

THE SHARING LINE

A PUBLICATION OF UNITED WOMEN OF FAITH — PACIFIC NORTHWEST CONFERENCE

And what does the Lord require of you?

To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

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GATHERING
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DEB'S DISPATCH

IF NOT NOW, WHEN? That will be our theme for the Pacific Northwest Conference United Women in Faith gathering at Bothell UMC, October 17 and 18. Together, we will reflect on how we are being called and led by the Holy Spirit to be bold in our action for justice and mercy for all of God's creation. Our scripture focus for our gathering will be Micah 6:8, which is a favorite of mine as well as many other faithful followers.

Recently, I experienced the transitioning of my Mom, and as I am in the process of great loss, I am also reminded of the strength that comes with an unwavering Faith in our Creator. The support (physical, emotional, and spiritual) that has sustained me through my Sisters in Faith is a powerful reminder of why our mission and ministry with women, children, and youth remain as relevant today as they were over 156 years ago.

In this issue of Our Sharing Line, we will be focusing on aspects of Social Justice in our faith journey through United Women in Faith. We hope that, as you share this publication with others, it may lead to engaging discussions about how each of us views our faith journey through a Social Justice Lens. Please take time to reflect on the following questions either individually/ or within your small group settings.

May you find an awareness within as you consider the following, and may you be continually blessed in your Faith Journey.

- What has the Lord required of each of you?
- How have you experienced humbleness?
- How have you shared and/or experienced kindness and compassion?

(Continued on page 2)

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)

- What examples of Justice Seeking work have you been involved in?
- How has following the words in Micah 6:8 impacted you along your faith journey individually and also in community?
- Where are you being called moving forward, and how are you going to respond?

Blessed to be serving as your conference president,

Deb Avery,
davery51@q.com,
 360-281-0766

FROM THE CHAIR OF NOMINATIONS

Additional Nomination positions still need to be filled. Please contact me if you or someone you know can serve on the team.

Consider whether you would like to find your place on the United Women in Faith Conference Team.

You can find [job descriptions](#) and an [application form PDF](#) with fillable fields on the Pacific Northwest Conference website.

Blessings and Peace,

Marsha Aufenkamp
Chair of Committee on Nominations
United Women in Faith
Pacific Northwest

INTRODUCING JOAN HACKETT

INTERIM MISSION COORDINATOR FOR EDUCATION & INTERPRETATION



I was born in Robin Hood, Yorkshire, England, so I speak English. Since the Big Bang in 1980, I have lived in Vancouver, Washington. Exactly

forty years ago, I accepted the office of Christian Social Involvement with the Vancouver District United Methodist Women, and four years later that of Financial Interpreter, which is half of the current Education and Interpretation office. Later, I served as District President, Conference Membership, Nurture and Outreach Mission Coordinator, and Vice President, with some time on Nominations at both levels. For twenty-seven years, I held either a District or Conference officer position. Throughout, I have had a special emphasis on recruiting young women. I enlisted a group of thirteen to take to Chicago in December 2000

for 'Young Woman Rise Up,' and another group to Duke University in 2012 for 'Limitless.'

In addition to UMW offices, I was Mission u Dean 2017 & 18 and Conference Secretary of Global Ministries from 2008 to 2016, where I focused on 'Where the Money Comes from and Where it Goes and How,' developing and measuring the '5 Columns of Mission' criteria in every church in the Conference.

Currently, as the Membership, Nurture, and Outreach Coordinator for the Crest to Coast District, I have coordinated Soul Care networking/retreats/gatherings from end to end of the Crest to Coast District, from the mountains (Stevenson) to the coast (Bay Center), inclusive of both unit and non-unit churches.

Joan Hackett



GET READY TO JOIN THE REVOLUTION

October 17-18 at Bothell UMC
United Women in Faith Annual Gathering

COME TO FIND OUT HOW TO JOIN THE UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH REVOLUTION.

Pacific Northwest Conference
United Women in Faith

ANNUAL GATHERING

IF NOT NOW, WHEN?



Keynote Speaker:
Jana Jones
United Women in Faith
National President

**DOWNLOAD THE
REGISTRATION FORM**



United
Women
in Faith

OCTOBER 17 AND 18, 2025

Scripture: Micah 6:8

BOTHELL UMC

18515 92ND AVE NE, BOTHELL, WA 98011

SCHEDULE

Start time: 5:30 PM
with dinner on Friday

End time: 1:00 PM on Saturday

REGISTRATION FEE — \$30

Please note that the registration deadline is
September 16, 2025

*Sack Lunch available for an additional
\$10 at the time of registration.*

HOTEL INFORMATION

Participants are responsible for making their
registrations!

The hotel includes breakfast.

[Country Inn & Suites by Radisson, Seattle-Bothell](#)

Please use the group name *United Women in Faith*.

We have reserved a block of rooms here.

The cost is approximately \$109 for double occupancy on
Thursday and Friday. King and Queen options are available.

Annual Gathering Registration Form

Pacific Northwest United Women in Faith

October 17 and 18, 2025

Bothell United Methodist Church — 18515 92nd Ave NE, Bothell, WA 98011

REGISTRATION DEADLINE—SEPTEMBER 16, 2025

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.)

Are you interested in purchasing a sack lunch for Saturday, October 18? Yes ☐ No ☐

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

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

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

DONATE CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS TO ATLANTIC STREET CENTER



Did you know Atlantic Street Center in Seattle was founded in 1910 by two Methodist Deaconesses, nurse Jesse Gasser and teacher Mary Jane Hepburn?

United Women in Faith has a long history of supporting Atlantic Street

Center. Atlantic Street Center is helping and encouraging children to grow into their full potential. To make that happen, children need adults to provide support and encouragement. Sometimes, that support can be as simple as a Christmas stocking, from someone who cares.

Here is how you can help. Donate new or homemade Christmas stockings bring them to our Annual Gathering.

If you would like to make a stocking and are looking for a pattern, you can find a free one at



<https://fabricatedcloset.com/tutorial-make-a-christmas-socking-with-free-sewing-pattern/>

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hello to all who are reading and sharing this information. I'm Stell Wallace, your conference Vice President. I'm from the Seven Rivers district, and my unit is based in Ellensburg, where I serve as co-president.

As Vice President, I oversee program planning, with a particular emphasis on the Annual Gathering for our conference. I also work with the district vice presidents as they do their work at that level. If the conference president requests help, I'm there, or if she is unable to attend a meeting, I'm there in her stead.

Supporting mission is what we are about in this organization. As stated in our purpose and mission statement... it is who we are. That

said, I am always looking for ways I can promote information and opportunities. When planning events, there is a designated area for exhibits showcasing those we support or with whom we work in conjunction. Our National Mission Institutions are represented, including Global Ministries, ADA (Disabilities) ministries, deaconesses & home missionaries, and prayer shawl ministries, among others.

As a conference officer and former national officer, I frequently speak at other events and always promote our Digital UWF and website, where you can find a wealth of information.

Blessings,

*Stell Wallace,
Conference Vice President,
253-732-2244*

JOIN UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH DIGITAL!

Join our community online at United Women in Faith Digital on your computer or phone through the Mighty app. You'll find a place to get new ideas, share questions, and find sisterhood. National offers regular Digital open houses to help you get started, so please go to UWFaith.org and create an account. Once there, you'll also get access to all sorts of resources, including a calendar with upcoming events.

If you need assistance, contact Jenny Bygland at 206-794-3379 or jbygland@kentmethodist.com.

FIND THE RESOURCES YOU NEED ON OUR WEBSITES

pnwumc.org/uwfaith

uwfaith.org



United
Women
in Faith

ASSEMBLY 2026

May 15-17, 2026

Indianapolis, Indiana

uwfaith.org/assembly

**Dream it!
Believe it!
Do it!**

Assembly is your chance to step away from the noise of daily life and dive into a weekend of learning, connecting, and recharging. Open your heart to renewal and inspiration!

As you get ready, reflect on these thoughtful prompts:

- What are you most excited to experience at Assembly?
- What lessons or experiences will you take back to your community?
- How can we help strengthen your journey of faith?

BE PART OF THE EXPERIENCE

This only happens once every four years. Don't miss your chance to grow in faith, find inspiration, and take action!

Let's come together to celebrate faith, empowerment, and sisterhood like never before. Will you join us?

Be ready to reserve your spot for Assembly 2026 and be part of something truly transformative!

ASSEMBLY 2026 PLANNING AND EVENT SCHEDULE

September 2, 2025: Registration opens!

November 30, 2025: Early Registration closes

April 13, 2026: Registration closes

PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE

Thursday, May 14, 2026

10 a.m. Ubuntu Day of Service
(optional, additional fee)

10 a.m. Soul Care Event (optional,
additional fee)

Friday & Saturday, May 15-16, 2026

8:45 a.m. Community Gathering

10:45 a.m.-3:45 p.m. Workshops,
Townhall Meetings, and
Experience Hall

4:30 p.m. Community Gathering

6:30 p.m. Networking Dinners
(Friday only, optional, additional
fee)

7:00 p.m. Legacy Banquet

(Saturday only, optional,
additional fee)

Sunday, May 17, 2026

9 a.m. Community Gathering
Assembly ends at noon

HOTEL INFORMATION

The following hotels have reserved room blocks for Assembly:

(Rates do not include state and local taxes, which are added to each room rate.)

- * Shuttle service will be provided between the hotel and the convention center.
- + Enclosed walkway available to the convention center.

FIND OUT MORE ON THE ASSEMBLY WEBSITE:

uwfaith.org/blog/2025/united-women-in-faith-assembly-2026/

MEMBERSHIP, NURTURE, AND OUTREACH

Having just finished facilitating the youth class at Mission U, I am filled with hope. This could have been a different statement altogether. Registration for the class indicated that two middle school girls would be attending. We were also informed that, since these youth were on another Conference mission trip, the girls would not arrive until about half of Mission U was over. Ok, things could be modified, and some parts of the curriculum would need to be omitted. Then on Thursday, shortly before the program was to start, we learned that an additional youth would be attending. She would also be bringing a friend. Both these girls are seniors in high school. As a teacher by profession, I have learned to punt or go with the flow when needed. So that's what I did.

Only one girl attended the first session. At the second session, the friend came. The first girl was from a family within the church. The friend, I was told prior to meeting her, was not religious and questioned if there was a God. During Mission U, these young women were exposed to stories about faith, hope, and nurturing. By the 5th session, all four girls were participating. Each had compassionate ideas about caring for those around them.

In our current world situation, it is essential to acknowledge the numerous concerns surrounding social justice. It is important to include all individuals in our groups, processes, and organization. Inclusion is not about those who are just like us. To implement more

inclusive measures, we will need to explore new and diverse approaches to inviting others into our group and the programs we offer. This reminds me of the scripture about doing things for a stranger is like doing them for Jesus.

Matthew 25:35-40 speaks to this:

³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in,

³⁶ I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' ³⁷ "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink?' ³⁸

When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you?' ³⁹ When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

⁴⁰ "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

As we experience changes in our churches, we see fewer active units. Examining those individuals who may need our care and interaction the most may lead us in the direction of varying the types of meetings we hold. New situations require new methods. From the young people I spent time with at Mission U and other women my children's age, I believe the answer will include more action-oriented opportunities. Your unit may not be as active as it once was. So, invite a neighboring unit to join in the action you choose. Invite

women from other churches to share your experiences. We are all united in our faith and a shared desire to help others. Change up when or how often you meet. Whatever opportunities you pursue, you are a part of United Women in Faith. Make it work for you. Then share your stories with others. What worked for your unit may inspire others to try something new. If it doesn't go as planned, you haven't failed. You had a learning experience.

As part of the SeaTac district, I have recently participated in a book study on social justice issues. A United Women in Faith activity could be a book study. Check out Sarah Jackson's book *The House That Love Built*. Our next choice is *Ida B. Queen: The Extraordinary Life and Legacy of Ida B. Wells*. I have not read this yet, but I am looking forward to doing so. If you read either book, share your feelings with others. It may lead to suggestions for social justice action.

As United Women in Faith, we are driven by God's love and united in sisterhood; we work to improve the lives of women, children, and youth. Every day, we show up. We act. We get it done. God bless you as you continue to share God's love with those in need.

Gail Simpson
Conference Membership, Nurture
and Outreach
253 229-0343
jsimpsfam@comcast.net

PLANNING FOR OUR CONFERENCE MEMORIAL SERVICE

DISTRICT MNO COORDINATORS

“There are some who bring a light so great to the world, that even after they are gone, their light remains.” During your district meetings in September, you will remember those women from your units who have passed away in the last year. Each has been a vital part of United

Women in Faith and given a part of themselves in ministry for others. At the conference annual meeting in October, we will also honor these women. Please send a list of members who have passed away so they can be remembered at our memorial service.

Gail Simpson
Conference Membership, Nurture, and Outreach
253 229 0343
jsimpsfam@comcast.net

PLEDGE TO MISSION UPDATE

Greetings, United Women in Faith Leaders!

I am writing to share an update on the Mission Giving received by the national office for the Pacific Northwest Conference of United Women in Faith.

Thank you for all of the mission work you do within your conference, and for your gifts to the wider mission of United Women in Faith.

Peace...

Tamara Clark, CPA
Treasurer/CFO
332.240.2824

Pledge 2025	\$70,000
Giving Through June 2025	\$45,549
Giving Through June 2024	\$2,081

GIVE TO
PLEDGE TO MISSION



MY COMMITMENT TO SOCIAL ACTION

When I moved from Delaware to Washington in 2000, I brought with me a commitment to Social Action. Delaware is a border state, and as such, it was part of court decisions in 1954 and again in 1980 that ordered desegregation. This was unpopular with many parents who put their children in private schools, and the General Assembly refused to fund the merger of city and suburban districts into one in New Castle County. My oldest daughter was starting kindergarten, and I represented her elementary school by traveling to Dover each week to

promote public education. Eventually, I represented the entire state for PTA and became a national officer. The PTA held an annual legislative conference, and I traveled to the District of Columbia each year to participate in lobbying efforts. This experience was valuable for me.

In Washington, my next-door neighbor introduced me to United Women in Faith, and I twice accepted responsibility for the conference’s Social Action position. I attended a leadership development program in D.C. led by Susie Johnson,

and she emphasized the importance of selecting a social action priority relevant to our state. I started attending Interfaith Advocacy Day in Olympia and following the information on the Faith Action Network website. FAN is a wonderful gift that not every state has.

Currently, our country is facing challenges that negatively impact Social Action. Contacting our senators and representatives is important to protect our nation.

—*Ja net’ W. Crouse*

RACIAL JUSTICE AWARDS

WHO SHOULD RECEIVE THE UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH PNW CONFERENCE RACIAL JUSTICE AWARD FOR 2025?

Each year, the United Women in Faith PNW Conference honors someone with the Racial Justice Award.

Whom will you nominate from your district? [Downloadable instructions.](#)

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH RACIAL JUSTICE AWARD NOMINATION

The Committee on the Charter for Racial Justice of the United Women in Faith PNW Conference seeks nominees for the annual Racial Justice Award to be presented at the October United Women in Faith PNW Conference Annual Gathering.

CRITERIA ARE AS FOLLOWS

- Exemplifies the implementation (We Will section) of the Charter for Racial Justice uwfaith.org/what-we-do/serve-and-advocate/racial-justice.
- They may be an individual United Women in Faith member, a local unit, a district, or an individual or group from outside United Women in Faith.
- The activity may be a one-time or ongoing event but must have occurred within the last year.

FORMAT FOR NOMINATION

- Name, address, phone number, and/or e-mail of Nominee(s).
- Name of Activity or Event.
- One or two paragraphs summarizing the individual or group activity and how it relates to the Charter for Racial Justice.
- Your name, address, phone number, and/or e-mail address.
- Deadline to be returned to Deb Avery or Ja net' Crouse by October 1, 2024
- Nomination may either be mailed or e-mailed.

SELECTION OF AWARD RECIPIENT

- The Racial Justice Committee will make selections before the annual gathering.
- This is an excellent opportunity to recognize persons who fulfill our Purpose and our Mission Today Charter for Racial Justice component in a significant way.

QUESTIONS MAY BE DIRECTED TO DEB AVERY OR JA NET' CROUSE.

- **Deb Avery**
2202 NE 124th Ave
Vancouver, WA 98684-5534
davery51@q.com
360-281-0766 (c)
- **Ja net' Crouse**
2124 Valley View Blvd
E Wenatchee, WA 98802-4078
crousejw@crouses.com
509-679-4087 (c)
509-884-8415 (h)

DOES YOUR LOCAL UNIT HAVE A CHARTER FOR RACIAL JUSTICE CLUB?

Racial Justice continues to be a challenge in our nation and state. African Americans, Native Americans, Hispanics, Asians. and other ethnic groups face discrimination. Racial Justice Clubs encourage local units to learn about racism and to take action.

Information on becoming a Charter for Racial Justice Club is available on the conference website, pnwumc.org/uwfaith/get-involved/social-action/racial-justice.

Information about the charter is on the national website: uwfaith.org.

Ja net' W. Crouse,
Social Action
crousejw@crouses.com
509-679-4087 (c)
509-884-8415 (h)

RACIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Conference President, Chair,
Deb Avery
Vice President
Stell Wallace
Language Coordinator
Marilyn Reid
Nominations Chair
Marsha Aufenkamp
Social Action
Ja net' Crouse
Member-at-Large
Lourdes Tifre, 425-766-9017
Ltifre@soseattle.com
Member-at-Large
Sara Culp, 509-679-7946
sara@firstumchurch.org

SMALL-SCALE GRANT OPPORTUNITY FOR DISTRICTS AND UNITS WORKING TO INTERRUPT THE SCHOOL-TO-PRISON PIPELINE



DEADLINE TO APPLY: SEPTEMBER 1, 2025

The Office of Racial Justice invites United Women in Faith Districts and Units to apply for funding to support their local work to interrupt the school-to-prison pipeline and/or end mass incarceration.

GOAL OF FUNDING SUPPORT

To advance United Women in Faith's efforts to interrupt the school-to-prison pipeline and end mass incarceration by providing small-scale seed funding to support district and local unit projects.

AVAILABLE FUNDING SUPPORT

Consideration will be given to funding requests of \$100 - \$1,500. Funding is limited. Please budget responsibly and request only the amount needed. Requests for funding support in excess of \$1,500 will not be considered.

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATING APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDING SUPPORT

Your project should have a **clear goal** connected to interrupting the school-to-prison pipeline and/or ending mass incarceration. Goals may be at any level, from changing the practice of an individual school to shifting federal juvenile justice policy. Project goals should demonstrate a healthy mix of ambition and realism. Your project should **include the voices of directly-impacted people** in the leadership and/or decision-making process. Depending on your specific context, this may include students at risk of pushout, currently- or formerly-incarcerated people, or others.

We believe we do our best and most sustainable work when we work together. With that in mind, United Women in Faith groups are welcome to apply for funding to support **collaborative work** in coalition/ partnership with other local

organizations, as long as the work involves substantial and active participation from the United Women in Faith Unit or District, as well.

Groups that receive funding will be asked to report on their results, including:

- What was done;
- Who was involved;
- How the community was impacted;
- How funds were spent;
- What next steps are planned, and
- What was learned.

TIMELINE

- **Application deadline – September 1, 2025**
- Groups notified of funding support decisions –By October 15, 2025
- Groups confirm plan to move forward (or not) –By November 1, 2025
- Selected group(s) receive funding –By December 15, 2025
- Implementation of project –Calendar Year 2026

REPORT ON RESULTS DUE BY FEBRUARY 1, 2027

[Click Here for Application Directions and Link](#)

uwfaith.org/what-we-do/serve-and-advocate/mass-incarceration/interrupt-the-school-to-prison-pipeline-resources/

RACIAL JUSTICE CLUB

OMAK-SEVEN RIVERS DISTRICT 15TH YEAR! HOW WE GOT HERE

2010	1st year	Studied the Charter for Racial Justice and shared articles from newspapers.
2011	2nd year	Discussed and shared the book, <i>Fellowship of Love: Methodist Women Changing American Racial Attitudes, 1920-1968</i> , by Alice Knotts, a UMW historian on discrimination of gender and race.
2012	3rd year	Studied and discussed Justice for Our Neighbors (JFON.ORG), now Immigration Law & Justice Network (iljnetwork.org). Lawyers helping immigrant families. Also, sentencingproject.org offers alternatives to mass incarceration.
2013	4th year	Discussed the United States' southern border wall and fences.
2014	5th year	Studied the <i>Book of RUTH</i> , including downloadable resources from UMW.
2015	6th year	We delivered a sermon to the congregation on immigration and civil rights.
2016	7th year	Studied the effects of the " Doctrine of Discovery ." Endorsed in 1493 by Pope Alexander, this doctrine contributed to the much suffering of the America's Indigenous peoples, including "The Trail of Tears," and more.
2017	8th year	Studied about Juneteenth and the Emancipation Proclamation of 1865 .
2018	9th year	Discussed " The New Jim Crow " book, by Michelle Alexander, about the treatment of blacks versus whites in the legal system.
2019	10th year	Discussed Leymah Gbowee , Nobel Peace Prize recipient, who is a Liberian peace activist responsible for leading a women's non-violent peace movement, Women of Liberia Mass Action for Peace , that helped bring an end to the Second Liberian Civil War in 2003.
2020	11th year	Discussed the "School to Prison Pipeline," directing non-white children and youth, even as young as 6-year-olds, toward detention facilities in our country.
2021	12th year	Studied the KKK's (Ku Klux Klan) history in Washington State. This organization is still active in Washington.
2022	13th year	Read about missing indigenous women and girls (sex trafficking) and native American children who died at boarding schools.
2023	14th year	Discussed the UMW book Racial Justice Timeline, Important Moments of Racial Justice History in the United States and United Methodist Women .
2024	15th year	Read <i>Back to the Book</i> by Alice Knotts, featuring 14 chapters on the lessons learned from the journey from 1920 to 1968, as well as changing attitudes and WARN (Washington Anti-Trafficking Response).

United Women in Faith now has a downloadable [Racial Justice Engagement Opportunities](#) list to build awareness.

Blessings,

Marsha Aufenkamp

Omak President,

District Membership, Nurture, and Outreach

Conference Nominations Chair

FIGHTING THE 'SCHOOL TO PRISON PIPELINE' IN BONNERS FERRY

Bonn timers Ferry is our farthest north unit in Idaho, Inland District. We are a very active and growing unit comprised of members and non-members but active women in the church—and women who attend NO church.

I want to highlight one of our programs this year that stimulated great discussion. Our guest speaker was the Middle and High School Resource Officer. I was delighted to learn that his main goal is to gain the trust of the youth in order for them to want to come to him for help. I immediately thought of our School to Prison Pipeline. This officer strives to keep our youth on the right path to avoid going into the “system.”

Our County is also fortunate to have a program through our Victim Services (Crisis Line) that partners with Juvenile Probation, essentially giving boys and girls the tools they need to keep from going on into the adult system when they age out of Juvenile Probation. Both parents and youth participants have applauded this new program as one that helps the entire family.

Both of these “School to Prison Pipeline” prevention programs will be on our next year’s list of special guest speakers so that we might know what progress they are making in this very important work.

Judy Dirks,
Bonn timers Ferry UWF President

NEWS FROM NATIONAL

JOIN OUR NEW ISABELLA THOBURN GIVING CIRCLE

“No people can rise higher as a people than the point to which they educate their women.”

-Isabella Thoburn



Dear Sister in Faith,

God has blessed us to be a blessing to others. Since 1869, United Women in Faith has been powered by acts of love from women just like you.

Your support has enabled us to put love into action for women and children on the margins, spiritually grow and nurture women, equip bold leaders, provide love, justice, and service both at home and abroad, and carry out important social action and justice work. Thank you!

However, there is still more work to be done and more love to share. This year, we’ve seen the erasure of jobs, history, and benefits that limit access to needed safety nets, particularly impacting women, children, and other vulnerable groups. United Women in Faith will not be discouraged. We continue to advocate for justice, putting our

hope and love in action, aligning with God’s call to be light for the vulnerable, just as one of our foremothers, Isabella Thoburn, did when she set sail for India. Your Mission Giving dollars support this work.

This bold tradition began in 1869, when eight women in Boston, moved by the plight of their sisters in India, acted. In six months, they raised enough money to send Isabella Thoburn and Dr. Clara Swain to India. Thoburn boldly launched a women’s education program that led to South Asia’s first Christian college for women. What began with six students in 1870 is now Isabella Thoburn College, with 3,500 women enrolled today.

As Thoburn said, “No people can rise higher as a people than the point to which they educate their women.”

We, at United Women in Faith, will carry that vision forward. Will you help us **by joining our new Isabella Thoburn Giving Circle** to support Mission Giving further? With a monthly gift of \$25, you can help ensure the continuity of vital mission efforts around the world.

Thank you for all you do to put love in action for a better world. Remember, we are bold, courageous, and determined United Women in Faith. Together, we will accomplish mighty acts that future generations will recount. Please visit us online today and join the Isabella Thoburn Giving Circle at uwfaith.org/isabella.

(Continued on page 13)

(Continued from page 12)

In deepest gratitude,



Sally Vonner
General Secretary and CEO
United Women in Faith

Ways to Give

Online: uwfaith.org/isabella

By check:

United Women in Faith
Church Center for the United
Nations
777 United Nations Plaza,
11th Floor
New York, NY 10017
Write "Isabella Thoburn"
in the memo line.

BIBLE STUDY SERIES: EMBRACING GOD'S CALL

LED BY DR. FAYE WILSON AND ELLEN LIPSEY

5 Wednesdays: September 10, 17,
and 24, and October 1 and 8

7 PM-8:30 PM ET | 4 PM-5:30 PM PT

Join United Women in Faith sisters
and siblings for a special five-week
Bible Study, Embracing God's Call: A
Bible Study on Diversity, Equity, and
Inclusion.

This study, written by the General
Commission on Religion and Race of
the United Methodist Church, helps
us ask: "What does diversity, equity,
and inclusion mean for me as a
follower of Christ?"

Dr. Faye Wilson and Ellen Lipsey,
dedicated members and leaders with
United Women in Faith will facilitate
the study.

This interactive series will take place
on five consecutive Wednesdays.
Registered participants should plan
to attend all five sessions. Space is
very limited. Pre-registration is
required. Registration will
automatically close when all
available spaces are taken. Please do
not register if you expect to miss two
or more sessions. Sessions will not be
recorded. There is no cost to
participate. All are welcome.



**About Dr.
Faye
Wilson:**
Faye
Wilson is
a writer,
educator,
and
musician.
As the
director

of GeeFaye Associates, a
communications, education, and
music consulting firm, she offers
services in creating and editing
documents. She teaches piano,
including how to read notes and play
by ear. For 21 years, she was a staff
member with the General Board of
Global Ministries (The United
Methodist Church). Her work took
her to all 50 states and 23 countries.
Highlights of her work include writing
books on 14 mission study themes
and co-authoring the 2025 resource
book for United Women in Faith,
entitled "Carrying Our Faith
Forward." She also has led
workshops at many Assemblies. In

addition, she developed study
materials to accompany the four-
part video series, Vital Conversations
— on race, justice, and human
sexuality — produced by the General
Commission on Religion and Race.
Dr. Wilson has a B.A. degree in
religion studies from Wilson College,
a master of Theological Studies
(Drew Theological School, Madison,
NJ), a master's in Journalism (New
York University), and a Doctorate in
Adult Education from Columbia
University. She lives in Salisbury,
Maryland, and is minister of music
and arts for Mt. Zion UMC, Quantico.
She is president of her local unit and
treasurer for the Lower Shore District
United Women in Faith (Peninsula-
Delaware Conference). She is
married to Arthur Mitchell, mom of
three daughters, and has three
granddaughters and four grandsons.



**About
Ellen
Lipsey:**
Ellen
Lipsey is a
retired
public
school
teacher
from
Texas.

After teaching elementary grades for
31 years, she transitioned from the
classroom to advocate for children
and their families through the many
opportunities provided by United
Women in Faith. She has served in
various leadership positions at each
level of United Women in Faith, as
well as in roles such as study leader,
trainer, and dean of Mission u. As the

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past South Central Jurisdiction United Women in Faith President, she collaborated with the Racial Justice Charter Support team to focus Jurisdiction attention on the Charter for Racial Justice. Ellen currently serves as a member of the board of McCurdy Ministries, one of the United Women in Faith's national mission institutions.

- If you are unable to open the pre-registration link above, please copy and paste the following text into your browser window:
surveymonkey.com/r/SZS9FHG

NEWS FROM THE DISTRICTS

CREST TO COAST DISTRICT

ANNUAL MEETING

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

10 AM to 2 PM, including a light lunch, at [Centralia UMC](#)

Featuring Brittany Gilliland,
Youth Director at Olympia UMC
"Engaging Generations After Yours"

[Crest to Coast Annual Meeting Registration Form](#)

[Crest to Coast Annual Meeting Flyer](#)

INLAND MISSIONAL DISTRICT

ANNUAL MEETING

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

**Check-in opens at 8:30 AM
9:30 AM to 3 PM at
[Spokane Valley UMC](#)**

Cost: \$20

Featuring Rev. Christie Love,
Englewood Christian Church,
Yakima, WA, "Diversity"

[Inland Annual Meeting Registration Form](#)

I hope your summer has been going well. I have been reading and REALLY enjoyed the book "Seven Transforming Gifts of Menopause: An Unexpected Spiritual Journey". It helped to normalize all I was experiencing in my menopausal journey and put things in a spiritual context. It's a quick read and worth the time. I also thoroughly enjoyed unit visits to Rockford and the newly

forming Lewiston/Clarkston/Asotin/Lewiston Orchards UWF unit(s).

Rockford is utilizing all the UWF resources, including the program book, prayer guide, and Response magazine, and is taking advantage of opportunities for mission fundraising, such as Prayer and Self-Denial offerings. They have a very active reading program and have delivered over 50 quilts to Ronald McDonald House, Vanessa Behan Crisis Nursery, and the Martin Luther King Center in Spokane. As a racially just-focused activity, they visited a Tlingit display at the local MAC museum in Spokane.

At our visit in Lewiston, I facilitated a conversation about the possibilities and opportunities for the newly forming unit(s) as the four churches combine their congregations. Each unit has a different perspective and missional emphasis, but they found that they might be interested in mission focuses from each other's units. Lewiston Orchards is very focused on their work with Samaritan's Purse, creating 175 boxes to donate to those in need. Clarkston hosts an annual bazaar, in addition to a yard sale and various luncheons, which serve as fundraisers for local needs, including the food bank and Snake River Clinic, as well as their regular mission giving to UWF. Asotin is very involved with Operation Christmas Child- compiling boxes for Children and hosting yard sales to fund this work, including recycling cans to cover the cost of shipping boxes to children. They also

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hold a luncheon to adopt a family as part of this project. All this excellent work will undoubtedly continue as the units discern whether/how they want to combine. We discussed the possibility of having mission-specific circles within one unit, but they will prayerfully discern their future this summer.

I want to send out a personal “kudos” to Kathy Johnson, our UWF Inland Missional District Spiritual Growth Coordinator, who graciously served as guest speaker for Spokane Valley UMC’s United Women in Faith Sunday last month. I had the pleasure of hosting Kathy the evening before she spoke and found our conversations to be deep and connectional. I am grateful that she has been willing to share her wisdom, speaking gifts, and openness with others—our District is lucky to have her! Thanks, Kathy!

Spokane Valley UMC focused on Racial justice and immigration issues at the border by hearing from Rita Waldref, the former Social Justice coordinator for St. Aloysius Catholic Parish. Rita has facilitated group trips to the Arizona-Mexico border to meet with migrants and organizations that help them. She has participated in efforts to leave water barrels in the desert for passing migrants. Additionally, she has partnered with churches in El Salvador who are assisting migrants. She shared some of the training and craftsmanship of various migrants as they seek to develop a means of supporting themselves on their journey. Her stories were impactful and informative, and illuminated ways to help immigrants locally as well.

On a final note, I was very excited to spend time with many of you at Mission U. I look forward to other exciting events coming up—our own Inland Missional District Annual Gathering at Spokane Valley UMC on Sept 20, 2025, and our Pacific Northwest Conference Annual Gathering in Bothell, WA, October, 17-18, 2025. If you’re looking for a great getaway with a couple thousand like-minded women, be sure to put the UWF National Assembly on your calendar for May 15-17, 2026.

Take care, everyone!

Robin Gregory,
Inland District President

PUGET SOUND MISSIONAL DISTRICT

ANNUAL MEETING

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

10 AM to 3 PM,
at [Stanwood UMC](#)
Refreshments served at 9 a.m.

Theme: Through COMMUNITY, we find HOPE

Scripture: Romans 15:13

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Mary Boyd (Coupeville)
“Gathering Hope” is her topic of the day.

This meeting is open to all

Registration is \$12.

Lunch included

Mid-August has crept up too quickly! Why does it seem like each year zooms by quicker than the last for some of us? We’ve heard about the

successful fundraising efforts of our local units, including spring teas, jewelry sales, special luncheons, bake sales, candy sales, quilt raffles, plant sales, rummage sales, silent auctions, and other fundraisers. It is amazing how creative our women can be! Many of us continue to respond to emails requesting our input on social action issues, as we contact our elected officials in Olympia and Washington, D.C., and pray for God’s help, guidance, blessings, and peace.

Our District Leadership Team appreciates having our former Conference and District Treasurer, Kendra Dorn Smith, step in as an interim District Treasurer until we secure another woman to take that position. We are anticipating good news as Martha Parker, formerly from California, accepts the position of District Nominations Chair. She has gained extensive experience in this and other areas of UWF during her years in California. (Her daughter is Katherine Parker, one of our UMC Missionaries working in Nepal.) Martha and Howard have a home in Gig Harbor, the southernmost community in our Puget Sound District. We’re still encouraging two to three other women to join our District Leadership Team!

Work on our UWF District Annual Gathering at Stanwood UMC on Sept. 20 is coming together. Our theme this year is “Through COMMUNITY we find HOPE”. Scripture is Romans 15:13 NIV: “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, by the power of the Holy Spirit”. We’re

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looking forward to hearing from Coupeville's Rev. Dr. Mary Boyd as our Keynote Speaker, with the topic "Gathering Hope". We're planning to share short videos from both of our National Missions, Atlantic Street Center and Tacoma Community House.

Our UWF District Vice-President, Susan Alderin, fortunately has a supportive group in her Bothell Church this year, as they hosted the UMC Conference Annual Meeting in June, and will be hosting the PNW Conference UWF Annual Gathering on October 17-18. The theme, "If not now, when?" Our UWF National President, Jana Jones, will be our Keynote Speaker! We are excited! Be sure to register—and come to Bothell! Enough for now! :-)

Blessings,

Jeannine Lish

Puget Sound District President

SEATAC MISSIONAL DISTRICT

ANNUAL MEETING,

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

9 AM to 12:30 PM

at [Kent UMC](#) followed by Lunch

Cost: \$12

Theme: Here I Am Lord

Featuring Storyteller Debbie Dimitre portraying Eleanor Roosevelt.

[SeaTac Annual Meeting Flyer](#)

We are coordinating the program for our Annual Meeting to be held on Saturday, September 27th, at Kent United Methodist Church. Our

theme is "Here I Am Lord". Our program presenter is Debbie Dimitre. She will be presenting her program on Eleanor Roosevelt. A continental breakfast and lunch will be served. Registration details will be available soon. Cost is \$12 per person. She is an extremely popular program presenter. Questions for more information should be directed to Diana Wilson, SeaTac District President, at (206) 852-6872 or dwilson2009@comcast.net.

SeaTac District had a Spiritual Day Apart program on May 17 at Beacon United Methodist church in Seattle. Our theme was "Practicing Hope," and our program presenter was Rev. Carol Mariano. The Beacon UWF shared details of their recent trip to the Philippines to help start a church and their ongoing support for those in the ICE Detention Center in Tacoma.

The district board has formed a book group to help us participate in the UWF Reading Program. Carol Sprague, our program resource coordinator, leads the group.

We hope to see you at our annual meeting on September 27 at Kent UMC.

Submitted by

Diana Wilson

SeaTac District UWF President

SEVEN RIVERS MISSIONAL DISTRICT

ANNUAL MEETING

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

at [Ellensburg UMC](#)

Theme: Love, Hope, and Joy

[Seven Rivers Annual Meeting Flyer](#)

[Seven Rivers Annual Meeting Registration Form](#)

MEET OUR NEW DEACONESSSES



The Pacific Northwest Conference of United Women in Faith is blessed as we continue to support the vital lay ministry through the program of Deaconesses and Home Missioners. This year, at the 152nd Annual Conference of the PNW United Methodist Church, Melissa Bortnick and Lisa Holyfield were consecrated. Let us continue to hold all of our Deaconesses and Home Missioners in our prayers.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Senator needs to find courage to do the job

To Senator Budd,
You have had ample time to consider the letter I sent to you in early May. It was also printed in the Asheville Citizen Times on June 1.

The only correspondence I have received from you is your generic emails that appear to boast of your Christian standards and ask for money.

Where in the Bible did you find a scripture that told you to say to yourself "Me first"? How did you miss the commandment to love your neighbor as yourself? (Mark 12:31). And the advice to care for widows and orphans? (James 1:27) And to treat an immigrant as the native among you? (Leviticus 19:33-34).

I asked you to find the courage to do the job for which you were elected. I have asked you to vote against the so-called Big Beautiful Bill that does the opposite of what the Bible commands. Instead you have continued to bow to a president who demonstrates no understanding of, nor respect for, the Constitution and no compassion or even basic human kindness.

May your heart of stone be softened.
Dixie Liggett, Asheville

We hope you enjoy Dixie's letter to her senator. She's in her 80s and spunky as ever. Good for her. Wish we could all do the same.

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.

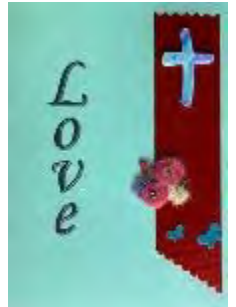
The cost of each card is \$2.00. Love Ribbon income is part of Mission Today and included in *The Pledge To Mission*. Units must submit their requests to their District Treasurer for supplies and purchases, and the credit will be applied to your unit.

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
(509) 882-4239

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



PACIFIC NORTHWEST CONFERENCE UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH CONFERENCE CALENDAR

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
January 11	1 – 4 p.m. PST	Winter Conference Executive Meeting	Zoom
January 26	6 to 8 p.m., PST	Idaho Legislative Event	Zoom
February 2	6 to 8 p.m., PST	Idaho Legislative Event	Zoom
February 20	9 a.m. – 3 p.m. PST	Washington Interfaith Advocacy Day	Olympia, WA
February 24	8 a.m. to 1 p.m., MST	Idaho Advocacy Day	Boise, ID
April 14 & 15		Seven Rivers Soul Care Event	Lazy F
April 26	8 a.m. to 12 p.m., PST	Spring Conference Executive Meeting	Zoom
June 26-29		Pacific Northwest UMC Conference Annual Session	Bothell UMC , Bothell, WA
July 23-24		Summer Conference Executive Meeting	Wesley UMC , Yakama, WA
July 24-26		Mission u	Wesley UMC , Yakima, WA
September 20	10 AM to 2 PM	Crest to Coast Missional District Annual Meeting	Centralia UMC , Centralia, WA
September 20	8:30 AM to 3 PM	Inland Missional District Annual Meeting	Spokane Valley UMC , Spokane Valley, WA
September 20		Seven Rivers Missional District Annual Meeting	Ellensburg UMC , Ellensburg, WA
September 20	10 AM to 3 PM	Puget Sound Missional District Annual Meeting	Stanwood UMC , Stanwood, WA
September 27	9 AM to 2 PM	SeaTac Missional District Annual Meeting	Kent UMC , Kent, WA
October 17		Fall Conference Executive Meeting	Bothell UMC Bothell, WA
October 17-18		Conference United Women in Faith Annual Gathering	Bothell UMC Bothell, WA
May 15-17, 2026		Assembly — “Dream it, Believe it, Do it!”	Indianapolis, Indiana

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 Newsletter](#)

[United Women in Faith Digital](#)

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

PACIFIC NORTHWEST CONFERENCE UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH OFFICERS FOR 2025

President—Deb Avery

Vice President—Stell Wallace

Secretary—Jenny Bygland

Treasurer—Roberta Headley

Program Resources—OPEN

Communications—Jenny Bygland

Education & Interpretation—Joan Hackett (Interim)

Membership Nurture & Outreach—Gail Simpson

Social Action—Ja net' Crouse

Spiritual Growth—Janice Catrell

Committee on Nominations

Chair—Marsha Aufenkamp

Committee on Nominations

Member—Judy Dirks

Committee on Nominations

Member—Carol Gruen

Committee on Nominations

Member—OPEN

Missional District Presidents

Crest to Coast—Bev Thomas

Inland—Robin Gregory

Puget Sound—Jeannine Lish

SeaTac—Diana Wilson

Seven Rivers—Robin Inlow

Atlantic Street Center

Judy Mahoney

mahoneyjudy09@gmail.com

www.atlanticstreetcenter.org

Tacoma Community House

Sue Raymond

770-843-2790

sueraymond@bellsouth.net

www.tacomacommunityhouse.org

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/get-involved/the-sharing-line/. 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 **Fall Sharing Line** should be emailed to Jenny Bygland (jbygland@kentmethodist.com) by **Monday, October 27**. 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

**GET READY FOR THE
ANNUAL GATHERING
PAGES 4 & 5**