



United
Women
in Faith

Mission Matters

SW District UWF Newsletter

June/July 2024

President's Message

Jeremiah 29:11 NRSV

*For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord,
plans for your welfare and not for harm,
to give you a future with hope.*

Hello Dear Sisters and Friends of the South West District United Women in Faith (UW Faith). By the time you read this 2024 will be half over. That is hard to believe. As we all continue to be aware this year continues to present more challenges and opportunities as we continue the mission work of our wonderful sisterhood. You may wonder why I keep beginning my articles with Jeremiah 29-11. It is to remind us that with all that is facing our beloved United Methodist Church, United Women in Faith, our country and us as individuals we need to believe in and rejoice together that God has a plan for us and is with us on this journey.

Our 2024 South West (SW) District leadership team met on June 15th in Prairie du Chien. We were showered with hospitality by the wonderful women of the Prairie du Chien unit. Thank you Mary and unit sisters. Our work of the day included creating a draft calendar, proposing meeting places for our 2025 events, discussing the coming changes approved at our Wisconsin Annual Conference and planning to welcome wonderful women and units from the North Central and South East Districts to the South West District. We will say goodbye to our beloved Bishop Hee Soo Jung and welcome a new Bishop who will preside over the Northern Illinois-Wisconsin Episcopal Area. Our leadership team will continue to work with many others to learn and share information about the coming changes. Working together we will be able to plan for these changes and how they will affect the mission work we do and the possible new mission work we can embark on. All of this is with God's help.

I hope you have been able to participate in Mission u via Zoom or In Person. It is not too late to attend the In-Person Mission u at Winding Rivers UMC in New Lisbon. The latest you can register is June 27th. Registration forms are at <http://www.wisconsinumw.org/mission-u.html> and in this issue of Mission Matters.

Other events yet to come are our Annual Gathering at Portage UMC in Portage, WI. It is scheduled for September 14th. Registration forms are in this issue of Mission Matters. The last event will be our Day of Enrichment at Dodgeville UMC on November 9th. Information and registration forms will be in the next Mission Matters.

Remember in Jeremiah 29:11 God has plans for us for our well being not for harm but to give us a future with hope. We must listen and believe that working together with God’s help we CAN continue putting our faith, hope and love into action especially as we plan for the changes in our districts to welcome units and members from the North Central and South East Districts.. We have an amazing team of women that God brought together in the SW District to lead us through challenges and new beginnings. We show up! “We’re a sisterhood acting in faith to tackle the hard work of the world without hesitation”.

Sue Plasterer, President, South West District, 608-274-0275,
seplasterer@charter.net

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| In this issue: | |
| President’s message | Page 1-2 |
| Education | 2-3 |
| Social Action | 4 |
| Spiritual Growth Retreat | 5 |
| Unit Events | 6 |
| News from Northcott. | 7-8 |
| Nominations | 8-9 |
| Communication | 9 |
| Annual Gathering Registration | 10 |
| Mission u Overview | 11 |
| Mission u Overview - registration . . . | 12 |
| Reading Program Report Form | 13 |
| Mabel Heil Scholarship | 14 |
| SW District Calendar 2024 | 15 |

Education and Interpretation Notes

The May/June issue of response features Northcott Neighborhood House in Milwaukee, WI starting on page 11. It is a National Mission Institution(NMI) of United Women in Faith. Many of us and our units have raised mission-giving funds to support Northcott House, it's vital neighborhood programs and services over the years. Some of our units are currently collecting old socks to be recycled in a program to raise funds for this local(Wisconsin) NMI. The article highlights the upcoming Juneteenth celebration event hosted by Northcott Neighborhood House. This event is one of the nation’s longest -running Juneteenth celebrations. 2024 is their event’s 53rd year.

Go to the Northcott website, www.Northcotthouse.org, for more information about this important NMI of UWF and other links to the celebratory event and this national holiday.

Response magazine also features opportunities for you to share photos of where you read the magazine, what books of the Reading Program list are favorites and stories of your unit's mission efforts. Consider sharing your interpretations of mission with the wider community of United Women in Faith. Maybe your mission moments will inspire others to be in mission in similar ways. Photos and stories can be emailed to response@uwfaith.org. Information about submissions and what information is needed to be included can be found in each issue.

The Reading Program: What books from the 2024 Reading Program list are you enjoying? Are any units having a book study or sharing their book reviews with each other or with their congregations? I look forward to the Reading Program Author Talk, via Zoom, on **August 6th at 6 pm** CST. Susan Mettes is the author of *The Loneliness Epidemic: Why So Many of Us Feel Alone and How Leaders Can Respond*. This is a program offered through www.uwfaith.mn.co, the UWF Digital program and available free. Just a reminder that UWF Reading report forms are due **Sept. 1st**. (Form found farther down in this newsletter). Please return them to me at the address listed below.

All of these programs are provided through UWF because our individual sisters and units continue to give funds raised and submitted for missions and in support of United Women in Faith. There are now 8 SW District UWF units that have submitted their Mission Today Tasks reports. Thank you for your efforts and submitting the reports of your 2023 efforts. The report form is a great planning tool for units to plan out their unit activities in the mission of Faith, Hope, Love, in Action each year.

Please contact me with your questions, comments, and ideas (and send in your UWF reading report forms).

Alice Schellenberger, SW District UWF- E & I Coordinator
E12628 Man Mound Road, Baraboo, WI 53913-9636
79alicejms93@gmail.com 608-356-2387

SOCIAL ACTION!!

Hi SW District of UWF WI,

As we “enjoy” our first heat wave of the season and the world seems to be dealing with environmental problems everywhere.....isn't this a good time to take action on climate change?!

- 1) Option A: Google www.umcjustice.org. Then follow the “what you can do” menu item to advocacy and on to Take Action. Under Environmental Justice there is a place to take action to promote climate policies for justice. It's easy to take action from there!
- 2) Another option: UWFaith.org
Under the JustEnergy4All emphasis you will find “All Climate Justice Actions!” These include action on clean air, funding for international climate finance programs and asking Congress to prioritize Climate Justice legislation that protects impacted communities, jobs, etc.

And, of course, wherever we are in life, try to consider the environmental impact of our own actions. Not everyone can afford solar panels but consider them if you can. Give a thought to your modes of transportation and their environmental costs.

We can't ignore the climate change we can feel and see around us!

Linda Huttenburg, SW District Social Action, jlhutton@charter.net

New Opportunity

Are you a District Member who is seeking a deeper connection with United Women in Faith? We are starting an every-other-month virtual meetup for District Members over Zoom. Our next meeting will be **July 18th at 7 PM**. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Robin Kelby at robinkelby@gmail.com for the link. Our agendas are flexible, but we will be discussing books we are reading, Faith Talks, missions we are part of, and fellowshiping together.

Spiritual Growth Retreat 2024

South West District United Women in Faith

On April 27th, Platteville UMC United Women in Faith hosted the Spring Spiritual Growth retreat for the South West District UW Faith. The theme was “United Women in Faith - We are Leadership”. Our presenter was Reverend Dr. Barbara Wells. Her focus was on the leadership essentials for women based on the book “5 Leadership Essentials for Women - Developing Your Ability to Make Things Happen” compiled by Linda Clark, with supporting materials from other sources as well. The 26 of us who attended covered the skills needed to help us serve in our churches and communities, specifically - fundamentals of communication, group building, relationship skills, conflict management and time management.

Pastor Barb shared some beautiful ideas on leadership. Some of the key take-aways included:

- The importance of being in relationship with people. Reach out and get to know each other.
- Everyone has different strengths. Tap into the strengths and talents of your group members.
- Truly listen to others. Hear what they are saying instead of forming a response as they speak.
- Jesus is our best model of being a servant leader.
- As we work with others, remember that everything we do should be for the glory of God.

Looking through the evaluation forms it was clear that the lovely piano playing by Elizabeth Duerwer, and singing led by Charlene Mingst, was a favorite part of the day.

Many thanks to the Platteville UMC UW Faith group for their hospitality and yummy food.



SW DISTRICT UWF UNIT EVENTS

LODI UMC



LODI UWF SUNDAY WAS HELD 4-21-24

(photo left to right) Kay Putman, (Past President of 17 years), Joan Gehrke, (Special Pin Recognition recipient) and Linda Caprariello, (Our speaker).

If you have UWF unit activities you would like to share - please send me a brief write up (pictures are always great, too!). This space is dedicated to sharing what our units are doing.

Thanks!

Annie Hill,

SW District Comm. Coor, anniehill50@gmail.com



NORTHCOTT NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE

NORTHCOTT GIVEN SCHOLASTIC BOOKS FROM LODI UMC

LODI UMC'S Mission team promoted "children's literacy" for their May mission focus. A Scholastic Book Fair was held, where donations made it possible to donate books to 5 Lodi local daycare centers. 25 books were also donated to Northcott for their Juneteenth reading area.

HAPPY SOCK RECYCLING

Lodi UWF members have joined with TerraCycle to collect and recycle old socks. We already have one large box ready to ship. If anyone would like us to ship some socks, just let us know, we would be happy to ship them with ours, and indicate that it is credited to charity NORTHCOTT NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE, INC. You need to list that as they have it listed in their system, or else they will say they can't find the charity.

JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION

Being June already, the main thing on their agenda is their Juneteenth festival which includes so many activities and events, entertainment and vendors. This will be the 53rd year that Northcott has been so involved in the event. The event commemorates June 19, 1965 when federal troops arrived in Galveston, TX and ensured that all enslaved people were freed.

In the May/June response magazine, page 11 is a great article written about the Juneteenth celebration at Northcott/Milwaukee area. It was written by Vanessa Johnson, Development Director for Northcott. She did a wonderful job of describing the event. Below is listed some of the fun events of the Juneteenth event in case you aren't able to see the response article. On June 19, 2024, Northcott will host the annual Juneteenth Parade and Celebration. More than 50,000 are expected to attend.

They had 100 entries in the parade last year. As many or even more are expected this year. Also includes hundreds of vendors, national and local talent is expected to perform. Vanessa also thanked the United Women in Faith for all our support for the behind-the-scenes items--safety barricades, sanitation and security.

If you can't make it to Milwaukee, It is suggested you follow the Northcott Neighborhood House website Northcotthouse.org for links to the festival website.

IN THIS TOGETHER, Mary Ann Morack, mmorack@yahoo.com

News & Notes from Nominations....

Greetings and prayers, hopes and possibilities, potential and promises are all around us!! We face changes and often challenges along the way, but God is with us. I am certain that we are called to do wonderful things. I believe we are given this treasured gift of bringing Faith, Hope, and Love to others. We can literally make a joyful change in the lives of those we are blessed to serve.

We are called to action. We are called to trust God to give us the grace and support we need as we set forth to serve. The Southwest District team is waiting eagerly for women to fill the open leadership roles on the team. Are you listening? Can you hear the love in the call? It is a gift to work together, to uplift, support, encourage and share with those on the team!! There are helping hands and practical assistance all along the pathway.

Think about the joy of serving as leader of Spiritual Growth, or Membership, Nurture and Outreach. Consider the role of secretary and the sense of connection and essential information you would keep. Perhaps you would enjoy the role of Young Women's Representative or Historian.

No matter what you would choose, there is a team waiting to greet and support you. My prayer is that you will consider the awesome opportunity it would be. I know there are doubts and loads of reasons to say, "NO", that you feel might be an issue. My prayer is that you feel the presence of God and answer, "Here I am, Lord!"

Blessings to all from the nominations team,

Call for information 920 210 4048, or email

bakermar1803@gmail.com

Carol Lange, Judy Loveless, Charlene Mingst, Mary Baker
(chairperson)

Communication Coordinator

MISSION MATTERS DATE CHANGE - The September issue will be eliminated and there will be a November issue instead. That deadline will be **Nov. 13th**. (There will still be an August issue).

2024 Directory/Yearbook corrections/additions:

P. 24 - President Gloria Carter - Home phone - 608-849-7589, Cell - 608-213-4205

These are the corrections/additions that have been brought to my attention so far. Please email me with any others so I can update the SW District spreadsheet.

If you are not now receiving Mission Matters, but would like to, send your request with your email address to me at the same address.

Thanks!

Annie Hill, SW District Comm. Coor. anniehill50@gmail.com



South West District 2024 Annual Gathering United Women in Faith

Portage United Methodist Church, 1804 New Pinery Rd, Portage, WI 53901

Saturday, September 14th, 2024, 9:00 – 3:00

Registration begins at 8:30 AM. The program begins at 9:00 AM.

Our theme will be Breaking Bread Together (based on the 2024 Daily Prayer Guide). We will be celebrating all

the ways United Women in Faith continue to be involved in Missions, including local, Conference, and National

Mission institutions. We will have inspiring speakers, beautiful music and devotions, meaningful updates for

our South West District, and we will close with Communion.

“For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” John 6:33

Recycle Socks and Raise Funds for Northcott Neighborhood House

Recycling clean, used socks seemed like an easy thing to do, and most people have a lot of them. You may have read about it in The Green Team Times, a newspaper sent out by Josie Gobel from First UMC in Madison. A company called Gildan, makers of GOLDTOE® socks, had begun this initiative with TerraCycle. Anyone can collect clean, used socks of any brand to send to TerraCycle to recycle. Every shipment of socks sent in earns reward points based on weight. You earn 100 TerraCycle reward points per pound of socks. These reward points can then be donated to Northcott Neighborhood House.

We will be collecting the socks at the South West District Annual Gathering.

There are two positive outcomes with doing this project. You are earning funds for Northcott Neighborhood House, and it will keep hundreds of pounds of old used socks out of our landfills!

Detach and send

Registration Form: (Please complete one registration form for each person attending this event.)

Your registration fee of \$20.00 includes morning refreshments, luncheon and all materials used for preparation of this event. **Please make checks payable to SW District UWF.**

Please send the registration form and payment to:

Eileen Bennett, 332 W Prairie St, Columbus, WI 53925

bennettpe1@charter.net

Name: _____ (Please print)

Street/PO Box: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

UMW Unit or Congregation: _____

The lunch menu will be included in your confirmation letter. Please list any special dietary needs:

Are you interested in child care? _____

Please also let us know of any special mobility needs. _____

Family members are welcome to attend. We also welcome all youth! Please let us know if you would like to bring a guest.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: Sept 3rd. Registrations received after Sept 3rd will not guarantee child care or lunch.



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

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



United
Women
in Faith

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)

1st 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 Subject line: 07/13/2024 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**

Name of attendee: Will provide own lunch (recommended if dietary restriction) Preferred Pronouns _____

Address, City, State, Zip

Phone:

Message preference:

v-message text

Email

Optional Demographic Information I prefer not to answer

If supplying Please circle or mark: Age: under 19 20-45 46-55 over 55 Gender: _____

Emergency Contact: Name _____

Contact's Phone/Cell: _____ **Relationship:** _____

Where to find Medical information for EMTs (registration form, bracelet, wallet, emergency contact, etc):

(Optional) health information to share with the Mission u Team for more timely health assistance
(diabetes, epilepsy, mental health concerns, asthma, etc.)

United Women in Faith Reading Program Report Form 20_____

- Plan 1 – One item in each category. (5 items)
- Plan 2 – Two Items in each category. (10 Items)
- Plan 3 – Plan 2 plus 5 items (15 Items)
- Plan 4 – Plan 2 plus 10 items or more. (20 Items)

Send to: Alice Schellenberger, SW District E&I Coordinator, E12628 Man Mound Rd., Baraboo WI 53913-9636 **Due Sept. 1** Make a copy to keep for your personal record.

| |
|---|
| Name: |
| Email: |
| Address: |
| Phone: |
| Cell: |
| Unit: |
| District: |
| Conference: |
| Education for Mission (EM): Title, Author and Year: |
| Leadership Development (LD): Title, Author and Year: |
| Nurturing for Community (NC): Title, Author and Year: |
| Social Action (SA): Title, Author and Year: |
| Spiritual Growth (SG): Title, Author and Year: |
| Plus 5 for Plan 3 Title, Author, Year and Category: |
| Plus 5 for Plan 4 Title, Author, Year and Category: |
| Response Magazine (Read 6 issues a year): |

All Items in the Reading Program are listed at
<https://uwfaith.org/resources/reading-program/>

Books from this year’s list and the previous 5 years lists can count.

Mabel Heil Scholarship Fund Wisconsin Conference

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 in 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 a 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 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

South West District Calendar 2024

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| January | February | March |
| 20th - District Team Meeting 9 am - 12 pm - Zoom | | 16th - District Team Meeting 9 am - 12 pm - Zoom |
| 24th - Mission Matters Due | 1st - Mission Task Reports due | 20th - Mission Matters Due |
| April | May | June |
| 13th - Conference Social Action Day - Zoom or watch parties - Lodi UMC and First UMC, Madison 27th - District Spring Retreat-Platteville UMC | 31st - June 2nd North Central Jurisdiction Quadrennial Event - Indianapolis | 15th - District Team meeting - 9:30 am - 3 pm Prairie du Chien UMC 18 & 20, 25 & 27 Mission U - Zoom |
| | | 19th - Mission Matters Due |
| July | August | September |
| 13th - Mission u Overview 9:00 am -3:30 pm Winding Rivers UMC, New Lisbon WI | 3rd - District Team meeting 9:30 am - 3 pm Portage UMC | 14th - District Annual Gathering - Portage UMC |
| | 7th - Mission Matters Due | 1st - Reading List Due |
| October | November | December |
| 11th - 12th Conference Annual Gathering Eau Claire - Lake St. UMC | 9th - District Day of Enrichment Dodgeville UMC | |
| 1st - Officer List Form Due | 13th - Mission Matters Due | 10th - Pledge Money Due |

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| <p>Communication Coordinator- Ann Hill 2802 Maple Grove Dr., Madison, WI 53719 c(920)740-6843 Email: anniehill50@gmail.com</p> | <p>Send me items about your unit activities to include in our Mission Matters Newsletter.</p> | <p>Mission Matters Due dates: August 7, Nov. 13</p> |
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Mission Matters
SW District UWF
C/O Ann Hill
2802 Maple Grove Dr.
Madison, WI 53719



Calendar of Events 2024

South West District Events

Mission u - Zoom - June 18 & 20, 25 & 27

Mission u Overview - July 13 - Winding Rivers UMC, New Lisbon, WI

District Annual Gathering - September 14 at Portage UMC

Day of Enrichment – Dodgeville UMC, November 9

South West District Team Meetings

August 3 – Portage UMC - Newsletter article deadline Aug. 7

Nov. 13 - Last newsletter deadline