



United
Women
in Faith

Mission Matters

SW District UWF Newsletter
January/February 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). The new year of 2024 is underway and soon it will be February! Again this year we are presented with more challenges and opportunities as we continue the mission work of our wonderful sisterhood. The words of Jeremiah 29:11 from my first article for Mission Matters in 2022 still ring true in my mind. With all that is facing the United Methodist Church, United Women in Faith and our country, we need to believe in and rejoice together that our Lord will be with us on our journey. 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 together with God's help we CAN continue putting our faith, hope and love into action. Our mission to work with women, children and youth here and all over the world is still before us. Hold the words of Jeremiah in your heart. (Continued on page 2)

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Our 2024 South West (SW) District leadership team met on January 20th to begin planning for what faith, hope and love in action will look like this year. As part of our listening to what God is saying to us, each of our leaders will be reaching out to all units and district members. We want to hear what you think God is guiding us to do. The officers who are your unit sisters will be listed in the March edition of Mission Matters along with their contact information. Your sisters want to listen to you and learn about your unit. We want to answer questions if you have them, invite you to events and get to know you. Consider inviting us to one of your events. District members please contact me or other officers so we can hear what you want us to include in our plan and how we can best keep you connected to UW Faith.

Our leadership team will work with others to learn and share information about the changes in the United Methodist Church, our Wisconsin Annual Conference, and United Women in Faith. Working together we will learn how the changes will affect the mission work we do and how we can continue the mission we have embarked on.

To care for our souls and strengthen and lift our spirits our team is preparing a spiritual retreat for Saturday, April 27th. We will be hosted by the wonderful UW Faith women at Platteville UMC. We will gather to be inspired to continue our work together. More information is elsewhere in the newsletter along with a registration form. Join us, won't you?

January is the month of new beginnings. Together with God's help we can plan anew and continue our journey. Remember from 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 together with God's help we CAN continue putting our faith, hope and love into action. We have an amazing team of women that God has brought together in the SW District at this time to lead us through this time of challenge and new beginnings. We show up. Again from our uwfaith.org website "We're a sisterhood acting in faith to tackle the hard work of the world without hesitation".

Be sure to read each Mission Matters for it will contain information that you will need in the coming year. Join us on the journey putting our faith, hope and love into action.

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

SW District UW Faith Slate of Officers 2024

President - Sue Plasterer	seplasterer@charter.net
Vice president - Eileen Bennett	bennettpesl@charter.net
Secretary - Martha Boyer	marta@mhtc.net
Treasurer - Lisa King	lisa.king6179@gmail.com
Communications - Ann Hill	anniehill50@gmail.com
Spiritual Growth - OPEN	
Social Action - Linda Huttenburg	jlhutten@charter.net
Membership, nurture, outreach- OPEN	
Education and interpretation Alice Schellenberger	79alicejms93@gmail.com
Young Women's Rep - OPEN	
Historian - OPEN	
Northcott representative Mary Ann Morack	mmorack1@yahoo.com
Nomination Chair - Mary Baker	bakermar1803@gmail.com
Nomination - Carol Lange	langedc@uwplatt.edu
Nomination - Judy Loveless	jcenmp@rit.edu
Nomination - Charlene Mingst	jcmingst@mhtc.net
Nomination - OPEN	

Nominations News & Notes.....

Here We Go!! I am so excited to be part of this marvelous South West District United Women in Faith team! What a blessing to look ahead and see all the potential and possibilities for mission in action. We are called to be in MISSION. We are called to have VISION. We are a community of women with a clearly defined PURPOSE!

Our journey leads us ever forward into new and exciting pathways of service and care. Our journey gives us opportunities to GO into new adventures as well as travel the pathway which has been a foundation and base for our personal growth and joy.

I am blessed to have a nominations team comprised of Carol Lange, Judy Loveless, and Charlene Mingst! We celebrate the new members of the team and are looking forward to filling the offices currently open. I believe there are just the right women who are waiting to serve as Spiritual Growth, Membership, Nurture and Outreach, Young Women's Representative, Historian, or nomination roles.

I cannot begin to express what the organization has done for me. I have watched programs and projects, events and experiences filled with inspiration and care, literally changing hearts, minds and journeys!

We are ready to GO!! Come along with us in any way you can.

Contact me 920 210 4048 bakermar1803@gmail.com

Blessings and Love,

Mary Baker

Nominations Chairperson

Communication Coordinator

Hello - I am Ann Hill, the new Communication Coordinator. I just wanted to make you aware of different ways you can connect with other UWF members and resources. Please contact me at anniehill50@gmail.com with any info. to share.

uwfaith.org is the main website. There you can access any information you may need from the home page including how to subscribe to Response magazine.

uwfaith.org/digital - is the new Mighty Networks - a place you can go and interact with other members and access podcasts.

www.wisconsinumw.org - the site for the Wisconsin Conference United Methodist Women

If you are on Facebook - search for and like the "United Women in Faith - Wisconsin" page

Education and Interpretation Notes

Hello United Women in Faith!

This is my first year serving on the SW district Team. I am the 2024 Coordinator for Education and Interpretation. I am learning my role, responsibilities and tasks through the support and input of the current officers and past E & I coordinators. Thank you!

I grew up in Berea, Ohio(near Cleveland)- a city founded by Methodists. My family of 6 were very active in the local Methodist Church(my parents were youth choir directors), particularly the music groups. My mom and N.C. grandmother were involved in their Women's Society(later UMW) units at local and state levels. I went to college for Animal Science in Kentucky and later transferred into a specialised training program for Zookeeping in FLA. I was fortunate to have been a professional Zookeeper for over 35 years(retired in 2016). I was privileged to have worked with a wide variety of animals-literally from A to Z- particularly elephants, orangutans, gorillas and bears at the Topeka Zoo in KS and a diversity of animals at the Ochsner Park Zoo in Baraboo.

I moved to Baraboo in 1990, married Bill (a rural Sauk County native) in 1993 and live in the farmland & bluff area near Baraboo. Bill died of cancer in Jan. 2020. Our elder(14.5 yrs) German Shepherd, Zoey, keeps me to her routine and patiently waits(she sleeps mostly) when I am away from home.

I am active in a variety of capacities at the Baraboo First UMC and the Baraboo First UWF unit. I am the Unit's past president(of 13 yrs.) and help lead the Unit's Pasty Bake pledge and missions fund-raiser held three times per year. 2024 is the 20th year.

For Education and Interpretation, I want to encourage each unit to use the Mission Today Tasks criteria as a yearly program planner. Take time to review them. Choose what your unit CAN do and WILL do. Set a goal for your unit to be a Mission Today unit. It requires the unit to complete at least ONE task in each focus area. Be creative to express our mission as United Women in Faith in 2024.

One way is through participating in the Reading Program. The 2024 list was published in the Nov/Dec 2023 response. It is also available on the www.uwfaith.org website. Many of the materials are available through your local library. A few

movies, listening to the FaithTalks and Voices from the Field podcasts of UWF and reading the response magazine all earn credits for the program. Remember- the program covers 5 years (2019-2024) of materials-I looked over the 5 years of lists and found I had read books in a year they were not listed to find there are some now listed.

There are a variety of opportunities for your unit to support and help fund the diverse missions and programs of UWF. Make it your goal to be a 5 Star unit this year. Give to the 5 Channels of giving that include your pledge, gifts in honor and Special Recognition, gifts in memory, participate in Call to Prayer and Self-Denial and World Thank Offerings. Your support is critical to sustaining and growing the outreach at local, state, national and international communities.

Please share your creative energies and ideas on how we can work together to express our Missions as United Women in Faith.

Alice Schellenberger, SW District- Education and Interpretation(E&I)
E12628 Man Mound Road, Baraboo WI 53913-9636
79alicejms93@gmail.com Home: 608-356-2387

SOCIAL ACTION!!

Hi SW District of WI UWF!

I am Linda Huttenburg, your new (and inexperienced) Social Action coordinator. Bethany UMC is my home church where I currently serve as UWF president.

In each future Mission Matters newsletter I will highlight action items on current UWF priorities and remind you how to go about taking that action.

In this issue I want to give you information on what the national legislative priorities are for UWF and the General Board of Church and Society.

UWF: The current advocacy campaigns for UWF are Just Energy 4 All and Ending Mass Incarceration. Climate and racial justice issues are also priorities. The way to access UWF action issues is to go to uwfaith.org - What We Do - Serve and Advocate. On the Serve and Advocate page you can find links to Action Priorities and also join the mailing list for action updates.

General Board of Church and Society: GBCS legislative priorities are Climate, Health, Civil and Human Rights, Peace and Poverty. To find their action alerts go to UMCJUSTICE.ORG and you will find action alerts on the first page. There you can also join the mailing list for action alerts.

Reminder: Social Action Day(virtual) Saturday April 13 9:00 am to noon.Contact me at jlhutten@charter.net with any questions or suggestions for this site.

Day of Enrichment 2023

South West District United Women in Faith

Submitted by Eileen Bennett (bennettpe!@charter.net)

Columbus United Women in Faith hosted a Day of Enrichment for South West District UW Faith. The theme was "60 Years of United Methodist Children's Services." Our guest speaker represented UMCS, now called Rooted & Rising, and we enjoyed a very informative and inspirational message about the work they do with families in Milwaukee. Pastor Park was our song leader for the day, and also inspired us with three solos. Our pianist was a young man from Lodi UMC, Mitch Richards. Sueng Sook Park cooked us a delicious Korean lunch, and other treats were provided by members of Columbus UW Faith.

Here is some of the feedback I received on the day:

"What an astounding and marvelous mission and ministry so close to us! Thanks to Pastor Park for his solos and music leadership, our awesome pianist, volunteers in the kitchen, and Terri Fisch for running the sound booth and slide show." -Mary Baker, Columbus UW Faith President

"It was hard for me to pick even a few of the topics listed as what I liked best since each one enriched our day. For 'Other' I would add the refreshments, Korean cuisine, and the wonderful people who hosted us. What a beautiful voice your Pastor has. The pianist was excellent as well. So glad you acknowledged Veterans Day with the beautiful special music. Thank you for providing the additional information about the source of the words. (*"I Believe"*) All the special music was very fitting and so well done. It will be hard to top next year. Being the daughter and sister of organists and a family of musicians my standards for music at our events are high. You met them.

The presentation by William Schmitt about United Methodist Children's Service now Rooted and Rising - Washington Park was very enlightening and gives us all ideas about how we can continue our support of them." -Sue Plasterer, South West District UW Faith President

I would like to add my personal thank you to all the volunteers from Columbus UMC, especially Sueng Sook Park for the delicious food, Mary Baker, Terri Fisch for tech support, and many other helpers. Thank you to Pastor Park for agreeing to sing three solos! They were all perfect





NEWS FROM NORTHCOTT NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE

As we start 2024, I am happy to let you know about the holiday activities at Northcott.

Northcott Neighborhood House held their 3rd Annual “Trunk or Treat” on Sunday, 10/29/2023. It was for our children. This event impacted our community in positive ways: youth-centered positive activities, a safe place for children and families to have good old fashioned fun

Tis the Season Turkey Dinner Giveaway blessed 1,000 families with a home cooked meal from Daddy’s Soul Food and Grill on November 23, 2023 at Northcott Neighborhood House. Executive Director, Tony Kearney, Sr. thanked all the sponsors, volunteers and partners for making this possible.

Christmas gift wrapping at Northcott is another event sponsored by Northcott Neighborhood. The Milwaukee Alumni Chapter of Delta Sigma Sorority teamed up with Milwaukee Mayor Cavalier Johnson and Northcott to make sure every child could have a gift under the tree Christmas Day.

Also waiting for the families on December 25th, they would be able to pick up a hot meal. We were giving out over 4,200 meals, says Elizabeth Coggs, Northcott Director of Operations to families and individuals and over 5,000 toys to children. More than 100 volunteers helped at the event.

Support our mission.

Your contributions help Northcott Neighborhood House deliver job training, keep the food pantry stocked, and lift the spirits of the whole community. Your support will allow us to help more local Milwaukee families in need. Just a reminder that at the Social Action Day, Saturday, April 13, 2024, we will take up an offering for Northcott Neighborhood House.

IN THIS TOGETHER,

Mary Ann Morack, mmorack1@yahoo.com

SAVE THE DATE! - SOCIAL ACTION DAY

April 13, 2024 9:00 am-12:00 pm Via Zoom

“Ending Mass Incarceration and Improving Treatment of Incarceration Impacted Women” SPEAKERS



Honorable/Reverend Everett Mitchell (he/him)

Judge Mitchell is a Dane Co Circuit Court Judge and Senior Pastor of Christ the Solid Rock Baptist Church. He

is a fierce advocate for education, social justice and equity. Judge Mitchell also oversees Dane County’s Drug Court Program and is committed to dismantling the Child Welfare to Juvenile Delinquency to Adult Prison

Pipeline operating not only in Wisconsin, but also around the country.



Peggy West-Schroder (she/her)

Ms. West-Schroder is the Executive Director for FREE.

Directly and indirectly impacted, Peggy has been affected adversely by mass incarceration since birth, having been born while her mother was incarcerated in Taycheedah Correctional Facility (TCF). Raised in Foster Care and later adopted into a loving family, Peggy graduated from Milwaukee Area Technical College and has worked for the past 30 years in Human Services in addition to 14 years as an elected member of the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors (2002 – 2018) at which she made history as the first Hispanic Person ever elected to the board. Today Peggy is working to assure that incarcerated women across the State of WI are treated with dignity, that feel supported, and are provided trauma informed care. Her goal is to change the process by which babies are born within DOC, righting the wrongs faced by her mother and many other women. IMPORTANT!!!

- All churches planning a watch party must notify Josie Gobel by February 20 so registration can begin March 1!
- To register a Watch Party please contact: Josie Gobel, 920-988-0705 or email josiegobel@charter.net
- Additional Questions contact Kathy Hartke at kdhartke@gmail.com or 262-366-6770
- Please send the name of the host coordinator for the watch party, name of church, address and if a breakfast or lunch will be served. Currently watch parties are being scheduled at Lodi UMC and First UMC Madison. More info to come!



The workshop will be led by Rev. Dr Barbara Wells, a retired pastor in the Wisconsin Conference. Barbara is married and lives in Edgerton Wisconsin. She has served 2 churches in Maryland and 4 churches in Wisconsin. Barbara began her career in ministry after working for The Gallup Organization and organizations in education.

South West District UWF Spiritual Growth Retreat

United Women in Faith- We are Leadership

Retreat Leader:
Rev. Barbara Wells

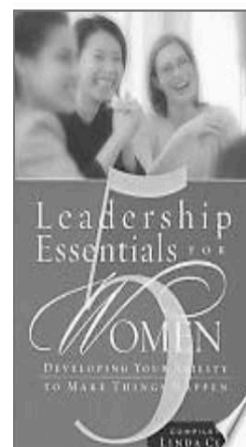
Saturday, April 27, 2024
Platteville UMC

1065 Lancaster St., Platteville, WI
8:30am - Check-in, coffee,
& breakfast repast
9:15am - 2:30pm, lunch included.

In-Gathering – We will be supporting the local mission “Platteville Food Pantry”. They are in need of non-perishable food donations. They also accept toilet paper.

The theme of April's meeting of the United Women in Faith is Leadership. Specifically, we will focus on leadership essentials for women, based on the book “5 Leadership Essentials for Women – Developing Your Ability to Make Things Happen” compiled by author Linda Clark.

Topics will include fundamentals of communication, group building, relationship skills, conflict and time management and will be linked with supporting scripture. Using the information gleaned from these topics will increase your ability to serve in your church, community and workplace.



Jesus lived in times of upheaval and fragmentation. When asked about who a neighbor is, he spoke of a person whose presence in Jewish society was considered polluting. There was a broken and abandoned person left on the side of the road to die. That polluting person gave new life to a dying stranger. That polluting person also left money at an inn so that the stranger could receive more care and be able to heal before he went on his way. The neighbor (a Samaritan) defied fragmentation quietly because it needed to be done. That person was a leader. (KM)



South West District UWF
Spiritual Growth Retreat

**United Women in Faith-
We are Leadership**

Retreat Leader: Rev. Barbara Wells

Saturday, April 27, 2024

Platteville UMC

1065 Lancaster St., Platteville, WI

8:30am - Check-in, coffee, & breakfast repast

9:15am - 2:30pm, lunch included.



Rev Wells will focus on leadership essentials for women, based on the book "5 Leadership Essentials for Women – Developing Your Ability to Make Things Happen" compiled by author Linda Clark.

We will focus on communication, group building, relationship, conflict and time management and will be linked with supporting scripture.

In-Gathering – We will be supporting the local mission "Platteville Food Pantry". They are in need of non perishable food donations. They also accept toilet paper.

(Remove and Return Bottom Portion.)

Spiritual Growth Retreat Registration Form

Name -

Address -

Phone -

Church -

Email -

Food allergies and preferences:

☐ In need of Child Care (names and ages):

Enclose \$15.00 check payable to **South West District UWF** due April 12, 2024

☐ Separate check made to "Platteville Food Pantry" for in-gathering donation.

Send or email registration to-

Susan Schlager 255 E. Madison St. Platteville, WI 53818

Question? (608) 348-9575 smschlager@yahoo.com

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: Mary Ann Morack 254 Strangeway Ave. #5 Lodi, WI 53555 (608) 592-4784 C (608) 581-6353
mmorack1@ yahoo.com 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.

WISCONSIN CONFERENCE United Women in Faith South West District

Mission Today Local Unit Report Form

Year: _____

1. Plan programs that encourage spiritual growth. (Program book, **response** magazine, etc.

FAITH

2. Create prayer partners with other church groups.
3. Pray using the Prayer Calendar at meetings.
4. Organize the spiritual growth study from Mission u, possibly several evenings/ weeks.

1. Take advantage of opportunities through UMW such as Mission u, Spiritual Growth Retreats, Annual Gatherings, Mission Action Day.

HOPE

2. Set aside a time to go over the year's plans using Mission Today Mission Tasks.
3. Implement the Charter for Racial Justice program.
4. Present a mission study from Mission u, inviting church members. Host a church-wide discussion of United Methodist initiatives and programs such as the Way Forward.

1. Honor the organization's leaders and member's contributions with Special Mission Recognition pins. Don't forget community leaders.

LOVE

2. Encourage everyone to visit or invite visitors to/from other local UMW organizations.
3. Publicize your events using newsletters, bulletin boards, Sunday bulletins, social media, phone calls, etc.
4. Plan a year end program to give thanks and celebrate your accomplishments.

1. Encourage all members to participate in the Pledge for Mission; give reports on where the money goes.
2. Involve all members in fundraising (think creatively).

IN ACTION

3. Contribute to scholarships (UMW related) and Mission u. (\$25.00 or more).
4. Partner with a mission institution such as Northcott, or Wisconsin Conference supported Harbor House, United Methodist Children's Services of Wisconsin, etc. Sponsor a local project in your community.

To become a Mission Today organization, please complete one task from each category. Please let us know if you have tried any new criteria this year. Any criteria that are not currently listed but would fit in one of the categories can be included in the unit reports.

Presidents of **All Local Units**, please complete the form below even though you may not qualify as a Mission Today unit. Refer any Questions to your District Team. Return this form by **Feb 1st** to your District Education and Interpretation Coordinator.

Send to: Alice Shellenberger E12628 Man Mound Road
Baraboo, WI 53913-9636 79alicejms93@gmail.com
home ph: 608-356-2387

Name of Church:

Your Name:

Your Address:

Home phone:

Cell Phone:

Email:

Criteria Completed (Circle the numbers completed)

**Any criteria that are not currently listed but would fit in one of the categories can be included in the unit reports.*

Faith 1 2 3 4 Hope 1 2 3 4

Love 1 2 3 4 In Action 1 2 3 4

Report any new criteria tried this year/comments:

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 27th - District Spring Retreat Platteville UMC	May 30th - 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
	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 25th - Mission Matters 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		10th - Pledge Money Due

Communication Coordinator- Ann Hill 2802 Maple Grove Dr., Madison, WI 53719 c(920)740-6843 Email: anniehill50@gmail.com	Send me items about your unit activities to include in our Mission Matters Newsletter.	Mission Matters Due dates: March 20, June 19, August 7, Sept. 25
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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

Conference Mission Action Day - Apr. 13

Spring Retreat – April 27 at Platteville UMC

North Central Jurisdiction Quadrennial Event - Indianapolis - May 30 - Jun 2

Mission U - June 18&20, 25 & 27

District Annual Gathering - September 14 at Portage UMC

Day of Enrichment – Dodgeville UMC, November 9

South West District Team Meetings

March 16 on Zoom - Newsletter article deadline March 20

June 15 – Prairie du Chien UMC - Newsletter article deadline June 19

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

Sept. 25 - Last newsletter deadline