



 **Notes from our District President, Ruby Dow**

Happy New Year! The theme for the Daily Prayer Guide 2024 is Let Us Break Bread Together. The verse that starts out the new year is: Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty." John 6:35

As I return from UMCOR-Sager Brown and start to return to a routine, I remember the pallet prayer that we did every time we completed a pallet of cleaning buckets. It seems like a small thing, but it is an acknowledgment of the suffering that occurs with floods, hurricanes, and tornadoes. We blessed the cleaning buckets to acknowledge the suffering that occurs and how cleaning buckets may lessen the stress the individuals are experiencing with clean-up. I will probably never use a cleaning bucket, but cleaning buckets were distributed in Sauk and Juneau Counties several years ago when there was flooding in the area. It is with gratitude to know that UMCOR exists and that I have had a very small part in being part of that ministry.

As we start a new year, it is important that we take time to nurture our souls and to seek what God is calling us to do. There are programs coming up that will help us do what God is calling us to do. Social Action Day is Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup> on ZOOM from 9am – noon. The theme is: **Ending Mass Incarceration and Improving Treatment of Incarceration Impacted Women.** The speakers are: the Honorable/Reverend Everett Mitchell

Dane County Circuit Court Judge and Senior Pastor of Christ the Solid Rock Baptist Church and Peggy West-Schroder, Executive Director for FREE. Your church may want to host a watch party, and you can find more information on Page 4.

The North Central District Spring Spiritual Retreat will be on Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup> at Pine Lake Camp. More information can be found on Page 9.

Welcome Home is the adult Mission u curriculum that explores how we can know God as an intimate friend who welcomes all – encouraging us to open our hearts to embrace God's power. The explorations will lead participants onward expanding to welcome others to join us in our work as co-creators establishing God's kin-dom on earth.

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**President's Note, Continued from Page 1**

The sessions include Scripture reviews, discussions, and activities to apply what is being learned. There will also be two intergenerational sessions by author Neomi Fletcher.

Dates for Mission u are:      Online                      June 18, 20, 25, and 27, 2024 from 6:30pm to 9:30pm  
   Overview Day                      July 13, 2024, Winding Rivers UMC, New Lisbon

Youth Mission Camp (YOMICA) Pine Lake – See page 10 for a brief overview and the registration information.

You are probably aware that the Wisconsin Conference will be decreasing from five to four Districts during 2024. Wisconsin United Women in Faith will also decrease to four districts on January 1, 2025. I do not know what the District boundaries will be, but the North Central District will not exist next year. I am hopeful that individuals will participate in the Spring Retreat and in our Annual Gathering on September 14<sup>th</sup>, as we celebrate and remember the North Central District.

Change is always occurring, and the United Women in Faith goes forward believing that love in action can change the world.

*Blessings as we go forward in a new year.*



**Big Thank You Notes.....to both Carol Anderson** who was your previous Communications Coordinator and Editor of the Jubilate (notice that her expert hand is missing and an additional thanks to her for all her assistance with the current rookie), and to **Carol Hornby** for her many years of service to the UWF as the District Secretary and her work on the Nominating Committee.

*Our thanks to you both!*

**Notes from our District Vice-President, Cindy Tyjeski**

Hi! My name is Cindy Tyjeski and I am your Vice-President for 2024. This will be my third year serving the North Central District. I, along with our officer team, are currently working on the District Fall Gathering. If you haven't been to a District Gathering, I encourage you to come. The friendships you make will last a lifetime. The more involved, the more enjoyment you will get. Also, if you have never attended, contact one of the District Officers; they will be happy to introduce you and help you feel comfortable. I'm looking forward to seeing current friends and making new ones!

**Notes from our District Secretary, Julie Miehe**

Each unit should have received a copy of the 2024 Directory for local, district and conference officers by the time you get the JUBILATE. If you see any corrections that need to be made, please let me know as soon as possible. I want to thank you all for responding to requests for your officers. I am willing to provide a program of any sort to your local unit. I would like to personally invite you to participate in some of the upcoming events. The Conference is hosting a ZOOM Social Action event on April 13<sup>th</sup>. My unit in Wausau is offering a watch party in our church on that day. Our spring retreat is coming up in May, and then we can experience Mission u by ZOOM or at an overview day that will be hosted by one of our own district units—New Lisbon Winding Rivers. I also still have the thumb drive with the presentation by Janet Wolf from Assembly that was presented at our annual meeting last fall and am happy to share with any unit. We anticipate changes coming to our district as the church is moving to four districts that will be announced at the Annual Conference in June.

*There are several truths in our lives and world: Change is inevitable and God loves us.*

**Notes From Our District Treasurer, Joan Burk-Miller**

Great job this past year! We paid 75% of our \$40,000 Pledge to Mission! That is up 10.5% over 2022. Our Pledge to Mission for 2024 is \$35,000. There are still several units that have not sent in their 2024 Pledge to Mission. As this is the final year for the North Central District, I hope we can go out with a bang!

With this being our final year in the conference, I offered to stay on as treasurer for the transition.

Make certain both Treasurer and President are co-signers for your checkbook. Always remember to contact me with any changes to a treasurer's phone number, address, or e-mail.

See you all at our Spiritual Growth Retreat in May!!

**Notes from our Spiritual Growth Coordinator, Margaret Getzin****Love and Work**

Love is a very versatile word in English. It describes a variety of feelings and preferences. We love our families, friends, and pets. I love singing and reading, walking around my neighborhood and being at the cottage. I love morning coffee and cinnamon toast.

These might be examples of "love", but how do we learn to truly love as God would have us love? How do we develop a deep, enduring love for all?

Take a look at 1 John 4:7-21. The epistle writer tells us, "Dear friends, let's love each other, because love is from God, and everyone who loves is born from God and knows God" (v. 7, CEB). Is it easy to love every human? Am I easy to love? Well...not always. Loving one another as Christian people takes intention and

**Continued on Page 4**


**Spiritual Growth Notes Continued from Page 3**

work. United Women in Faith can teach us how we can work and love others in our community, in our supportive fellowship.

Educator Greg Moffitt made this observation about education, work, and love. I think it applies to everything we do in UWF:

"Education is hard work and is heart work. We need each other. We need to help each other.  
We are all in this together."

I hope to see you at the Spring Retreat at Pine Lake Camp on May 4th. Invite a girlfriend to come with you!

 **Notes from our Social Action/Missions Coordinator, Sue Loeffler**  
United Women in Faith's two priority issues for 2024 are Climate Justice for All and Racial Justice – End Criminalization of Communities of Color and Mass Incarceration (School to Prison Pipeline). This year's Social Action Day focuses on the latter. Please consider attending individually or with a group.

**2024 SOCIAL ACTION DAY APRIL 13, 9:00AM-NOON**

The title is "Ending Mass Incarceration and Improving Treatment of Incarceration Impacted Women." The speakers will be:

- Honorable/Reverend Everett Mitchell - Dane County Circuit Court Judge and Senior Pastor of Christ the Solid Rock Baptist Church
- Peggy West-Schroder - Executive Director for FREE (FREE seeks visionary alternatives to the current systems of injustice and incarceration; <https://freemvmt.org/>)

I strongly encourage you all to consider hosting a Watch Party at your church. This is a fun way to learn new information and to have the opportunity to discuss together. Here are some helpful tips on how to host:

**WATCH PARTY SUGGESTED PREPARATION**

- SCHEDULE THE WATCH PARTY ON YOUR CHURCH CALENDAR.
- SHARE IN CHURCH NEWSLETTER AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS.
- CHOOSE A ROOM WITH GOOD WIRELESS/INTERNET CAPABILITY AND MONITOR.
- CHOOSE A COORDINATOR TO PLAN A BREAKFAST AND/OR LUNCH FOR SOCIAL TIME.
- ASSIGN A ZOOM ADMINISTRATOR TO MONITOR THE COMPUTER AND CHAT.
- QUESTIONS CAN BE SUBMITTED ON ZOOM CHAT BY THE ADMINISTRATOR.
- ENSURE TECH SUPPORT AVAILABLE FOR YOUR WATCH PARTY.
- TEST YOUR EQUIPMENT FOR ZOOM PRIOR TO THE DAY OF THE EVENT.
- CONSIDER HAVING PARTICIPANTS SIT AT TABLES WITH PAPER & WRITING UTENSILS FOR NOTE TAKING.
- SHARE YOUR EVENT ON CHURCH AND SOCIAL MEDIA, CHURCH-WIDE, AND COMMUNITY-WIDE.
- OFFER CHILDCARE TO ALLOW YOUNG MOMS TO PARTICIPATE.
- CONNECT TO LOCAL SOCIAL ACTION GROUPS-WISDOM AFFILIATES.
- TAKE AN OFFERING FOR NORTHCOTT NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE.
- INVITE OTHER CHURCHES TO YOUR WATCH PARTY!!

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**Social Action/Missions Notes Continued from Page 4****IMPORTANT!!!**

**All churches planning a watch party must notify Josie Gobel by February 20<sup>th</sup> so registration can begin on March 1<sup>st</sup>!** To register a watch party please contact: Josie Gobel, 920-988-0705 or email [josiegobel@charter.net](mailto:josiegobel@charter.net) She will need to know the name of the host coordinator for the watch party, name of church, address and if a breakfast or lunch will be served. For additional questions contact Kathy Hartke [kdhartke@gmail.com](mailto:kdhartke@gmail.com) 262-366-6770.

In October, United Methodist Children's Services in Milwaukee announced that they changed their name to ***Rooted & Rising – Washington Park.***

Since its establishment in 1962 as a nonprofit social service agency of the United Methodist Church, this agency has been dedicated to uplifting and empowering those they serve. In the early 1990's, the agency put down roots in Milwaukee's Washington Park neighborhood and has proudly called it home ever since. This new name reflects the agency's determination to work in true partnership with individuals and families in the Washington Park neighborhood to establish strong, resilient roots, to continue growing, and to rise to reach their full potential. Rooted & Rising - Washington Park operates a wide range of essential programs designed to meet the diverse needs and priorities of the community:

1. **Quality, Affordable Housing:** Multifaceted housing program, consisting of a 72-unit supportive rental housing portfolio and new development initiatives to promote homeownership, is predicated on the belief that all families deserve safe, affordable, and high-quality housing as an essential foundation upon which to meet basic needs and build for the future.
2. **Neighborhood Engagement:** A Neighborhood Engagement Team (NET) supports residents and collaborates with partners to build community, enhance the quality of life, advocate for change and shape the future of the Washington Park neighborhood.
3. **Childcare Services:** Growing Tree Children's Center offers high-quality, affordable early childhood education, ensuring that parents can pursue their dreams while their children learn and grow in a safe, caring, and compassionate environment.
4. **Food Security:** The Community Food Center is a dignity-centered, warm, and welcoming place for residents to access free and nutritious food and other basic need items, receive direct assistance from service providers, and get connected to other resources and community-building opportunities at the neighborhood level.
5. **Social Work Assistance:** Social work outreach focuses on helping individuals and families meet basic needs, overcome crises and unexpected challenges, and strive to achieve their dreams.

For more information about Rooted & Rising - Washington Park and their programs, please visit the website at [www.rootedandrisingwp.org](http://www.rootedandrisingwp.org) or contact Bill Schmitt, Executive Director, at 414- 344-1818 or [william.schmitt@rootedandrisingwp.org](mailto:william.schmitt@rootedandrisingwp.org)

**We Serve, We Advocate, We Make a Difference – Peace to my sisters united in faith.**



## Notes from our Program Resources Coordinator, Susan Shapiro

**2024 Reading Program** (Go to [uwfaith.org/read](http://uwfaith.org/read) for listing of recommended books)

Tips on Improving Reading Program Participation:

1. Set a good example. Promote *enthusiastically* good books you have read. A good time is at the UWF General Meetings or Circle Meetings; I found success in reading a program book and then discussing it at our Circle meetings.
2. Start a Book Club. It would only take one book every two months to finish the program. There are plenty of great books to discuss.
3. Encourage your significant other to join you. Gives you something to talk about during these long winters.
4. To get you started, the following are three program books that I received positive comments on:

*BRAIDING SWEETGRASS by Robin Wall Kimmerer (Spiritual Growth)*

*As a botanist, Kimmerer is trained to ask questions of nature with the tools of science. As a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, she embraces the notion that plants and animals are our oldest teachers. Here she brings these two lenses together. Drawing on her life as an Indigenous scientist and a woman, Kimmerer shows how other living beings offer us gifts and lessons even if we've forgotten how to hear their voices. She circles toward a central argument: that the awakening of ecological consciousness requires acknowledgement and celebration of our reciprocal relationship with the rest of the living world.*

*THE DEATH AND LIFE OF AIDA HERNANDEZ: A BORDER STORY by Aaron Bobrow-Strain (Ed. for Mission)*

*This book tells the story of a Mexican teen mother, Aida, journeying through the U.S. immigration system and the obstacles she faces. Aida was born in Mexico in 1987. When Aida was 8 years old, her mother took her and her siblings to live in Arizona, where she grew up undocumented. After her deportation, Aida found herself in a Mexican city marked by violence, in a country not hers, and separated from her son. To get back to the United States and reunite with her son, she embarked on a harrowing journey, enduring detention centers, immigration courts, and more.*

*LEAD FROM THE OUTSIDE: HOW TO BUILD YOUR FUTURE AND MAKE REAL CHANGE*

*by Stacey Abrams (Leadership Development)*

*Stacy Abrams, one of the most prominent Black female politicians in the U.S., offers this necessary handbook for harnessing the strengths of being an outsider when it comes to leadership. Abrams argues that knowing your own passion is the key to success, and she draws from her experience and hard-won insights to break down how ambition, fear, money, and failure function in leadership, while offering personal stories that illuminate practical strategies. Differences in race, gender, and class are surmountable, she asserts. The trick is to proactively use this "otherness" while recognizing internal fears.*

The deadline for the 2024 Reading Program is August 31, 2024. Good luck and please email any other helpful tips to me.

P.S. Don't forget that the bonus books count as 2!!!



## Meet the New Communications Coordinator, Dilynn Kiefer

I hope you noticed I have already been *brave* and made a change to the masthead of our newsletter. As I have been working on my first edition, I have rapidly realized how many articles and pieces of information (notes) go into this publication (music)! Let me tell you, it's a SYMPHONY!

My name is Dilynn Kiefer, a retiree from the Veterans Affairs Medical Center. I worked as an administrative assistant and clerical support for multiple supervisors during my 37 years. Following retirement, I was asked to serve as the Tomah: First UMC's secretary during a transition between pastors. I learned a lot during that time. I was also a member of our local UWF, which has now become inactive. To remain informed and up-to-date on all the Conference opportunities, I accepted this position. I also continue to remain active in our church as a Lay Leader and Membership Secretary. I look forward to serving as your new district communications coordinator for 2024.

### 2024 North Central District Officers' Contact Information

#### President

Ruby Dow  
W3008 49<sup>th</sup> St  
Mauston, WI 53948  
608-847-2398  
[remdow@ymail.com](mailto:remdow@ymail.com)

#### Communications Coordinator

Dilynn Kiefer  
1408 Lakeview Dr  
Tomah, WI 54660  
608-344-1919  
[dilynnkiefer@yahoo.com](mailto:dilynnkiefer@yahoo.com)

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#### Spiritual Growth Coordinator

Margaret Getzin  
412 Kolter St  
Wausau, WI 54403  
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#### Treasurer

Joan Burk-Miller  
606 E Cassidy Dr  
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#### Social Action & Mission Education

Sue Loeffler  
PO Box 285  
Mercer, WI 54547  
815-546-5033  
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#### Secretary

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1316 Silver Spring St  
Wausau, WI 54401  
715-348-5778  
[julie.mieke9@gmail.com](mailto:julie.mieke9@gmail.com)

#### Program Resources Coordinator

Sue Shapiro  
1365 Fills Lake Rd  
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414-416-5102  
[terapn@yahoo.com](mailto:terapn@yahoo.com)



### 2024 Wisconsin Conference Officers' Contact Information

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Vice-President		OPEN	
Secretary	Christine Anding	<a href="mailto:christinemarie1950@gmail.com">christinemarie1950@gmail.com</a>	262-607-1386
Treasurer	Lisa King	<a href="mailto:lisaking6179@gmail.com">lisaking6179@gmail.com</a>	608-335-6179
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Mbr. Nurture	Katrina Willis	<a href="mailto:katrinav.willis@outlook.com">katrinav.willis@outlook.com</a>	608-658-3109

### Sister Units Assigned for 2024

As the new year has rolled in, the district has assigned sister units. Each of the district officers would like to offer our service in working with your organization. It may be providing programming, attending one of your fundraisers, or any other thing you might need.

Sue Shapiro- Berlin, Markesan, Rhinelander

Joan Burk-Miller- Norwalk, Mattoon

Sue Loeffler- Black River Falls, Tomahawk, Mercer

Margaret Getzin- Almond, Port Edwards, Wild Rose

Dilynn Kiefer - Alma Center, Trempealeau, Rockland

Julie Miehe- Merrilan, Plainfield, Sparta

Ruby Dow- Winding River, District Members

Cindy Tyjeski- Wautoma, Antigo, South Burr Oak

An additional note, if you have a change in phone number or email address, can you please forward those to Julie Miehe so that you can continue to receive the Jubilate and get any information from the district and conference team to keep your United Women in Faith unit active and achieving our purpose?



United  
Women  
in Faith

**Day of Giving - Together we are building our Legacy!**

FAITHFULLY FORWARD - Join United Women in Faith as we step faithfully forward, uniting hearts and hands to create a brighter, more compassionate tomorrow for women, children, and youth. Please give to The Legacy Endowment Fund on the Day of Giving, March 23<sup>rd</sup>.

#### Ways to Give:

- Online at: [uwfaith.org/dayofgiving](http://uwfaith.org/dayofgiving)
- By phone: 800-278-7771 (8am-5pm EST, Mon.-Fri.)
- Text: "FUTURE" to 20503
- By Check to: United Women in Faith, Attn: Legacy, 777 United Nations Plaza, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor, Church Center for the United Nations, New York, NY 10117 (Write "Day of Giving" in the memo section.)



North Central District UWF Spring Retreat at Pine Lake UM Camp, Saturday May 4<sup>th</sup>  
W8301 County Rd M, Westfield, WI

Shuttle service from the parking area to Amphlett Hall is provided)

"Feed, Care, Lift--Repeat"  
Feeding our Bodies, Caring for our Souls and Lifting our Spirits

*How are you feeling? Does your spirit need a little boost or a major lift?*

You are invited to take a day away from the busy rush, or the tedious monotony, and attend the Spring Retreat on May 4, 2024.

The scriptures, worship, activities, and conversations will give you an opportunity to rest, rejuvenate and refill your heart so you can go out with joy. Ask a friend to join you!

PROGRAM AGENDA

8:30am Registration and refreshments

9:00am Gathering worship

9:30am Program and activities: "Feed, Care, Lift--Repeat"

12:00 Noon LUNCH

1:00pm Program and activities

2:30pm Sending forth

Mission focus: Bring a non-perishable food item for the shelter at The Women's Community in Wausau.

If your family needs to contact us during the retreat, contact Margaret (715) 297-8531.

Registration deadline is **April 18, 2024**.

Mail the form below to Joan Burk-Miller, 606 E. Cassidy Drive, Wausau, WI 54401

Cost (includes lunch) \$20 // After April 18, \$25

Check payable to: North Central District Treasurer

Name\_\_\_\_\_


Address\_\_\_\_\_ Phone\_\_\_\_\_

email\_\_\_\_\_ emergency contact\_\_\_\_\_

Special concerns we should be aware of: (note any that apply) mobility issue gluten-free nut allergy  
perfume sensitivity other \_\_\_\_\_

**QUADRENNIAL EVENT INFORMATION**

Ruby Dow, our NC District President, has been selected as a delegate to this event whose business it is to elect the members of the National Board and Program Advisory Group. You do not need to be a voting delegate or candidate to attend. Many activities and opportunities for learning are available for anyone attending. See the information below for more details, and to register, go to: <https://www.umwncj.org/>

<p>2024 NORTH CENTRAL JURISDICTION</p> <p><i>Get Together</i></p> 	<p><b>May 31 – June 2</b> Soul Care Retreat – May 30 INDIANAPOLIS IN John 13:34 <i>“I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.” (NRSV)</i> emails: <a href="mailto:ncjumw1869@gmail.com">ncjumw1869@gmail.com</a> or <a href="mailto:northcentral@uwfaith.org">northcentral@uwfaith.org</a> (872) 216-8161 <u>Our Region</u> Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, Ohio, Soth Dakota, Wisconsin Online Registration Closes April 20, 2024    Cost: \$265 Soul Care Retreat (opt.) Open until filled    Cost: \$75</p>
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**ADDITIONAL MISSION U INFORMATION**

Resources: Mission u books are available from Mission Resources. The adult study book is Welcome Home.

On-line Study Leader: We have confirmed Pastor Doug Clement as our Study Leader during the two-week study, June 18, 20 and 25, 27.

In-Person Study Leader: Deaconess Kady Herr-Yang will lead the single day study at New Lisbon: Winding Rivers UMC on July 13<sup>th</sup>.

YoMiCa: Youth camp will be held July 14 – 19 (Sunday-Friday) at Pine Lake Camp. Ben Allds will lead the study.

### Mabel Heil Scholarships

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 UWF 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 UWF 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 the 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 if 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), using the address below, or calling 715/325-2841. Completed application forms should be sent to the contact person at:

Mabel Heil Scholarship  
 Lucy Silvester  
 373 15<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
 Nekoosa, WI 54457



**This issue of the Jubilate was compiled by**

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Emailed copies of the Jubilate will arrive earlier than printed copies. Local officers without an email address will receive a printed copy via the US Post Office mail.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact me at the email or phone above. Thanks, Dilynn

**North Central District UWF**

Dilynn Kiefer  
1408 Lakeview Dr  
Tomah, WI 54660

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**Save These UWF North Central District Dates:**

February 3	Leadership Team Meeting	Wausau Wesley UMC
May 4	District Retreat & Team Meeting	Pine Lake
June 22	District Team Meeting	TBD
Sept. 14	District Annual Gathering	Berlin UMC

**Wisconsin UWF Conference Events:**

February 20	Last day to register your Social Action Day Watch Party
March 23	Day of Giving
April 13	Social Action Day, ZOOM, 9AM to 12 PM
May 30-June 2	NC Jurisdiction Quadrennial Event at Indianapolis
June 18, 20, 25, 27	Mission u, Live by Zoom
July 13 Overview Day	Mission u at New Lisbon: Winding Rivers UMC
October 11, 12	Annual Gathering at Eau Claire Lake Street UMC

**Please share this newsletter with your church and pastor.**