanding of and commitment to being United Methodist and United Women in Faith. There's a new energy and pride and rootedness.

Don't miss this chance to let the women who need us know our doors are open.

BEREAVEMENT NOTICE

We are grieving the death of Henry Webb Manatu-ki-Surva 'Isama'u, husband of our National President 'Ainise 'Isama'u and father of Polyana, following a brief illness.

Please join me in praying for 'Ainise, Polyana, and their entire family. May we show our love and support for them as we grieve along with them following this tremendous and unexpected loss. Gift in Memory cards can be mailed to: 'Ainise 'Isama'u, 3568 W. Christine Circle, Unit #1, Anaheim, CA 92804

May God's comfort bring them peace and support in the days ahead.

2024 PACIFIC NORTHWEST CONFERENCE UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH CONFERENCE CALENDAR

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
January 13	1 – 4 pm	Winter Conference United Women in Faith Executive Meeting	Zoom
January 23	7 pm, ET	Conference Officer Briefing	Zoom
February 9	9 am – 3 pm	Washington Interfaith Advocacy Day	Olympia, WA
TBA		Spring Conference United Women in Faith Executive Meeting	TBA
April 19-21		District/Conference Leadership Training Event	Lazy F Camp & Retreat Center , Ellensburg, WA
April 23		General Conference	Charlotte, North Carolina
May 9-11		Western Jurisdiction Quadrennial Meeting	Anchorage, Alaska
June 13-16		Pacific Northwest UMC Conference Annual Session	TBA
July 25-26		Summer Conference United Women in Faith Executive Meeting	Wesley UMC , Yakama, WA
July 26-27		Mission u	Wesley UMC , Yakima, WA
September		Crest to Coast Missional District Annual Meeting	TBA
September 14 or 21		Inland Missional District Annual Meeting	TBA
September 7		Puget Sound Missional District	Marysville UMC , Marysville WA
September		SeaTac Missional District Annual Meeting	TBA
September 21		Seven Rivers Missional District Annual Meeting	Wenatchee First , Wenatchee WA
October 18		Fall Conference United Women in Faith Executive Meeting	Spokane Valley UMC , Spokane, WA
October 18-19		Conference United Women in Faith Annual Meeting	Spokane Valley UMC , Spokane, WA

CHECK THE [CALENDAR ON OUR WEBSITE](#) FOR THE LATEST UPDATES.

JOIN US ON FACEBOOK



Our FACEBOOK PAGE helps us promote upcoming District, Conference, Western

Jurisdiction and National Events. It is also a great place to share and learn about Social Issues and Action Alerts.

Help us utilize this tool in our mission work by sharing local events or social issues that you are aware of. Find this information and more at our website: pnwumc.org/uwfaith.

OTHER UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH RESOURCE ONLINE

uwfaith.org

Facebook.com/uwomenfaith

Facebook.com/pnwuwfaith

Flickr.com/photos/UMWomen

Instagram.com/uwfaith

Pinterest.com/UMWomen/ created/

[Podcasts and webinars](#)

[response magazine.](#)

Twitter.com/uwomenfaith

Youtube.com/user/uwfaith

[United Women in Faith Newsetter.](#)

[United Women in Faith Digital](#)

[United Women in Faith E-Store](#)

Cover Photo by eberhard grossgasteiger: <https://www.pexels.com/photo/mountain-covered-snow-under-star-572897/>

TP Photo by Vlada Karpovich: <https://www.pexels.com/photo/stack-of-toilet-paper-rolls-3958198/>

PACIFIC NORTHWEST CONFERENCE UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH OFFICERS FOR 2024

President—Deb Avery

Vice President—Stell Wallace

Secretary—Jenny Bygland

Treasurer—Linda Key

Program Resources—OPEN

Communications—Jenny Bygland

Education & Interpretation—Chidi Okoros

Membership Nurture & Outreach—Gail Simpson

Social Action—Sara Krum

Spiritual Growth—Sophia Agtarap

Committee on Nominations Chair—Marsha Aufenkamp

Committee on Nominations Member—Melissa Bortnick

Committee on Nominations Member—Janice Catrell

Committee on Nominations Member—Carol Gruen

Missional District Presidents:

Crest to Coast—Bev Thomas

Inland—Judy Dirks

Puget Sound—Jeannine Lish

SeaTac—Diana Wilson

Seven Rivers— Barb Stout

SIGN UP FOR YOUR NEWSLETTER

THE SHARING LINE is the newsletter of the Pacific Northwest Conference United Women in Faith published four times a year. Complimentary copies are sent to the following: Pacific Northwest Conference leaders, local unit presidents, District officers, Conference officers, pastors and District Superintendents.

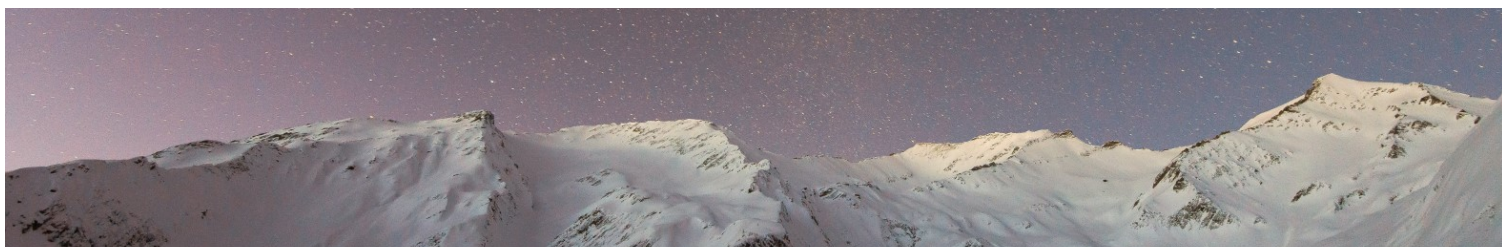
This newsletter is available online at pnwumc.org/uwfaith. To receive email notification when new issues are published, or you wish to receive an email copy, send your email address to: Jenny Bygland at jbygland@kentmethodist.com

SHARING LINE DEADLINE

Anything for the **Winter Sharing Line** should be emailed to Jenny Bygland (jbygland@kentmethodist.com) by **Monday, April 15**. Late articles will be included as space permits.

THE SHARING LINE

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH
PACIFIC NORTHWEST CONFERENCE
PO BOX 13650
DES MOINES WA 98198



THIS ISSUE

DAY OF GIVING

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MISSION U

PAGE 9

JURISDICTION

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