



United  
Women  
in Faith

# CATCH the VISION

May, 2024

Wisconsin Conference

## President’s Message

### “Women’s group celebrates past, present, future impact”



**Gloria Carter**

That was the title of an article in the e-newsletter from the General Conference. If you have spent any time live-streaming or viewing recordings of the General Conference recently, I hope you noticed our presence there. The article talks about the “dynamic presentation” that highlighted our work in advocacy and education. That work includes nearly 90 community centers across the U.S. that we support and the financial support to women’s projects around the world, according to Sally Vonner, our top executive. In response to information gleaned from surveying many women, United Women in Faith developed a new online digital community, a new national membership model, new podcasts and webinars and a new name. Sally issued an invitation to join United Women in Faith’s Assembly, convening in Indianapolis, Indiana, in May 2026.

Bethany Sutton, secretary of the national executive board, shared important historical moments: the Charter for Racial Justice, building the Church Center for the United Nations, support of historically Black colleges and universities, and advocacy for electric school buses to replace diesel buses.

The article concludes with Sally Vonner describing her vision for the future:

“We believe in a bright future, and we believe that love in action can change the world.”

Wisconsin United Women in Faith, I’m so proud to be a part of an organization with that vision. I hope you are, too. And I hope you share your enthusiasm with other women you know.

God’s Peace,  
**Gloria**

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## Spiritual Growth

**Ecclesiastes 3:1 – “There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity (purpose) under heaven.”**

**Philippians 1:4-6 – “In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”**



Linda Capriello

When my husband needed a warmer climate to help with his overall wellness, I was eager to begin our long-awaited retirement in a new place – Arizona winters, here we come! We found a lovely neighborhood on a cul-de-sac, that neighbored a desert landscape! It was the first time ever, that my husband and I had a new purpose...to find activities and people that were unrelated to our many, many years of working!

This new stage of our life brought us to enjoy so many new and exciting opportunities - we learned to “play again!” But... we also learned the many lessons that God would ultimately teach us! We were aware of the need to “make the most of our time” now, but we faced some health challenges that we did not want to own up to. This new place was not where *our* hospital, or *our* favorite doctor was, who knew us! How could this be God’s plan for us? But it was time to learn that He had another plan and purpose for us...right now, in *THIS* present moment of time! And so, we learned to embrace this new season of life with open arms...trusting that our God would use our days and these new experiences, as a way to shape us more completely – as if we were a newly formed lump of clay, being reshaped by the Potter’s Hand!

I so wished that our days of retirement were longer...but looking back, I can now see more clearly how the amazing story of our “by chance” meeting DID grow us to meet the challenges and the joys through every transition that came along our way! What God had begun in us in August, 1979, he finished with us, with an amazing spiritual transformation of heart, mind, and soul in July, 2018!

We are facing a new season as United Women in Faith, and whatever the new opportunities, challenges, or lessons ahead, we have a Holy God who has a purpose for us...right now, in this present moment - In this new season of our lives!

Dear Lord, help us to see the opportunities that You would provide for us, in every stage of our lives...this I pray! AMEN

## Sole Sisters, Walking with Jesus

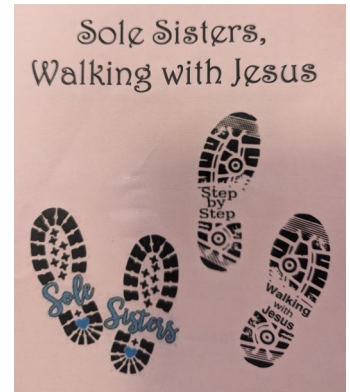
By Chris Anding

God blessed us with a beautiful retreat, *Sole Sisters, Walking with Jesus*, at Lake Lucerne Camp & Retreat Center, a Wisconsin UMC camp near Neshkoro, WI, April 26-28, 2024. It was put on by the Oak Creek Community UMC and hosted by a committee headed by Bonnie Clement, member of Oak Creek Community UMC.

We were privileged to have wonderful leadership and fellowship among the various faiths represented by the 26 participants. It was organized as a soul care retreat with worship, class or breakout times alternating with delicious staff-cooked meals and craft/casual time, creating an opportunity to develop friendships among participants. We relaxed as we absorbed the beauty of nature around us while we worked on decorating a pair of shoes we had brought, putting together a puzzle or playing a game.

Worship centered on walking with Jesus, following his paths and walking in the light of his Love. It included traditional and modern praise music, scripture, and prayer. Breakout sessions included learning American Sign Language to sign the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm, stamping cards, Bible Study, walking the Labyrinth in prayer, cooking with lavender, and learning photography on a cell phone.

We had enough free time to follow some hiking trails, walk down by the lake, clear and beautiful with Saturday's sunny weather and enjoy a massage given by Kim or Michele. The adult cabins were spacious and comfortable, each with a kitchenette and heat. A wonderful time was had by all which made leaving for home harder. We praised God for his guidance during the days' activities.



## Two Wisconsin Women Consecrated as Deaconesses at General Conference



A total of 26 laypersons were consecrated to a lifetime of service as a deaconess or home missionary during our United Methodist General Conference in Charlotte, North Carolina. Deaconesses and home missionaries are approved by United Women in Faith and have a continuing relationship to the United Methodist Church through United Women in Faith.



Megan Hale, executive for the candidacy office of United Women in Faith, places a pinned vestment scarf on newly consecrated deaconess Marie Severing of Janesville Cargill United Methodist Church.

2024 General Conference Photos



Bishop Karen Oliveto blesses and consecrates as a deaconess Heidi Careaga, district administrator in the Wisconsin UMC. From Lodi, Wisconsin.



## Touring Terracycle Recycling Room at First United Methodist Church, Madison, WI

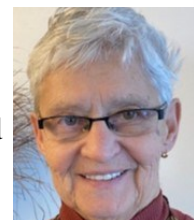
By Josie Gobel



Left to right: Pastor Michele Hopp, Michele Koopmans, Sue Falk, and Linda Tessman

Some Poynette United Women in Faith members got a tour of the Terracycle Recycling Room at First United Methodist Church, Madison WI. Let me introduce you to Terracycle! Terracycle is a remarkable company, committed to making the earth a better place by eliminating waste. Founded in 2001, it has already made an impressive difference. This Company has developed ways to recycle items that are not normally accepted in local municipalities.

Since 2019 the Green Team at First United Methodist Church in Madison, WI has been collecting items to send to Terracycle. We started with pens and markers that no longer work and empty toothpaste tubes, worn out toothbrushes and empty floss containers. We have since expanded into collecting many other items. For some collections we get money and some other collections we need to purchase special boxes to send the items in for recycling. ‘Join the ‘Pack and Sort Party’ which meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday each month from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. in the Terracycle Room at First United Methodist Church, 203 Wisconsin Ave, Madison or contact Josie Gobel at 920-988-0705 or email her at [josiogobel@charter.net](mailto:josiogobel@charter.net) to arrange a time for a tour.’



Josie Gobel

## “Holy” Socks Collected at North West District Spring Day of Enrichment

By Laura Ida

“Holy Smoke!” The “Holy” Sock collection gathered at the NW Spring Day of Enrichment was way beyond our expectations! The photo does not do justice to the depth of the pile of socks! These worn out, tired, “holy” socks will be recycled by Terracycle and will NOT be added to a landfill! An extra bonus is that \$1 per pound of socks will be donated to Northcott Neighborhood House in Milwaukee!

We have shipped 14 boxes of socks to Terracycle and are just beginning to make a dent in the pile! There are a lot of clean sock drawers in the NW District now!



Pictured in photo from L to R are part of the NW District Team: Laura Ida, Chris Draxler, Cheryl Starr, Karen Leichtle, and Robin Burke.

If your local unit would like to join this effort and you have questions, refer to the last edition of Catch the Vision, or contact Marilyn Eyster, [marilyn.eyster@gmail.com](mailto:marilyn.eyster@gmail.com) (608-868-3585), or Laura Ida, [faithwalkerlee@yahoo.com](mailto:faithwalkerlee@yahoo.com) (612-801-6284)

## Make every month Earth Month!

Recommendations from TerraCycle

As Earth Month comes to a close, we hope you've adopted new strategies for reducing waste that you'll carry forward. Don't forget that even small actions add up to make a big impact for our planet!

### · Use your voice

Tell your favorite brands and retailers that you want sustainable alternatives to plastic packaging or to be able to recycle their products locally or through TerraCycle. And reach out to your lawmakers and tell them to pass laws that address plastic pollution and promote circular business models.

### · Vote with your dollars

You can vote for a better future with what you buy and don't buy. The items we buy today are the ones we'll see on store shelves tomorrow, and what we don't buy will disappear. We must be conscious about our purchases AND buy less.

### · Continue to take small steps

Even the smallest of changes—like opting for a reusable water bottle—make a difference. Don't be discouraged about taking steps that seem small. Remember that, together, our daily actions make a big difference in how much waste ends up in landfills and incinerators.

## Social Action Day Summary—Ending Mass Incarceration in Wisconsin

By Kathy Hartke, Wisconsin UWF Social Action Coordinator

There were 13 Watch Parties for our Social Action Day. Ninety people signed up for watch parties. Thirty-four people signed up to watch on individual computers.

**If you would like to watch the YouTube video of the entire program from our Social Action Day you may go to: <https://youtu.be/TltNNS227h8>**

All 3 videos (full program and separate speaker presentations) are up on the United Women in Faith page and the Church and Society page on the conference website.

**At the end of the event participants were asked to name one thing they would do. Here are some of the responses.**

Fund raise to help women in jail

Will visit or learn more about county jails and court system

Will vote and encourage others to vote

Will send letters to officials; call legislators about legislation (Senate bill 4079)

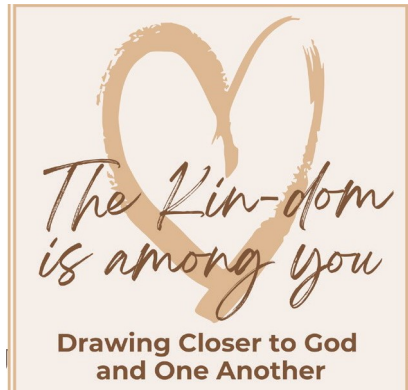
Advocate to legislatures against shackling or related issues

Read more about 'FREE Movement' or contribute \$ to FREE

Join Wisdom

Read 'A Knock at Midnight' or watch documentaries

Learn more about UM4RJ



## Wisconsin Mission U 2024

<p>Zoom Mission u June 18, 20 &amp; 25, 27, 2024 Tues/Thurs evenings 6:30-9:00PM Cost: \$20</p>	<p>Study Leader Rev. Doug Clement</p>
<p>In-Person Overview July 13, 2024 9:00AM – 3:30 PM Winding Rivers UMC, New Lisbon Cost: \$25 (early), \$30 (late) Childcare available</p>	<p>Study Leader Deaconess Kady Herr-Yang</p>

Scholarships are available upon request.

Registration Page at: <https://na.eventscloud.com/798970>

More information at: <http://www.wisconsinumw.org/mission-u.html>

Study Book “Welcome Home” by Neomi Fletcher may be purchased [HERE](#).



**WISCONSIN CONFERENCE UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH**  
**Mission u Overview**  
**Sat July 13, 2024 9:00-3:30**  
**Winding Rivers UMC, New Lisbon WI**



United  
Women  
in Faith

**Join us at Mission u to explore the Good News of our Kin-dom and God’s Reign.  
We gather at Winding Rivers UMC for an overview of Neomi Fletcher’s book *Welcome Home*.**

How can we incorporate Jesus’ preaching and teaching into our daily lives?  
God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit are with us always -- are we sharing the Trinity’s love?

Ms. Fletcher uses the image of home to explore how living in close proximity to the kin-dom helps us make a home with God.

We are invited to develop practices for building healthy, welcoming communities as a result of being anchored in the abiding love of God.  
God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit are with us every day. We are teachable.

***Welcome Home* by Neomi Fletcher** Order your copy: [HERE](#)

Registration includes a build-your-own-sandwich lunch and individual folders for attendees.  
(please provide your lunch if you have specific dietary needs)  
The earlier you register, the easier it is for the WI Conference Mission u Team to prepare.  
Thank you!

Suggestions for lodging (**you are responsible** for making the reservations and payment):  
Nearby hotel: AmericInn in New Lisbon, 1702 East Bridge St, New Lisbon 844-684-9427  
RV hookups: Winding Rivers UMC, N6774 Germantown Rd, New Lisbon  
(608) 562-3811 <http://windingriversumc.com>

*Registration Scholarships are available.*

*Please provide your request for financial assistance on the registration form.*

*Photos taken at Mission u could be used by the WI Conference UWF in materials to help promote United Women in Faith events and to share the UWF mission with others.*

*Please sign below to indicate that you understand how your photo may be used.*

Name (print) \_\_\_\_\_ Signature & date \_\_\_\_\_







United Women in Faith

WISCONSIN CONFERENCE UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH
Zoom Mission u
Tuesday/Thursday evenings 6:30-9:00PM
June 18, 20 & 25, 27, 2024



Registration cost: \$20 Deadline to register is June 8. A donation may be added for the Conference Pledge to Mission in place of an offering (note in memo line).

Online registration forms links can be found at https://na.eventscloud.com/798970

A Zoom link will be sent to your email address one week before class begins. Each person should register individually.

Personal Information (mark all that apply)

\_\_\_ 1st time attendee \_\_\_ Age under 45 \_\_\_ layperson \_\_\_ clergy \_\_\_ financial assistance

Request for CEU/Advanced Lay Servant credits

\_\_\_ CEU \_\_\_ Advanced Lay Servant/Lay Speaker/Lay Minister

UWF members, please complete:

Unit: \_\_\_ District: \_\_\_ Conference: \_\_\_ All-Access: Y N

I will sign in to Zoom using my \_\_\_ phone \_\_\_ smart phone/computer, or

\_\_\_ as part of a small group, \_\_\_ will be signing in for our small group

When we have breakout groups, as a small group we would prefer to

\_\_\_ join a breakout room \_\_\_ be our own group

(NOTE: Joining a breakout room is best for groups of no more than three people)

All: Submit registration email susanforrester@rocketmail.com Subject line: 06/18/2024 registration

Or by mail

Susan Forrester, Registrar
6817 Elmwood Ave.
Middleton, WI 53562

Additional contact information:608-515-3258 (call or text)

Make checks out to: Wisconsin Mission u

Registrations are transferable but not refundable

Registration form with fields for Name of attendee, Address, Phone, Message preference, Email, and Optional Demographic Information.

## Update from Nominations

*Then I heard the voice of the LORD saying. "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" and I said, "Here I am. Send me!" - Isaiah 6:8*

Would you like to help shape the future of the Conference United Women in Faith? If the answer is "Yes," you should consider becoming a part of the Nominations Committee. This committee is responsible for recruiting and nurturing our leaders. We would like people from all districts to help ensure that the conference leadership represents all parts of the conference. There are currently openings for the 2025, 2026 and 2027 classes.



**Linda Whitelock**

Contact the nominations committee if you or someone you know would share your talents and become part of the team. Please prayerfully consider saying "Yes." You may be stepping out of your comfort zone, but the experience will be worth it.

Linda Whitelock, Nominations Committee Chair

[whitelocklinda@att.net](mailto:whitelocklinda@att.net)

608-575-1517

Josie Gobel, Nominations Committee

[josiegobel@charter.net](mailto:josiegobel@charter.net)

920-988-0705

## Wisconsin Conference 2024 Yearbook

### Coming Soon!

The Wisconsin Conference 2024 Yearbook will be ready for printing by the end of the month. Amy Pigott, owner of Bob's Copy Shop, Madison, has been hard at work since last week inserting all the information we need to operate and feels production of the Yearbook will start soon. Our long awaited Conference publication will feature the box format for contact information, making it easier to read and will be distributed to 250 Conference, District and Unit Officers plus retired officers and District superintendents. Thanks to Josie Gobel and Chris Anding for working along with Amy remotely. A big thank you to Amy for coming back from a battle with Covid and making our Yearbook a reality.



**Chris Anding**

**Conference Executive team meeting/retreat August 16-18 (Friday evening, Saturday all day, Sunday leave by noon).** Please try to be there. We will be paying for 15 staying Friday through Saturday morning, even if we have less. Our Pine Lake gathering of the executive team is a great time to build our connections with each other, and also enjoy some time in God's beautiful natural world.

## Mabel Heil Scholarship Fund Wisconsin Conference

The Mabel Heil Scholarships are made possible by earnings from a trust established in the will of Sarah Mabel Heil, a resident of Cuba City, Wisconsin. Funds are awarded by the Heil Scholarship Committee of the Wisconsin Conference United Women in Faith and are invested in the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation. Any Wisconsin United Methodist woman working to improve her education may apply.

### Available Funds:

- a. Funds will be invested in the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation, in a fund split 60 percent equity and 40 percent fixed.
- b. Funds available to provide scholarships for each semester will be calculated as 2.5 percent of the fair market value of the Mabel Heil Scholarship Fund as of the end of the month prior to the approval of Scholarships.

### Eligibility Requirements:

- a. Must be a female member of the United Women in Faith and/or United Methodist Church, Wisconsin.
- b. Submit a written answer to the question, "In what ways do I consider myself a worthy student?"
- c. Letter of recommendation from either the president of the local UWFaith unit or from your pastor.
- d. Letter of recommendation from a church member who is not a member of your household and is not a relative. (Person writing letter on behalf of applicant is to send the letter directly to the contact person)
- e. All letters must be written (Preferably typed) on one side of an 8.5x11" sheet of white paper using black ink.

### Application Procedures:

- a. Awarded for one semester at a time. To be considered again for any subsequent semester, send letter asking to be considered.
- b. Graduate students may apply for each semester as long as they meet the other requirements
- c. Application and two (2) letters of recommendation OR RECONSIDERATION LETTER must be received by May 1 for the fall semester or October 1 for the spring semester. Checks will be disbursed by August 15 and January 15.

Application forms may be requested from this email [loosesilv45@gmail.com](mailto:loosesilv45@gmail.com) or the address below.

Or call: 715 325 2841

Obtain an application form and send to:

Mabel Heil Scholarship  
Lucy Silvester  
373 15th Ave.  
Nekoosa, WI 54457

If you are not now receiving *Catch the Vision*, but would like to, send your request with your email address to [marilyn.eyster@gmail.com](mailto:marilyn.eyster@gmail.com) Send address corrections to the same address. Thank You.

United Women in Faith  
Wisconsin Conference  
c/o Marilyn Eyster  
122 East Cox Road  
Edgerton, WI 53534

## Calendar 2024



United  
Women  
in Faith

May 31—June 2	North Central Jurisdiction Quadrennial Event—Indianapolis
June 18, 20, 25, 27	Mission u by zoom (6:30 p.m. — 9:00 p.m.)
July 13	Overview Day Mission u — New Lisbon: Winding Rivers UMC (9 a.m. — 3:30)
Aug. 16,17,18	Executive Team/Mission u Meeting at Pine Lake (Note change of dates)
Sept. 1	Catch the Vision newsletter deadline
Oct. 11-12	Conference Annual Gathering — Eau Claire, Lake St. UMC
Oct. TBD	WI Conference Leadership Development — zoom meeting
Nov. 2	Mission u/Executive Team—zoom meeting (9 a.m.—noon)
Dec. 1	Catch the Vision newsletter deadline