**NORTH EAST DISTRICT**



“The Shofar”

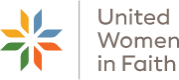
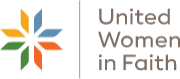
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**Volume 8 – Number 2- APRIL 2023**

**2023 SHOFAR: delivered electronically and mail to Presidents, Secretaries & subscriptions REMINDER: $8.00 SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2023 SHOFAR (send to editor)**

**Our NEW logo and NEW name**

**We are now United Methodist Women/doing business as United Women In Faith.**

**“WHATS IN THIS SHOFAR??”**

Cover page…………………………………..Pg. 1 Presidents Message………………………..Pg. 2-3 Vice-President……………………………….Pg. 4 Secretary…………………………………… Pg. 5 Spiritual Growth…………………………… Pg. 6 Education & Interpretation……………....Pg. 7 Treasurers Message…………………….… Pg. 8 Membership N & O………………………....Pg. 9 Social Action.…………………………………Pg. 10 Program Resources……………………..…..Pg.11 Historian……………………………………… Pg.11 Mailer Page………………………………….…Pg.12

**TEAM MEETING SCHEDULE: (CONTACT US TO ATTEND MEETING)**

**June 2 – Oshkosh-Algoma Blvd. at 9:00**

**August 4 – Neenah First at 9:00** Planning meeting for Annual Celebration

**November 3 – Tele-Conference @ 10:00**

**2024 planning session**

**2023 North East District EVENTS**

**September 23: Annual Day of Celebration/Forum at Neenah First**

Reservation forms will be in JULY SHOFAR

**2023 WI CONFERENCE MEETINGS**

**Registration forms in Special Pk. Part 2**

**June 20, 22, 27 & 29 Mission u - Zoom July 13-15 Mission u – BARABOO UMC**

**October 13-14 Annual Gathering Eau Claire**

**2023 SHOFAR Newsletters:**

**July 2023: articles due June 15**

**October 2023: articles due Sept. 15**

**January 2024: articles due Dec. 15**

Go to: [www.wisconsinumw.org](http://www.wisconsinumw.org/) for LATEST

copies of “CATCH the VISION”

**SPECIAL NOTICE: Mission u Zoom event; In person Mission u at Baraboo UMC and hotel: Best Western Inn, Baraboo. All Mission u information is attached to Shofar.**

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**** **District President’s Message WELCOME to SPRING 2023!!**

For three years we have been besieged with Covid, moving from United Methodist Women to United Women in Faith and disaffiliating churches leaving United Methodist Churches. And yet, we are still here and active.

(Philippians 2:14, 15) 14: Do all things without complaining and disputing, 15 That you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world.

Your District Team is in planning for our April 29, 2023 Retreat which will be held at Green Bay Bethany. The deadline for Registrations is April 19th and sent to Sandra Klein.

Plans are in progress for our Annual Day of Celebration and Forum for Leadership Training, which will be at Neenah First. Registration forms will be in our July Shofar.

The By-laws committee met and made some suggestions which we will vote on at meeting. The portion which we will vote on is on Page 43 – 46.

Conference will have **Social Action Day (virtual) on April 15, 2023** Registration (fee $10.00) forms will be in April Shofar or register at: http://wisconsinreg.brtapp.com/UWinfaithsocialactionday

Mission u 2023 dates are “Live by Zoom”, June 20, 22, 27 & 29, fee $20.00. Each person should register individually. Online at: <https://forms.gle/ScKL676aGzY7ok4m9>

In Person Mission u will be July 13-15, fee $70.00, at BARABOO United Methodist Church. (Enrollment forms will be in April Shofar with June 10th deadline), or register online: <https://forms.gle/H3Ce3TZWmRKCq57> (After June 1, cost is $85.00)

Blessings to all your work to maintain your mission work. The District is here with 14 very capable and willing to help our units.

I am sorry to say we have lost Brillion Faith, Calvary/Zion and Lowell. If your unit is dealing with problems, contact me and the District Team will help you.

**Blessings to all, Jan**

Ephesians 5:20 Giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I subscribe to a Christian publication, TOMORROW’S WORLD. I am attaching an article on page 3, WATCH YOUR WORDS by Charles Knowlton (1927-2013) and published in June 2011. Hopefully, you will find time to read it.

Blessings, Jan Stanko, President NEDET

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**WATCH YOUR WORDS** Charles Knowlton (1927-2013)    Published: 16th June 2011

A prominent citizen and I shook hands on a deal to buy my house, as I was preparing to be transferred to another area. A smile of relief was on my face. But my relief disappeared a few weeks later when I found that nothing had been done to keep our deal. By that time, I had already been transferred and had acquired another house.

I had been taught that among honest people a handshake is an honored bond. I had to learn the hard way that not everyone lives up to this code. In school, as young Americans, we all learned about “Honest Abe” Lincoln, and we were taught that George Washington would not tell a lie about chopping down the cherry tree. American history is filled with examples of men and women of integrity, who were determined to keep their word.

Sadly, in a short few decades, it seems that many have forgotten—or have never been taught—the value of integrity. What our society has reaped from this is a way of life full of uncertainties and stresses. It is small wonder that so many do not keep their promises to God at baptism, or to their mate in the marriage vows.

I am reminded of the words of a poem someone sent to me:

*Supposing today was your last day on earth,* *The last mile of the journey you’ve trod;* *After all of your struggles, how much are you worth,* *And how much is your word worth to God?*

God has given us this life to build character, and the integrity of our words and our actions is what character is all about. The Bible has a lot to say about the value of our words: ([Proverbs 25:11](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Prov%2025.11)). “A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver” Our words and promises to others, as well as our meditations to ourselves, are of great importance in God’s eyes.

The poem I mentioned above ends with these lines: *We are only supposing, but if it were real* *And we invoiced our deeds since our birth,* *And we added up all that we’ve done in life’s deals,* *How much are we really worth?*

Today, we live in a world where practically everyone wants to be his or her own person. Commitment and obligation are just not part of their value system. In the book of Proverbs, we read some sobering truths about how God views the words we say and the promises we make: “These six things the Lord hates, yes, seven are an abomination to Him: a proud look, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that are swift in running to evil, a false witness who speaks lies, and one who sows discord among brethren” ([Proverbs 6:16–19](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Prov%206.16%E2%80%9319)).

Our words either honor us or condemn us. They are worth watching, and they shape our deeds. Many of today’s problems can be traced right back to a disregard for or a lack of commitment to truth.

*To learn more, watch the*Tomorrow’s World *telecast “*[*The Judeo-Christian Ethic*](https://www.tomorrowsworld.org/telecasts/the-judeo-christian-ethic)”*or read the articles “*[*Lies, Lies, and More Lies*](https://www.tomorrowsworld.org/magazines/2023/march/lies-lies-and-more-lies)*” and*[*“What Happened to the Truth?”*](https://www.tomorrowsworld.org/magazines/2003/november-december/what-happened-to-the-truth)Pg.3

**Vice-President’s message**

During this season in my readings and events, a word seems to keep appearing again and again. An unexpected card, phone calls, text messages, sermons and service reminders, readings, conversations, and more keep reminding me of the importance of LOVE. Especially during the Lenten season we are reminded of the ultimate love sacrifice given to save us from our sinful selves.

“Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found,” the Book of Prayers reminds us. When we come to love ourselves through God’s love and through loving others, we become more aware of God’s plans for us.

TUESDAYS WITH MORRIE by Mitch Albom includes the story: “There was once a wave, “bobbing along the ocean, having a grand old time.” All was well and the wave was enjoying himself. He was just enjoying the wind and the ride, until one day he noticed what was happening to the other waves in front of him. They were crashing against the shore. “This is terrible,” the wave said. “Look what’s going to happen to me!” Then another wave came along who asked, “Why do you look so sad?” The first wave says, “You don’t understand! We’re all going to crash! All of us waves are going to be nothing! Isn’t it terrible?” The other wave’s response: “No, you don’t understand. You’re not a wave, you’re part of the ocean.” Let us be “LOVE” in our “part of the ocean.”

Ruth Wiersma, Vice President

1John 3:1  See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are.  The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

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**Secretary**

I am tired!!

One night a week or so ago, I knew I needed to write for Shofar. I couldn’t sleep because I kept thinking about all the things that I was tired of reading and hearing about. So, I decided to share them with you…………

I am tired of people who create war when it is unnecessary and kill innocents

I am tired of division and say they are doing it in the name of their church

I am tired of people who get angry for no serious reason and lash out at others who bear no fault

I am tired of politicians who represent a few and don’t represent all in their district, state or city/village

I am tired of the lack of ethics in people

I am tired of those who leave all the work to a few and don’t help carry the burden

I am tired of being told my opinion is wrong

I am tired of those who use their religion to be racist and nasty

I tired of “I’m busy” as an excuse

I am tired of stop signs and speed limits being only a suggestion and not the law.

I am tired of hate crimes that have increased 76% last year.

SO…. I looked for help. [**Psalm 4:8**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+4%3A8+&version=NIV) **“**In peace I will lie down and sleep,  for you alone, Lord, make me dwell in safety.”

AND….[**Psalm 46:1**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+46%3A1&version=NIV)**“**God is our refuge and strength,  an ever-present help in trouble.”

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**Spiritual Growth**

The television is full of ads about dieting & weight loss: creams to make your skin look younger; hair care products for hair growth and fullness, exercise equipment and so on. It is all about taking care of your physical self, which is important… but what about your spiritual self? How do you care for your spirit…there are no ads on TV for that. We are physical and spiritual beings. Our resource for taking care of our spiritual self is the Bible; with words that transcend time and are applicable no matter age, life experiences or where you live…it is universal.

* The bible teaches us how to pray, how to talk and listen to God
* The bible teaches us lessons on how to live, walking in: truth, light, love

**If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. Galatians 5:25**

* The bible teaches us how to apply God’s words to our daily lives
* The bible offers us guidance, education, coaching, commands

**All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:16-17**

* The bible teaches us how to care for our hearts, our minds, our souls

**By this we know that we abide in him and he in us,**

**because he has given us of his Spirit.** **1 John 4:13**

* The bible trains us how to worship God, our creator, redeemer, liberator

**God is spirit and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit & in truth.” John 4:24**

* The bible provides a path for us to follow if we want eternal life

Spiritual growth is vital to living a faith-filled Christian life; it is an ongoing process full of twist & turns, but with many benefits.  **Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accor-dance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires.** **Romans 8:5 If we are growing spiritually:** our pray life becomes very important (**Pray without**

**ceasing** [**1 Thessalonians 5:17**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Thessalonians+5%3A17&version=ESV)); we are better able to cope and embrace hope with life’s upsets and problems; we develop an attitude of gratitude **(Philippians 4:4-8)**; we develop and strengthen our abilities to forgive, to love, to be patience, to be tolerant, to cultivate understanding and positivity; we develop a strong desire to serve; we have our eye on the prize, which is getting to heaven.

You have the choice on how you want to live your life…... **The Lord is the**

**Spirit and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. 2 Corinthians 3:17**

Submitted by Barbara Mamerow, Spiritual Growth

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Education and Interpretation (reminder Special Local Mission Project)(if your unit is interested contact Sandy Butcher)

**NORTH EAST DISTRICT “SPECIAL LOCAL MISSION PROJECT FOR 2023”**

**Project runs from March 1st thru August 15th. Awards will be presented to participating Units at our Annual Celebration**

**UMW UNIT: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Unit Officer: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** **Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Name and description of your local mission project:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Describe activities your unit will be doing to support this project:**

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**Estimate number of members and hours that will be devoted to this project:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Submit: Completed form by or before March 1, 2022 to: (DATE EXTENDED) If your unit is interested in this mission project, please contact Sandy for details…

Sandy Butcher, Education and Interpretation Coordinator, 1631 Thornton Dr., Oshkosh, WI 54904

e-mail: [zonianangel@aol.com](mailto:zonianangel@aol.com) phone: 820-426-3114

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Treasurers Message…..

Happy Spring Everyone!

Well, it looks like we are almost over with this unusual winter weather we have had. Time to look forward to the rest of the year and getting out of our houses to walk, garden, relax and enjoy some of that warm sun.

It is also time to rekindle your United Women in Faith units and meet again and hopefully even have a few new members join you. Lakeshore in Manitowoc just had our first spring meeting and it was wonderful to enjoy time with old and new friends. Be sure to reach out to members of nearby communities where units have closed down. Some women might be looking for a new unit to join.

On the financial side of things, winter is usually very slow and understandably so. Remember that as the North East District we have pledged to conference $30,000. 00 . Even small amounts will ad up to the total by the end of the year.

God’s Blessings to each of the Units in the North East District.

Rogene Moore

NED Treasurer

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**Membership N & O**

**Love’s In Need of Love Today**

Stevie Wonder, through the years has written lyrics that tell stories. He has recorded and performed masterpieces. One of those songs is, Love’s In Need Today. He was one of several artists interviewed by Marc Myers for his book, Anatomy of a Song. Each artist was asked, ‘’ Who’s that song really about?’’ An excerpt from Myer’s interview is in the recent AARP magazine.

Stevie said the concept for that song was that for love to be effective, it has to be fed. Love by itself is hollow.

We sisters in Christ are experiencing sadness, heartbreak and pain because of the exodus of United Methodist local congregations in Wisconsin and in other parts of the United States. As United Women In Faith, we will continue to love those who are departing by assuring them that we want them to continue their sisterhood in UWIF. They will always be our sisters. I am thankful that we all have opportunity as UWIF to continue in love for mission together. There is still much to be done to make lives better for those near us and better for women and children all over the world.

We have received our 2021 Wisconsin United Women In Faith Survey Analysis. Northeast District- Number of units,17; active Members 435; Members lost by Death,41. Average age of local unit/circle members,11 units 70+; 6 units,56-69; these are numbers and there is much more info in the report.

We know that these numbers are concerning to us, but we move forward in hope, love, work and invitation to women who have not been a part of this great organization. Love’s in need of love today!

Gwen Gibson Membership, Nurture and Outreach

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**Social Action**

**Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women Task Force Update**

As we make plans to attend 2023 Social Action Day on Saturday, April 15, I think it fitting that I use this space to update you on some important news on the Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women Task Force, one of the topics of Social Action Day 2022.

On February 15 Gov. Tony Evers introduced as part of his 2023-25 budget proposal $7.4 million dollars for the creation of a “state office that would be dedicated to addressing violence against Indigenous people in the state.” According to a February 25 article by Frank Vaisvilas, USA Today Network in the *Sheboygan Press*, the office will be part of the Wisconsin Department of Justice and funding will include three full-time positions for at least two years.

The MMIW Task Force, created by Wisconsin Attorney Josh Kaul in 2020 was funded through grants from the Victims of Crime Act. The Task Force was charged with helping fight the abduction, homicide, violence and trafficking of Indigenous women in Wisconsin.

The process of approving the governor’s proposed budget is underway in the Wisconsin Legislature. Over the next few months, the Legislature reviews, changes and approves spending allocations through the budget bill.

Last year at Social Action Day, Kristin Welch, Founder and Director of Waking Women Healing Institute, and member of the MMIW DOJ Task Force asked us to contact our representatives and encourage them to support funding this important project. The fact that Governor Evers has proposed creating this new state MMIW office is proof that advocacy works. Now it’s time to take it to the next level. Sky Bonjasnoke Alloway and Justine Rufus, Co-chairs of the DOJ’s Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women Task Force said in the *Sheboygan Press* article “There’s a long process ahead before these items can become a reality.” Now during this budget review process is the time to contact your local representatives and encourage them to support this budget action.

**Galatians 6:2 Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.**

Check out <http://legis.wisconsin.gov> if you need contact information for your representatives. If you don’t have a computer, contact your local library for the names and addresses of your representatives. Let’s help our Indigenous sisters by making this become a reality.

Connie Meyer, Social Action

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Program Resources

Believe it or not Spring is on its way. I am looking forward to hearing about all the books you have read. Have they encouraged you to start some new mission or project for the community? After all I think that is what the reading program is all about. Learning about others and what we can do to improve or help them on their journey. Be sure to keep a list of the books you have read and get them to me later this summer. Soon the weather will be nice and we will be busy doing things outside and reading will be put on the back burner. Happy reading to you all.

Sandy Klein, Program Resources

My scripture is Psalm 118 verse 29 Oh give thanks to the lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever.

**Historian**

Spring is here!  Nature is reviving; and, hopefully, so are we!

During the weeks leading up to Lent, our Pastor presented a series called *"Revival".*  We revisited who we are as United Methodists by looking back at our beginnings with John Wesley.  We reflected on how God's grace enables us to persevere, the power of growing in His grace and sharing the good news of Jesus, and how we can grow in our likeness of Jesus.  As we gathered for communion, we were reminded that we are sent out into the world to live out our faith through acts of mercy.  The series concluded with a Wesleyan Covenant service. We were then offered the opportunity to become a part of a covenant group that would follow Wesley's model.  We met each week during Lent in small groups to pray, study scripture and support one another in growing as a disciple.  Each week we read Wesley's General Rule of Discipleship:

*To witness to Jesus Christ in the world*

*and to follow his teachings through*

**acts of compassion, justice, worship and devotion**

*under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.*

We then held each other accountable as we shared how we had done the past week with those four acts of discipleship.

We sometimes focused on one particular aspect.  While it has been challenging, it has also brought new life to our Christian journey and a deeper friendship and circle of support with those in our group.

Remembering our history is just one way to refresh and renew our Christian walk.

The blessings of this Easter Season to you all!

Yvonne Fuller

1 Peter 4:10  *Each of you should use whatever gifts you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.*

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