

Northwest District's Newsletter

THE WEAVER

May 2024



United
Women
in Faith

United Women in Faith's new mission statement.....

We seek 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.

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A message from our President.....Billie La Bumbard



Luke 5:24 “Jesus heals a paralyzed man. . . get up, take your bed roll and go home”

I have brought home a table loom to make bed mats. I purchased it at Midwest Mission in Illinois. It reminds me of the loom my grandson used to make pot-holders for Christmas presents many years ago – only much bigger.

This loom is designed for anyone to make sleeping mats for those that need a barrier between them and the ground. It is an excellent way to recycle plastic grocery bags. We cut them to make “plarn”. (plastic yarn).

There is a short video on the Midwest Mission web page -midwestmission.org/loom. Please take a look at it. It shows how to cut the bags, and set up the loom before weaving. WE will demonstrate how to do this at Turtle Lake on April 27th. Then UWF units may borrow it for one month and try it out to see if you might want to purchase your own. The cost to purchase is \$100.

As the first Disciples took very little with them, they might have liked a mat for sleeping. This is a way we can help the homeless and also decrease the plastic in the land-fill. Our way of taking care of the earth.

You can distribute the mats locally or send them to Midwest Missions and they will put them in the shipments they send out.

I trust that God will use this gift to bring healing, love and fellowship as we work together.

God be with you,

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Mission u 2024

**Theme: Living the Kin-dom (Part 2) -
Welcome Home**

2 Options to participate.....

#1 Zoom:
June 18, 20 & 25, 27, 2024
6:30-9:00PM

Register Today

Registration Forms are available in this issue of the Weaver or on the WI Conference UWF

#2 In Person Overview Day
New Lisbon: Winding Rivers UMC
Saturday, July 13, 2024



Soul Care from our Spiritual Formation Coordinator..... Jean Parker

It's Spring and we are all thinking about planting our gardens. Sometimes we plant seeds right into the ground and sometimes we use plants that someone else has started.

Paul says in 1 Corinthians 3:5-7, **“What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe—as the Lord has assigned to each his task. I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow.”**

It's the same with our life in the Lord Jesus. Some of us are seed planters, some nurture the growth of what others have started, and it is our Lord God who makes them grow. And, no matter what we do for our Lord we can be basking in His Sonshine!!!

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From the desk of our Treasurer.....

Annette Pederson

“In the cold and snow of winter there’s a spring that waits to be”

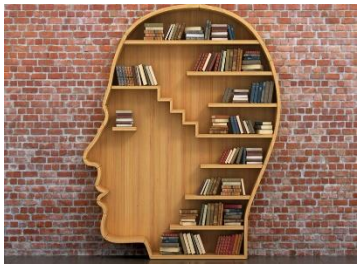
As the Hymn of Promise tells us, spring is finally making an appearance. My crocus are in bloom and the daffodils are coming up. Soon I’ll be able to get out and dig in my flower beds. This is my happy place!!!!

Spring Day of Enrichment is coming at the end of April and I’m excited for the nature theme of it. I hope to see many of you there.

We are making steady progress toward making our conference pledge. I’m confident that we’ll make it this year. Remember the five areas that go toward this pledge:

- 1. Pledge to Mission,
- 2. Special Mission Recognition,
- 3. Gift to Mission,
- 4. Gift in Memory and
- 5. World Thank Offering.

Please let me know if you have questions or if I can be of assistance.



**Inspiration to READ from our Program Reading
Coor.....Cherie Bingham**

Spring Greetings!

I’m writing this on a beautiful spring day in April while it is still too early to get outdoors and start my yard work. I’ve gone back & forth between catching up on housework and taking some breaks to read.

I’m hoping you have had time to check out the great books on our United Women in Faith Reading Program booklist. There are some terrific books on this year’s list, as well as previous lists that can still be used for credit this year. Lists aren’t due until December 1st, but why wait??

The 2023 Reading Program participants were listed in the February 2024 edition of the Weaver, and I’m hoping you had time to check it out and notify me if there were any errors or omissions.

The 2023 certificates were issued at our Spring Day of Enrichment. Check with your unit leader if you haven’t already received your certificate.

Remember, there are some awesome resources on the United Women in Faith website at: UWFaith.org, including ideas for unit programs and studies, podcasts, and, of course, books!

Have a wonderful summer & keep track of all the books you are reading!

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**SAVE THE DATE**

**Annual Fall Gathering**

**Saturday, September 28, 2024**

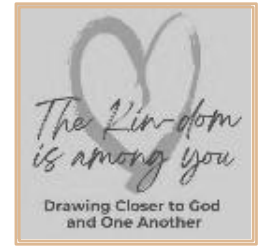
**Trinity United Methodist Church**

**201 W Central Street, Chippewa Falls, WI 54729**



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://wisconsinumw.org/mission-u

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. Additional contact information:608-515-3258 (call or text)
Middleton, WI 53562

Make checks out to: Wisconsin Mission u Registrations are transferable but not refundable

Registration form with fields: Name of attendee, Preferred Pronouns, Address, City, State, Zip, Phone, Message preference, Email, Optional Demographic Information





**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: [uwfaithresources.org](http://uwfaithresources.org)

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 \_\_\_\_\_



**WISCONSIN CONFERENCE UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH**  
**Mission u Overview**  
**Sat July 13, 2024 9:00-3:30**  
**Winding Rivers UMC, N6774 Germantown Rd, New Lisbon WI**



Register **before June 22** \$25  
 Register **before June 27** \$30 (**deadline**) assures lunch & class packet is provided  
 Register **after June 27** \$35 (**late registration**) you will need to provide you own lunch  
 Online registration forms links can be found at <https://wisconsinumw.org/mission-u>

**Personal Information** (mark all that apply)

1<sup>st</sup> time attendee  Age under 45  layperson  clergy  financial assistance  
 Childcare – please provide age(s), names are helpful

**UWF members**, please complete:

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

**All: Submit registration email** [susanforrester@rocketmail.com](mailto:susanforrester@rocketmail.com) Subject line: 07/13/2024 registration

Or by mail Susan Forrester, Registrar  
 6817 Elmwood Ave. Additional contact information:608-515-3258 (call or text)  
 Middleton, WI 53562

Make checks out to: Wisconsin Mission u **Registrations are transferable but not refundable**

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|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Name of attendee:</b> _____ Will provide own lunch (recommended if dietary restriction) Preferred Pronouns _____                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                              |
| Address, City, State, Zip                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                              |
| Phone: _____                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Message preference: _____<br><input type="checkbox"/> v-message <input type="checkbox"/> text <input type="checkbox"/> email |
| Email                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                              |
| Optional Demographic Information <input type="checkbox"/> I prefer not to answer<br>If supplying Please circle or mark: Age: <input type="checkbox"/> under 19 <input type="checkbox"/> 20-45 <input type="checkbox"/> 46-55 <input type="checkbox"/> over 55 Gender: _____ |                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Emergency Contact: Name</b> _____                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Contact's Phone/Cell:</b> _____                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <b>Relationship:</b> _____                                                                                                   |
| <b>Where to find Medical information for EMTs</b> (registration form, bracelet, wallet, emergency contact, etc):<br>_____                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                              |
| <b>(Optional) health information to share with the Mission u Team for more timely health assistance</b><br>(diabetes, epilepsy, mental health concerns, asthma, etc.)                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                              |





**Be informed message from our Education and Interpretation Coordinator.....Robin Burke**

Springtime Greetings!!

So nice to see the green grass and warmer temperatures. If you are looking for something to do this summer for yourself why not try

Mission U.

This year's theme is "Living the Kin-dom(Part 2) Welcome Home. There are two options to participate, in person Sat. July 13 at Winding Rivers UMC or by zoom June 18-20,25-27. More information is available in May Weaver.

I hear of good comments from others who have attended in previous years. Ask a UMF friend to attend and participate together.

Don't forget to browse the Mission Today Local Unit report found in Februarys Weaver and make some plans for your unit this year. Your unit can get the Mission Today Award.

May you have a Safe, Healthy, Happy Summer.

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**T E R R A C Y C L E**

Have you been saving items that can be recycled?

**EASY SAVES.....**

- Old tooth brushes, dental floss containers, heads from electric tooth brushes,
- Clean Styrofoam meat trays
- Old pens, pencils, dries up markers, used glue sticks
- Clean, empty cereal bags

**JUST THINK**....if we each saved 2 old tooth brushes times 50 United Women in Faith, that would be 100 toothbrushes NOT sitting in a landfill.

**"Small changes can have a big impact."**

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**North West District Calendar 2024**

- July 23 District Team meeting Rice Lake 10am – 12noon  
Potluck Lunch for District Team and past District Team members  
Rice Lake - 12 noon  
Exact location in Rice Lake TBA
- August 24 District Team meeting Chippewa Fall–Trinity UMC  
10:30am – 2pm
- September 27 District Team set-up CF–Trinity UMC – 1:30pm – 4pm
- September 28 North West District Annual Fall Gathering CF-Trinity UMC  
8:45am – 1:30pm
- November 9 District Team meeting TBA 10:30am – 2pm
- December 7 District Team & Past District Team members Christmas Lunch

## A Message from our Social Action Coordinator...

Laura Ida



Spring Greetings from your Social Action Coordinator! It is so wonderful to be writing this as green sprouts are peaking out! I hope you find the gifts of spring refreshing and renewing!

Whenever I see my 5-year-old granddaughter, I am greeted with a burst of enthusiasm and positive energy. As I enter, she runs forth screaming, “Grandma Laura!” and I am embraced with a huge hug. I have noticed that her beautiful, happy spirit spreads to whoever is near, smiles all around! I was reminded of the gift of this greeting when listening to our presenter during Social Action Day. He asked a question (credited to Toni Morrison), “Does your face light up when your kids walk in the room?” My granddaughter gives me this gift, and it is a reminder to me to return this gift whenever I encounter a child. Our first speaker, the Hon/Rev Everett Mitchell reminded us of this important simple practice, in contrast to all of the trauma and negative reactions children experience.

Our Social Action Day “wowed” me!! So much good information, and such impressive speakers! This presentation was recorded, I hope your units will access it! I can only try to highlight a small bit of the information! Judge Mitchell of Dane county (who also pastors a Baptist congregation) works passionately to reduce trauma with young people. Youth are unshackled before they are brought into his courtroom and treated with dignity. He emphasizes that troubled youth are not and never were inferior, and as a Judge he tells young people, “I am your reflection.” A victim of abuse himself, Judge Mitchell believes that a spiritual experience at the age of 15 and teachers who helped him finally learn to read gave him the hope and resilience needed to excel to his position today.

Our second Social Action Day speaker was Peggy West-Schroeder formerly a Milwaukee City board supervisor and now the Director of FREE. Peggy spoke of the alarming growing number of incarcerated women and the disproportionate experiences of lifelong trauma, abuse and co-occurring disorders. FREE offers a space to support one another as well as VOICE to women who were directly impacted by incarceration. Peggy was born while her mother was incarcerated and does not know where she was the first six weeks of her life, but then was fortunate to be fostered and adopted by a wonderful family. She reminded us that not everyone has a positive story such as hers.

A suggestion Peggy has for our units was to contact local jails and prisons about needs for women when they are released. Hygiene bags, clothing, a tote or large cloth bag to put belongings in could be both helpful and provide a little dignity as women leave this environment. 47% of women released from prison are homeless.

**A Knock at Midnight** by Brittany Barnett is an excellent book on our United Women of Faith Reading list highlighting the indignities and injustice suffered by incarcerated women. I recommend it!

Kathy Hartke, our State Social Action Coordinator and medical doctor shared the difficulties of incarcerated pregnant women. She also urged us to write our senators to address the problem of “obstetrical birth deserts” in rural areas of WI. Please LISTEN to the recording that will be available soon! As I mentioned earlier, there is so much information!

As the book of Micah reminds us, what does the Lord require of us? But to do Justice, and to love kindness, so that we may walk humbly with our God! Peace to you!

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**A message from our Membership, Nurture and Outreach Coor.....**

**Cheryl Starr**



Dear Sisters in Christ,

One of the first things I did when I sat down to write this article was to look at what I had written last year. Do you remember at this time last year, we were still dealing with snow and cold! What a difference a year makes! My daffodils are in full bloom, the grass is getting green; and the lilac bushes have buds! *“The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth his handiwork.”* Psalms 19:1)

My role in the North West UWF is that of Membership and Nurture...nurture is *“the process of caring for and encouraging the growth or development of someone or something”*. Every spring I’m sure most of us get that itch to go out and clean off the leaves so our spring flowers can flourish and we start thinking about gardening. Spring is bursting forth; and the Bible encourages us with many verses that express delight in the beauty and wonder of God’s earth.

And what about this idea of nurture in terms of United Women in Faith...*caring for and encouraging the growth or development of someone?* Sometimes I think it’s more challenging to nurture others than it is to nurture a plant! We are all unique and because we’ve all had different life experiences, we tend to react to situations and other people in our own unique way. The reality within our UWF units is that we are all getting older and I think every unit has faced the challenge of maintaining activities with older and fewer members. I know ours is facing this. So as the Membership & Nurture Chair for the District, I ask these questions all the time:

--How do we promote (nurture) UWF as an organization worth caring about?

--How do we encourage new members? 11

