A cartoon of a person blowing a horn

Description automatically generated with medium confidence**NORTH EAST DISTRICT**



“The Shofar”

**Editor: Jan Stanko 920-524-2067 or 920-905-3199**

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**Volume 8 – Number 3 - JULY 2023**

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

A picture containing graphics, screenshot, graphic design, colorfulness

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A picture containing graphics, graphic design, screenshot, font

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

**“WHATS IN THIS SHOFAR??”**

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**TEAM MEETING SCHEDULE: (CONTACT US IF ATTENDING MEETING)**

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

**November 3 – Tele-Conference @ 10 AM:** 2024 planning session

**2023 North East District EVENTS**

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

Reservation forms on page 11/

**2023 WI CONFERENCE MEETINGS**

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

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

**2023 SHOFAR Newsletters:**

**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 In person Mission u at Baraboo UMC July 13 - 15 Hotel: Best Western Inn, Baraboo.**

Pg. 1

**President’s Message : Here we are and what is next?**

**John 14:1 ”Do not let you hearts be troubled.” Trust in God, trust also in me.**

**John 15:10 If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father’s commands and remain in his love. 15:12 My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. :16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last. :17 This is my command: Love each other.**

|  |
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| A group of hands in a circle  Description automatically generated with low confidence |

**Annual Conference 2023 Summary (0n Conference website)** The 2023 Annual Conference was held June 9 - 12 at the KI Convention Center in Green Bay, Wisconsin. The theme of the session was “On Earth as it is in Heaven” – Engaging in Transformative Community Building based on scripture from Philippians 2.  Part of this Conference was to approve the disaffiliation of 43 churches from the United Methodist Church (check the article for more information)

Philippians 2:4 Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interest of others. 2:5 Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus.

**What is the direction United Women in Faith?? (UW Faith)**

**Look at response July/August Issue: (inside front cover, is “in this issue”**

**On page 6… How To Use This Issue** by Mary Beth Coudal

I encourage each unit to purchase a subscription to “response” which will keep up to date with United Women in Faith. **To subscribe, go to urfaith.org/resources/response-magazine or call: 877-881-2385**

**ADD THIS TO YOUR CALENDAR:**

As your District moves forward…. We are planning our Annual Day of Celebration which will be held at Neenah: First UMC, 108 W. Doty Avenue, Neenah, 54956 on September 23, 2023. Registration forms (page 11).

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| |  | | --- | | **PLEASE READ** (page 8-9) the proposed changes to our existing By-Laws, which will be voted on September 23, at Neenah: First.  Jan Stanko President of North East District 2 | |  | |  | | **Vice-President’s message** | |

So many times, in the Bible we read about individuals who must from Jesus’ words or others actually face who and what they are beyond appearance. We often “dress- up” and “parade around”. But we need to look inside and find ourselves. What do we believe in? What do we stand for? What are our core competencies? What’s our place in a tiny corner of the big universe? What can we do to make things better? Who can we count on to help us?

Looking toward heaven, one sees so many opportunities to aid our fellow travelers. There is so much need out there which offers such opportunities to those in a position to help others. With God’s help we may daily become aware of ways we may have to share and spread God’s love in our world.

Our summer and Annual Gathering plans are under way. If you have ideas that may be implemented at the Annual Gathering, please share them with me.

Continue to help those sharing your journey.

“For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.” Colossians 2: 9-10

“His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.” 2 Peter 1:3

Ruth Wiersma

Vice-President  
[jwiersma@new.rr.com](mailto:jwiersma@new.rr.com)

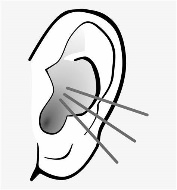
3

Secretary

The Bible often references birds and their importance. The Methodist hymn, His eye is on the sparrow, written by a woman born in Nova Scotia who was visiting a sick friend in 1904. The sick friend was a poet and referred to Matthew 10:29-31: "Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father’s care. And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So don’t be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows" when she wrote the poem "The Eye is On the Sparrow."  
  
“Let not your heart be troubled,” His tender word I hear,  
And resting on His goodness, I lose my doubts and fears;  
Though by the path He leadeth, but one step I may see;  
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me;  
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.  
  
Birds personify hope, mercy, and divine intervention among other things. Their presence in the bible, though numerous, resonates around those beliefs, pretty much summing up what God has always wanted us to perceive.  
  
- - A dove carrying back to Noah an olive branch indicates the end of the great flood and conveys hope, transition, and a new beginning.  
-- The Israelites were kept safe from their enemies by a bird, implying mercy.  
-- Jesus, accompanied by a bird on his first temple visit, brought bread for the prophets, light for those who felt alone and defeated, and rest from all anxieties is a representation of divine intervention.  
  
AND, today (5-18-23) the Washington Post wrote an article about how the viewing of and listening to birds is good for our mental health. Many studies have proven the value of interactions with nature are associated with better body and brain health. In fact many Japanese are involved in "Forest Bathing."  
The WP states, "Birds appear to be a specific source of these healing benefits. They are almost everywhere and provide a way to connect us to nature. And even if they are hidden in trees or in the underbrush, we can still revel in their songs."  
  
Faith is the bird that feels the light when the dawn is  
still dark. To one who has faith, no explanation is necessary. To one  
without faith, no explanation is possible. Thomas Aquinas Faith is to  
believe what you do not see; the reward of this faith is to see what you  
believe.

Roberta Gale 4

**Spiritual Growth Coordinator**

**Listening……….**

There is an old adage that says “God gave you two ears and one mouth, so you should listen twice as much as you talk”. The truth is, our ears are one of our senses with which we hear, but listening is an interactive process, an art, a skill and needs to be developed. When we listen, we can sense things, feel things, visualize things, really hear the meaning of things. For example; when I open the window I can hear birds, but if I really listen I can distinguish one from another.

Listening in scripture relates to obedience, understanding and honoring God. “Listen” is found **331 times** and the majority of these passages in some way deal with listening to the Lord. “Hear” is found **347** times and again, many of these also have to do with hearing God’s Word. Some scriptures:

*--Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to get angry.* ***James 1:19***

*--If you stop listening to instruction, my child, you will turn your back on knowledge.* ***Proverbs 19:27***

*--Anyone with ears to hear, should listen and understand!* ***Matthew 11:15***

*--Tune your ears to wisdom & concentrate on understanding.* ***Proverbs 2:2***

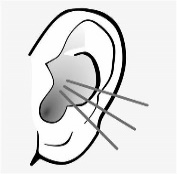
*--Then he added, “Pay close attention to what you hear. The closer you listen, the more understanding you will be given—and you will receive even more.* ***Mark 4:24***

*--Listen to advice and accept discipline and at the end you will be counted among the wise.* ***Proverbs 19:20***

*--But don’t just listen to God’s word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves.* ***James 1:22***

**Prayer:**

**Almighty God,** Open our hearts, our minds, our ears that we might:

listen to one another with openness and mercy,

listen to the plants and animals with wonder and respect,

listen to our hearts, offering love and forgiveness,

listen to God with quietness and awe,

So that we might know the truth and live in peace, that can only come from God.

Let our words, our thoughts our deeds be pleasing You Lord. Amen **Barb Mamerow, Spiritual Growth**

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**Membership, Nurture & Outreach**

**Wait Upon The Lord**

“But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint” Isa.40:31

I sat outdoors yesterday, and sit inside today, looking out, watching two robins enter and leave a bush with something in their beaks to feed their little ones. Parent (One)waits patiently nearby as Parent (Two) enters the bush. Parent (One) then leaves to gather a meal, comes back, waits until Parent (Two) departs. This coming and going is repeated over and over. The birds wait patiently as each takes a turn to feed their babies.

The verse from Isaiah is a verse of hope. The Lord will hold us up, even as we experience sadness, tragedies, disappointment, failures in our lives. We must not try to outrun the trials that come, and they do come. We can wait and God will be under us to keep us going. When we think we can go no further, we stop and WAIT.

As churches, that have been United Methodist, depart, and units of United Women In Faith say goodbye, our hearts hurt and we mourn the loss of fellowship. We will miss their participation in our call to mission. We pray God’s peace will continue to be with them. Our hope is that individuals continue in mission as district members of Northeast United Women In Faith.

“We will wait upon the Lord, who will renew our strength. We will soar as eagles, run and not be weary; we will walk and not faint.”

Gwen Gibson Membership, Nurture and Outreach

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**Social Action Coordinator**

**Racial Justice/School to Prison Pipeline**

Racial Justice is an advocacy priority for United Women in Faith. In support of that priority, our organization is urging members to reach out to our representatives and urge them to support the Ending PUSHOUT Act of 2023.

On April 18, 2023, Rep. Ayanna Pressley of Massachusetts introduced **The Ending PUSHOUT Act** of 2023 (H.R. 2690). The bill is in the first stage of the legislative process so the time to act is now.

Rep. Pressley’s House of Representatives government website lists the following facts about the **PUSHOUT** Epidemic:

* Black girls are 7 times more likely to be suspended from school and 4 times more likely to be arrested at school, compared to white girls. Even as early as preschool, where Black girls make up only 20% of all girls, they make up more than half of all out of school suspensions.
* Latina girls are 1.6 times more likely than white girls to receive an out of school suspension.
* Native American youth make up just one percent of students in school, yet Native American girls are three times more likely to be suspended than white girls.
* Corporal punishment (e.g., spanking and paddling) is still permitted in 19 states across the country and is disproportionately administered on Black students and students with disabilities.
* Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) students of color are almost twice as likely to be suspended as their white peers.
* Increased policing in schools has been shown to increase surveillance and criminalization of students—especially students of color.

7

**Social Action: con’t.**

If you’re not already aware, PUSHOUT is an acronym for Punitive, Unfair, School-based Harm that is Overt and Unresponsive to Trauma. H.R. 2690 would support schools in addressing discipline policies that criminalize and suspend or expel Black and brown girls of color out of school and into the prison pipeline.

Stop **School Pushout** by joining United Women in Faith members and friends in urging Congress to pass The Ending PUSHOUT Act of 2023.  You can do so by calling your local representative, Rep. Glenn Grothman [202-225-2476](tel:+1-202-225-2476) or by copying and pasting the link below to your search engine (Yahoo, Google, Bing). Click on **Stop School Pushout** to be directed to an email form.

[Mass Incarceration | United Women in Faith (uwfaith.org)](https://uwfaith.org/what-we-do/serve-and-advocate/mass-incarceration/)

*He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?* Micah 6:8

**Connie Meyer, Social Action**

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**Program Resources Coordinator** By now you all know what books are available for the reading program and have been reading. Now it is almost time to let me know what you have been reading. I hope you have all been busy reading. Please get your lists to me by Aug 10th so we have time to get them in the program book for the celebration the end of September. School Districts in Florida are banning books. One that jumped out at me was, The Hate You Give, which is part of our reading program. I really question the banning of books. Some books might not be age appropriate, but they shouldn’t be banned. We really do have books that address our issues. One really good one is A Knock at Midnight. These books are quick reads. Keep reading and remember to send me your list.

**Sandra Klein**

**Historian**

    The only history related news I have for this edition of *The Shofar is that we will, indeed, be making history at the First United Methodist Church of Neenah/Menasha as we welcome you to the Annual Day of Celebration on September 23, 2023!  Miriam Circle is excited to invite you all to join us at our beautiful and historic downtown church.*

*After the original church burned, it was rebuilt on the same site in the 1930's.  While it has since undergone numerous updates and renovations, our sanctuary still shines with the newly polished and refurbished but original stained glass windows.  An elevator has also been added to allow for easy access to all floors.  We have only on street parking, but the Market Street lot across the street is available, and there is another city lot down the block.  It is across from the Presbyterian Church that is next door to us.  We also have a turn around for drop off and will offer to park cars for anyone who needs or prefers the assistance.*

*The District team is busy planning for this important event, and we hope to greet many old friends and make lots of new ones this fall in Neenah.*

*With anticipation,* ***Yvonne Fuller***

*Philippians 4:4-6  Be cheerful with joyous celebration in every season of life.  Let your joy overflow!  And let gentleness be seen*

*in every relationship, for our Lord is ever near. 9*

**“VOTE BE NEEDED ON ALL OF ARTICLE V”**

**ARTICLE V - FUNDS (Disbursements/Reimbursements)**

**Section 1:** Funds shall be received and dispersed as specified by the Standing Rules (monthly).

**Section 2:** The District organization shall make the following gifts:

**A**: A $40 Special Mission Recognition for District Officers who have completed a full term (2-year term). The President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer shall receive a $60 Special Mission Recognition if she served four years in her respective office. Each officer may choose to receive an SMR pin. **B**: In the event of the death of a member of the NEDET, a $50 Gift in Memory shall be given.

DRAFT

**Section 3: Reimbursements**

DRAFT

**A**: Transportation allowance per vehicle for all District officers shall be a total of 50 cents per mile.

Mileage shall be paid for:

Team Meetings, District Retreats, Task Force Meetings, District and Conference Annual Meetings, District Workshops, Mission u, and all meetings required by the District, except for meetings at the team member’s local church. Mileage shall be paid to local unit presidents or their representatives for attending the North East District Team Meetings. **B.** Registrations shall be paid by the District for all NEDET officers for District special events i.e., Annual meetings but not to include Retreats.

**C.** The District shall be responsible for District Officers’ (including newly elected/appointed officers) expenses for United Women in Faith Conference Annual Meeting, including: mileage, registration, room (2/room) and meals at $25 per day. Requests for additional reimbursements may be submitted in unusual circumstances (i.e., inclement weather, car breakdown)

**D.** The District is responsible for expenses of Conference Officers when attending meetings of the NEDET.

**E.** NEDET members attending local unit meetings attend at the District’s expense when not reimbursed by the local unit.

**F**. Onsite dependent care for elder, special needs, or child care expenses shall be allowed up to $50 per day for elected/appointed leaders who are required for meetings. If no care is needed the responsible onsite person shall be paid for one (1) hour ($10). Safe Sanctuary policy shall be enforced.

**G.** Officers’ expenses must be vouchered with receipts. 10

**H.** When meetings are called by the Conference organization, the expenses are those of the Conference. In the event that the NEDET and program committees hold meetings immediately preceding the Conference Annual Meeting, the method of payment for expenses incurred shall be as follows: District pays registration fee for all District team members attending. The District pays for meals, lodging, and milage for all District Team members attending. The District shall pay for registration for the District Superintendent’s spouse for Friday and Saturday meetings of the United Women in Faith Conference Annual Gathering.

**I.** Each local unit having 10% of their membership completing at least Level One of the Reading Program shall receive $30 from the District.

**J.** A gratuity of $50 shall be given to any host church that accommodates the NEDET meetings and $130 plus $50 each for accompanist and video tech to the host church for the District annual meeting/retreat.

**K.** The hosting church for the annual meeting and retreat shall provide the coffee, juice, snack, etc, and the room for lunch. The NEDET shall pay for lunch. Reimbursement of up to $15 per person shall be paid to hosting unit when total receipts are presented. The hosting church shall provide the cost of lunch, per person, at least one month before the event. Any additional expenses must be pre-authorized by the NEDET no later than one month before the event.

**Section 4:a.** Retreat guest speaker fee will be a minimum of $100.00 plus mileage and resources (folders, printings and miscellaneous)

**:b.** Annual Gathering speaker fee will be a minimum of $ 100.00 plus mileage and resources. (handouts and miscellaneous)

**Section 5**: When a NED Team Member chooses to purchase “The Bundle”, or any part from the bundle, they will be reimbursed when submitting the invoice and payment form to the Treasurer.

**Section 6:** When a NED Team Member chooses to order a subscription to *response magazine* they will be reimbursed when the invoice and payment form are sent to the Treasurer.

DRAFT

**“END OF VOTE SECTION”.**

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**2022 Unit Survey is ready! Deadline August 30, 2023**

LINK FOR WISCONSIN:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/wisconsinconference

TO: North East District Units

As a leader in United Women in Faith, the Membership office invites you to participate in the 2022 Unit Survey.

The survey is intended to be completed by the unit president or All Access group convener. Questions are related to how your unit or group is thriving in sisterhood, faith and action and how you are committed to act boldly for justice and transform communities.

Your responses matter. Your answers will allow the United Women in Faith National Office to:

* Deliver more resources in the areas that matter most
* Gather engagement data based on region
* Celebrate all the work you are doing on behalf of women, children and youth

Your participation is essential. Please consider reviewing the sample so you are better able to gather any necessary information before starting.

If you have questions, please email: membership@uwfaith.org

Blessings,

Khia Shaw

Director of Membership and Engagement

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**NORTH EAST DISTRICT**

***“MY METHODIST HISTORY”***

**ANNUAL DAY OF CELEBRATION**

**September 23, 2023 Registration at 8:30 AM**

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**Guest Speaker: Martha Boyer *former President of Wisconsin Conference: United Women in Faith***

**NEENAH First UMC, 108 W. Doty Avenue, Neenah, 54956 Offering: will be used for the “Appreciation Brown Bags”**

--------------------------------------CUT HERE and MAIL-----------------------------------------------

**Registration Deadline: SEPTEMBER 10, 2023**

**Unit:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_POSITION\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**  Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Food allergies:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Emergency contact: (name & phone)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Release to use photos: (sign) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Make check for **$20.00 payable to: North East District UMW**….. Mail to: Sandra Klein, 6303 Riverview Dr., Two Rivers, WI 54241

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North East District Shofar

C/O: Jan Stanko

620 Madison St., APT 3

Brillion, WI 54110

**CALENDAR DATES: August 4, 2023 NED Team Meeting at Neenah: First September 23, 2023 Annual Celebration, Neenah: First**

**July 13 – 15, 2023 Mission u In person, Baraboo UMC**

**October 13-14, 2023 Conference Gathering at Eau Claire**

**November 3, 2023 NED Tele-Conference at 10 AM**