



**A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE READING PROGRAM\***

Have you ever thought about when the Reading Program began? You might be surprised to know that it began more than 130 years ago! The earliest reference to a reading plan is found in April 1870, in the *Heathen Women's Friend*, the magazine of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church. An editorial urges that missionary reading circles be formed in every society. Each month, a member was to read materials on mission and report the highlights to the circle.



The program was carried forward by each of our foremother organizations from the Methodist and Evangelical United Brethren Churches because those women saw that reading was a critical part of mission education.

The Reading Program went ecumenical in 1900. The United Mission Study for Women's Societies appointed a committee to select 10 interdenominational mission study books. The United Brethren women adopted this Reading Course in May, 1900.

Seven years later, a Missionary Reading Department was authorized by the Women's Missionary Society of the Evangelical Association. In eight years there were 134 "missionary libraries." Inclusion of a Reading Circle was a requirement among the Standards of Excellence for Evangelical women's missionary groups. If that pattern had continued, we would probably have thousands of Reading Program libraries across the country today. Indeed, many conferences include the Reading Program as part of the requirements for Mission Today Units.



When the Evangelical Association and United Brethren merged to form the Evangelical United Brethren Church in 1946, the Women's Society of World Service had a reading plan requiring about 30 books in three categories: Spiritual Life, Christian Social Relations, and Missionary Education.

However, we almost lost the Reading Program when the Women's Society of Christian Service was formed in 1939. At that time, the Woman's Division decided to concentrate on an in-depth mission study program instead of a reading program.



Fortunately, when the Evangelical United Brethren and Methodist Churches united in 1968, both the Reading Program and the emphasis on mission studies became part of the women's organizations. Thus, in 1972, when we became United Methodist Women, (just over 100 years from the first mention of reading for mission), both the Reading Program and mission studies were carried forward as essential parts of mission education.

Today, the Reading Program offers 70 to 75 books per year in four categories (Education for Mission, Nurturing for Community, Social Action and Spiritual Growth) plus large print, Spanish, and children and youth books. Annually, over 40,000 United Methodist Women report that they have completed one of the four Reading Program plans. Hopefully, our foremothers are gratified that we have remained faithful in our reading and study to expand our concepts of mission and to become whole persons in Christ.

**\*"Pages from the Past," Marion Baker, Response, December, 1979**

**UPDATE:** Here we are 45 years later, after this original article was published, and our Reading Program is still going strong. Somewhere after 1979, we added the category of Leadership Development to our Reading Program bringing us to 5 categories. We still have the 4 plans beginning with Level 1 of 5 books up to Level 4 with 20 books read.

Please go to [www.uwfaith.org/resources](http://www.uwfaith.org/resources) to learn more about the Reading Program.

**In 2022, United Methodist Women changed and are now United Women in Faith.**



#### Reading Program

The Reading Program of United Women in Faith brings members together to read, share and discuss books in a variety of genres for all ages.

 United Women in Faith

Comments? Questions? Suggestions? Want your story to be featured?  
Email Edel Gonzaga, at [panadodel@yahoo.com](mailto:panadodel@yahoo.com)



## Moses Lake UWF Helps Sustain Knit For Kids' Local Chapter

Since starting the Knit for Kids ministry at the Moses Lake United Methodist Church in 2007, over 2000 knitted and/or crocheted sweaters and 500 hats have been shipped to World Vision Knit for Kids for distribution to places like Romania, Turkey, Kenya, Haiti, Thailand, and as close to home as West Virginia, New Orleans, and the Bronx. The program asks that all sweaters be handmade so that the kids can know someone cared enough to make something for them.

For most of these needy children receiving sweaters, this is the only warm item of clothing they receive new. Even in the tropics, nights can be cold for undernourished kids. This ministry has brought the community together. By word of mouth, many volunteers have made sweaters or donated yarn. If they don't attend the monthly get-together, they drop them off at the church or send them with someone connected with this program or church. Thanks to the generosity of the United Women in Faith (UWF, formerly UMW), the Knits for Kids ministry is self-sustained, as UWF covers the cost of shipping.

Volunteers don't have out-of-pocket expense, as Knit For Kids has been blessed with donations of yarn, knitting needles, and crochet hooks, which are stored in the church basement. Patterns are also kept there. You don't necessarily have to make sweaters to participate in this fulfilling fellowship. Some have attended just to get out of the house and visit. Patterns can be downloaded at [www.knitforkids.org](http://www.knitforkids.org).

Members of Moses Lake United Methodist Church meet in the Clothing Closet (Adult) room every second Saturday of each month from 2pm-4pm at which time sweaters can be turned over to Marian Spencer. There is also a sweater collection box on the table in the Fellowship Hall. Would you like to open a Knits For Kids chapter in your local church? Call Marian Spencer at (509) 766-7276. She will be happy to help. And remember, "God knitted us in our mother's womb" (Psalm 13:16) making Him the first official member of the knitting club!



## CONFERENCE CALENDAR

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
January 13	1 – 4 p.m.	Winter Conference United Women in Faith Executive Meeting	Zoom
January 23	7 p.m., ET	Conference Officer Briefing	Zoom
February 9	9 a.m. – 3 p.m.	<a href="#">Washington Interfaith Advocacy Day</a>	Olympia, WA
April 7		Spring Conference United Women in Faith Executive Meeting	Zoom
April 19-21		District/Conference Leadership Training Event	<a href="#">Lazy F Camp &amp; Retreat Center</a> , Ellensburg, WA
April 23		<a href="#">General Conference</a>	Charlotte, North Carolina
May 9-11		<a href="#">Western Jurisdiction Quadrennial Meeting</a>	Anchorage, Alaska
June 13-16		<a href="#">Pacific Northwest UMC Conference Annual Session</a>	<a href="#">Central United Protestant Church</a> , Richland, WA
July 25	9 a.m. to 3 p.m.	Summer Conference Executive and District Treasurers Meeting	<a href="#">Wesley UMC</a> , Yakama, WA
July 25-27		Mission u	<a href="#">Wesley UMC</a> , Yakima, WA
September 7		Puget Sound Missional District	<a href="#">Marysville UMC</a> , Marysville WA
September 20		Crest to Coast Missional District Annual Meeting	<a href="#">Tacoma Community House</a> , Tacoma, WA
September 20-21		Seven Rivers Missional District Annual Meeting	<a href="#">Wenatchee First</a> , Wenatchee, WA
September 21		Inland Missional District Annual Meeting	TBA
September 28		SeaTac Missional District Annual Meeting	<a href="#">Fairwood Community UN</a> , Renton, WA
October 18		Fall Conference United Women in Faith Executive Meeting	<a href="#">Spokane Valley UMC</a> , Spokane, WA
October 18-19		Conference United Women in Faith Annual Meeting	<a href="#">Spokane Valley UMC</a> ,

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



## A MESSAGE FROM THE SOCIAL ACTION CHAIRMAN

ATTENTION: Racial Justice Reports were due 8/15/24 to me. I have reports from Bridges, Omak and Wesley. Does your unit want to become a Chartered Racial Justice unit? Just let me know and I will help you fill out the paperwork and requirements. There is lots of information. With podcasts and webinars on the UWF site and very informative. You can subscribe to this website and get meeting programs. They have a calendar of events to assist you in subjects!

Response magazine is another good source of information for your Social Action team. "Voices from the Fields" and "Faith Talks" are other good sources for programs for Social Action during your meetings. All of these can be found on the UWF website.

The Jurisdiction Conference in Anchorage had great speakers, Jackie Schaeffer, an Inupiaq from Kotzeue, AK spoke on ClimateJustice and how it was affecting her village/home.



Another great speaker was Maxine Richert (Tlingit/ Athabaskan) spoke on Racial Justice of Restorative Justice: Redeeming Harms of the Past to the Native Churches. This included approving a Resolution Acknowledgment, Apology, and Reparations,

Please consider sending someone from your unit to Assembly and getting information for your Social Action Programs! If you have any questions regarding Social Justice Issues, please do not hesitate to call or email me!

See you next quarter!

**Nadine Griffin, Seven Rivers  
Social Action Chairman  
nadinegriffin@yahoo.com  
509 859-4125**



## HOW TO BECOME A CHARTER FOR RACIAL JUSTICE CLUB



For a local unit to become a Charter for Racial Justice Club member, the unit must carry out one

activity from each section during a calendar year. After that, the unit must complete one activity annually. If membership lapses, the unit must begin again with three activities.

Local units will work with a report to their District Mission coordinator for Social Action.

The Racial Justice Committee will meet to consider the revisions of criteria annually.

Units will be recognized for becoming a Charter for Racial Justice Club.

Questions? Contact your District Mission Coordinator for Social Action.

### Purpose

The organized unit of **United Women in Faith** shall 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.

The United Women in Faith adopted the Charter for Racial Justice (CRJ) in 1978. The CRJ was adopted by the whole United Methodist Church in 1980.



United  
Women  
in Faith



**Since Robin Inlow has agreed to be nominated for the President's position at the Seven Rivers Missional District Annual Meeting, there is a vacancy at Vice President. We are hoping someone with a desire to be the VP for 2025 will contact any district officer soon. If we cannot find someone, the entire executive committee will be assuming the VP duties. (our conference has done same in the past).**

**It is with a heavy heart that we will lose Lori Chadek as Program Resources. She has done a great job for many years. Stepping forward to be nominated at Program Resources for 2025 is Barb Stout. Thank you from the Nominating Committee. We need more members here also.**

**RUTH HENDRIX**





## Photos From The Western Jurisdictions Quadrennial Meeting-Anchorage, Alaska



**CONGRATULATIONS**  
Seven Rivers was the highest donors in the Legacy Fund for the Pacific Northwest Conference!



**Crystal Vase presented to PNW Legacy Liaison for our outstanding contributions,**



**"Moose On the Loose" passed to each table for Legacy**



**Seven Rivers District Attendees**



**Legacy booth with Marilyn Reid PAG**



**PNW Attendees**



**National Director of Legacy Kenya Roberts with Marsha Aufenkamp**

Pacific Northwest Conference  
**United Women in Faith**

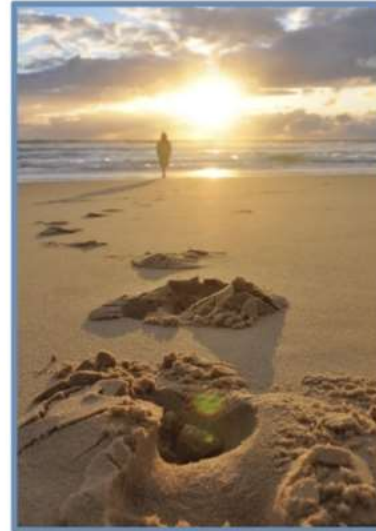
# ANNUAL GATHERING

*Stepping Out in Faith:  
Expanding Our Vision...Trust the Nudge*

Scripture: Matthew 14:22-33

**Spokane Valley UMC**

115 N Raymond Rd, Spokane Valley, WA 99206



**Keynote Speaker:**  
**Sue Magrath**  
Spiritual Counselor  
and Acclaimed Author

## **SCHEDULE FOR OCTOBER 18 — 19, 2024**

**Start time: 5:30 PM**  
with dinner on Friday  
**End time: 1:00 PM on Saturday;**  
***Sack Lunch available for an  
additional \$10 at time of  
registration.***

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**REGISTRATION FEE — \$30**

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### **HOTEL INFORMATION**

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Participant is responsible for making their  
registrations!

*All the hotels listed include breakfast.*

#### [Comfort Inn & Suites Spokane Valley](#)

Please use the group name United Women in Faith.

We have reserved a block of rooms here.

The cost is approximately \$155 for double occupancy on  
Thursday and Friday. There are options for king-size or  
double-queen bed rooms.



United  
Women  
in Faith



**Annual Gathering Registration Form**  
**Pacific Northwest United Women in Faith**  
**October 18 - 19, 2024**

Spokane Valley United Methodist Church – 115 N Raymond Rd, Spokane Valley, WA 99206

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**REGISTRATION DEADLINE—SEPTEMBER 30, 2024**

Name for your Name Badge \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Church \_\_\_\_\_ District \_\_\_\_\_ Conference \_\_\_\_\_

Are you an officer? Yes  No  If yes, position \_\_\_\_\_

Home hospitality needed Yes  No

**Dietary:** We will work hard to accommodate most diets by providing various options. Gluten-free and diabetic choices will be available.

**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: \_\_\_\_\_

**Childcare will be available.** Please note the ages and number of your children:

Infants \_\_\_\_\_ 2 to 3 years \_\_\_\_\_ 4 to 5 years \_\_\_\_\_

6 to 8 years \_\_\_\_\_ 9 to 11 years \_\_\_\_\_

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

*(Please bring a name badge holder if you have one.)*

Can we use your photo in promotional materials? Yes  No

Are you interested in purchasing a sack lunch for Saturday, October 19? Yes  No

*(Veggie or turkey/cheese sandwich, chips, fruit, dessert, and water bottle.)*

If interested, you must pre-order and add \$10 to your registration form.

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**REGISTRATION FEE—\$30:**

Make checks payable to PNW Conference United Women in Faith  
**MAIL YOUR COMPLETED REGISTRATION FORM AND A CHECK TO**  
**Sharon Stovall, Registrar**

311 E Marshall, Spokane, WA 99207-5438

*For questions, call Sharon at 509-534-2083 (Home) or 509-939-8677 (Cell)*

*or email: shrstovall@peoplepc.com*

**Come join us!  
Register now!**



United  
Women  
in Faith

**SEVEN RIVERS UWF Annual Meeting**  
***Share Faith, Food, and Fellowship***

**September 21, 2024—Wenatchee 1<sup>st</sup> UMC, 9:00 am-3:00 pm**

**Registration Deadline: August 29, 2024**  
**Send Registration form and \$20 registration fee to:**  
**Suzanne Taylor, PO Box 157, Chelan WA 98816**

*Accommodations: A block of hotel rooms for Friday night is being reserved but information is still being finalized. If you are in need of a hotel room please contact Robin at [inlow.robin@gmail.com](mailto:inlow.robin@gmail.com) / 509-840-1056 as soon as possible.*

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ E-mail _____

District: _____ Unit: _____
UWF Officer Y__ N__
Please list current office held:
Local: _____ District: _____

<input type="checkbox"/> I need a special diet – specify: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> I need childcare – age of child(ren): _____
May we include you in published photos? Y__ N__

***Please bring a non-perishable food item and a hygiene product for local missions. If you have quilts to donate, please bring them! We will display them during the Annual Meeting and then provide them to one of our local church ministries.***

**We look forward to seeing you!**

Questions? Please contact Robin Inlow: 509-840-1056 or [inlow.robin@gmail.com](mailto:inlow.robin@gmail.com)

*For Treasurer Use Only*

Registration fee: \$20 Paid: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/2024