

Mission Matters

President's Message

Hello South West District United Women in Faith!

Where do I begin with the message I need and want to write for *Mission Matters* this month? So many terrible events have occurred in the world and our country since I wrote in the last issue of *Mission Matters*. How do we balance those events with the joy, hope, love, faith, energy, sisterhood, justice work and enthusiasm our community gatherings experienced at Turn It Up--Assembly 2022? One way we do that is by coming together as community in our units, district and conference team meetings and gatherings to share the experiences that inspired us and brought us joy. We can share the tools and spirit filled experiences with others who were not able to attend.

So quickly the music, messages, studies and conversations can be drowned out by gun violence, war, COVID and a new virus. But we must not give up hope and continue the journey we are on together as United Women in Faith. It is with faith, hope and love that we can accomplish great things. "We're a sisterhood acting in faith to tackle the hard work of the world without hesitation. We believe that love in action can change the world." Let us focus on the new possibilities that United Women in Faith provides and the inspiration from attending Assembly 2022 to reach out to one another and new sisters who can journey with us. Our Assembly 2022 Theologian in Residence, Rev. Janet Wolf challenged us to make new the spirit within us to be the body of God and embody collectively the vision of God. With that we know we are not alone on our journey or in our work with women, children and youth that is before us.

Continuing our journey together,

Sue Plasterer

United Women in Faith

South West District President

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Events

July 12	Mission u Zoom first class starts
July 28-30	Mission u Christ UMC-Watertown
Sept. 17	South West Annual Gathering-Cuba City
Oct. 14-15	WI Conference Annual Gathering Baraboo First

Help Us Help You

Sept. 1	Reading Program Reading List Due
Aug. 10	Mission Matters Articles Due
June 27	Mission u Registration Forms Due Zoom or In-Person
Sept. 2	South West Annual Gathering Registration Form Due

Treasurer's Note

United Women in Faith (UMW) Treasurers,

I was recently asked to give a presentation to a local unit on “Where the Money Goes”. This is such a great topic. I had a hard time limiting myself on what I wanted to say. I knew right away that this topic would be a far, far longer discussion than a short unit presentation could encompass, so I spent time up front pointing out the many, many ways in which we can learn and connect with our mission projects (the uwfaith.org and wisconsinumw.org websites, Daily Prayer Guide, **response** magazine, reading program books – especially ones like “Gum Moon: A Novel of San Francisco Chinatown” and others from the Education for Mission category, Faith Talks and Voices from the Field webinars/podcasts, YouTube videos from the #umwomen channel and our program book among others). It was such fun to be able to share even a few highlighted stories of the ways in which our mission dollars transform the lives of women, children and youth around the world. Thank you for continuing tell our mission stories and to support our global mission.

I have sent out first quarter reports to all local treasurers who have given to the district so far this year and at the end of June I will send out second quarter reports. We are doing relatively well for this time of year and are currently at 30% of pledge. I was looking at my spreadsheet and it occurred to me to wonder why so few local units are 5-star contributors (only 8 in 2020). By my calculation a unit could be a 5-star unit with only \$52 a year. That would be a \$40 Special Mission Recognition Pin, a \$5 Gift to Mission card, a \$5 Gift in Memory card and \$1 each for Pledge to Mission and World Thank Offering. That is only \$1/week for a unit. This is well within the reach of many more units than currently qualify. Now your unit may not think that being a 5-star unit is a priority, but I would urge many more units to consider that (without changing the amount of their giving), they too could be 5-star units. I would love to have to make out dozens of certificates each year to present to units who have decided to devote at least some of their gifts to all 5-channels of giving. If your unit is not a 5-star unit, take up the challenge and make this year the year you start. These are all great ways to support the mission projects of our organization.

Yours in Christ,

Laura Pfeffer

South West District Treasurer

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W10132 Koltes Rd, Lodi, WI 53555	608-698-7508(C)
Checks payable to: <u>South West District UMW</u>	



Together at the Legacy Banquet and other views from Assembly

<p>Cuba City</p> <p>A time for us to be together, sharing and learning. Living the purpose.</p>	<p>Come Join Us</p> <p>South West Annual Gathering</p>  <p>United Women in Faith</p>	<p>September 17 2022</p> <p>Find out about the outward changes. Learn how our purpose continues to go forward.</p>
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↑ Copy this and make it into a book mark to give to your unit members and other friends.

Book Report : Becoming

Reading Program books are divided into one of five categories: Education for Mission, Leadership Development, Nurturing for Community, Social Action and Spiritual Growth. Books are available for people of all ages and reading levels. Regular reading of response magazine is also a requirement. Your Report of Completion Requirements should be submitted to Pat Gallus by September 1st.

One of the newer books on the reading list is *Becoming*, by Michelle Obama. I really enjoyed this book. She has a very interesting biography. She grew up in Chicago in a middle-class family with her parents and brother. Her parents raised her to be outspoken and unafraid. She excelled as a student and was accepted at Princeton and then became a high-powered corporate lawyer, where she met Barack Obama. The book also describes what it was like to be a political wife and First Lady. Her personal strength and encouragement of service to higher ideals was very inspiring. The book challenges us with the question: "Who are we and who do we want to become?"

Eileen Bennett
Vice President

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(In her treasurer's Report Laura also talks about the resources for the reading program. Check it out.)

<u>Subscribe to response: Magazine with a Mission</u>	
https://uwfaith.org/resources/response-magazine/	
<u>By Mail</u>	<u>By phone</u>
response Magazine	1-877-881-2385
PO Box 395	<u>By Fax</u>
Congers, NY 10920-0395	1-845-267-3478



South West District Annual Gathering

United Women in Faith

Cuba City UMC, 401 S Main St, Cuba City, Wisconsin

Saturday, September 17th 9:00 - 3:00

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

- ✚ We will have a presentation about the exciting changes coming to our organization.
- ✚ Officer sharing will include more information about how the changes affect our local units. More information can be found at: <https://uwfaith.org/>
- ✚ The day will also include an update on relief efforts for Ukraine and what we can do to help.
- ✚ Breakout sessions will include information on Children’s Sabbath, Assembly, and Northcott.
- ✚ We will also be bringing back singing and will celebrate Communion.

You are invited to bring non-perishable food items for the Hazel Green food pantry.

Detach and send

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

Your registration fee of \$15.00 includes morning refreshments, luncheon and all materials used for preparation of this event.

Name: _____ (Please print)

Street/PO Box: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

UMW Unit or Congregation: _____

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

Are you interested in child care? (This may depend on COVID restrictions.) _____

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

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: Sept 2nd. Registrations received after Sept 2nd will not guarantee child care or lunch.

Please send the registration form and the fee of \$15.00 to:

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

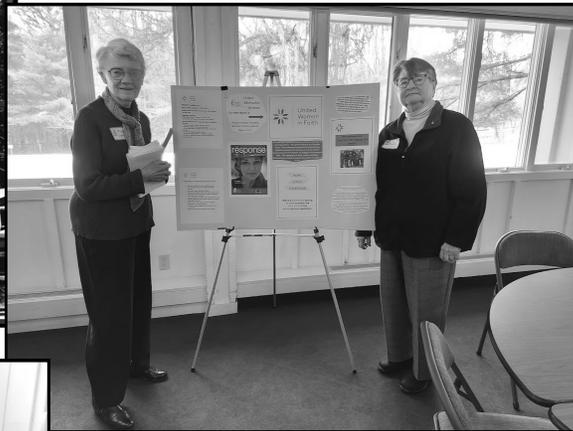
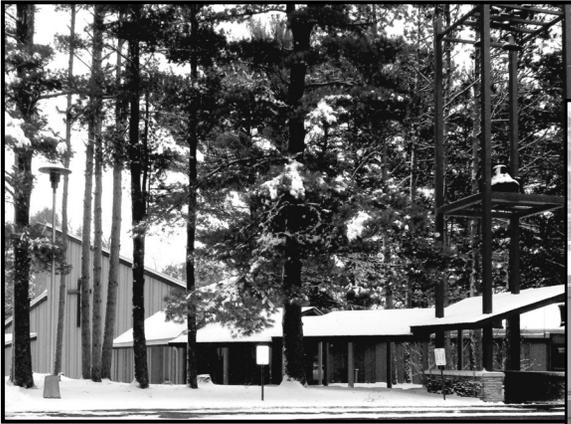
A Report on the 2022 District Spiritual Growth Retreat

The retreat took place at the Dells Delton Church UMC in Wisconsin Dells

on April 6th. There was a light snow storm early that morning...but the 36 participants made it there in time. The women came from 16 units in the South West District.

Rev Marianne Cotter was our spiritual leader for the day...and she led us through exercises to explore the theme "Pondering"- based on the three times in the books of Luke and Acts when Mary pondered about her son Jesus.

33 participants turned in an evaluation form...and nearly all of the responses were very positive! They especially enjoyed the delicious breakfast and lunch prepared by the Dells Delton and Davis Corners units...being in the attractive and historic church....and, of course, Marianne's very fine presentation.



Photos from the Spiritual Growth Retreat at at Dells-Delton UMC. April 2022



Special Note

This was Carol's final report for our District in January of 2022. The Nomination team would like to find a new person to be our Northcott Representative. Help us keep the information flowing between us and our National Mission Institution in Milwaukee.

NORTHCOTT DELIVERS LOTS OF GOODIES

Dear UMW Friends,

Today will be my last letter about events at Northcott because my term ended in December. Because I needed to take care of some pressing business, this is late, but I wanted to give you an update on the holiday events at Northcott and a brief summary of Northcott's successes during 2021.

THANKSGIVING, TIS THE SEASON OF THANKSGIVING:

- ◆ Volunteers prepared 1,000 dinners for families of four.
- ◆ The meal consisted of baked chicken, gravy, cornbread dressing, macaroni and cheese, cranberry sauce, green bean casserole and pumpkin pie;

Volunteers brought smiles and happiness to many by making their holiday brighter;

As part of Tis the Season, wrapping Christmas gifts began.

CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES:

- ◆ Families were welcomed back to pick-up food for Christmas dinner.
- ◆ Over 4,000 children's toys were given away;
- ◆ No preregistration was required;
- ◆ Volunteers prepared 1,000 meals for families of four;
- ◆ The menu consisted of fried chicken, delicious spaghetti, coleslaw, and a wide variety of pies;

Executive Director, Toni A. Kearney, Sr. said there was every kind of toy that any child would want; He mentioned that cologne, personal hygiene kits, warm winter gloves, hats and scarves were available to give to teens.

Mr. Kearney also mentioned that in 2020 and 2021, Northcott is honoring Jeannetta Simpson Robinson who started giving thousands of free toys to children during the Christmas season and advocated that no child should be forgotten. Professionally, she worked with judicial and correctional systems across the state and country and was the founder of Career Youth Development. Truly an amazing woman!

2021 IN REVIEW, SOME SUCCESSES TO CELEBRATE:

Northcott didn't close the doors during the pandemic and continued to be there for children, families and seniors;

- ◆ A Back-to-School Block Party netted 1,500 bookbags and other school supplies for children and youth;

(Continued on Page 8)

REPORT FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

I guess our weather here in Southwest Wisconsin is as messed up as the rest of the world! I am not sure what season we are in. The Calendar says June so it must be summer. The only constant in my life is the love of Jesus Christ our Savior and my Father God.

I find that for me the more hate, prejudice, war, and our personal rights being threatened.....my Faith grows deeper.

WOMEN AND SOCIETY

Now not every UWIF believes the same as I do. So, can we just agree to disagree; right now? I want to see every woman and man voting in any upcoming election to look closely at each candidate. How do they feel about "a woman's right to choose"? How are they to vote?

We worked hard for Roe vs Wade. I know it was 30 years or more. It is still important today. Don't let A politician decide what you can do with your body. CHOICE IS THE ISSUE!

PEACE WITH JUSTICE

The following article I copied from a Church and Society article. At the bottom of the article is a link you can copy into your browser. It will let your representatives know how you feel. It gets to the correct Senators or Congresspersons by your zip code. It also shows the weight of the Church is behind you.

Again, look closely at who you are voting into office. Party lines don't always work for our children's best interests. These weekly shootings need to STOP!

Please, pay attention to these issues. I do not want to take away the right to hunt.

We do not need rifles used in war as street or hunting weapons! Vote to stop the availability of these weapons. They are killing our children!

Urgent: Tell the Senate to Act to Prevent Gun Violence

Every day in the U.S. nearly 350 people still are shot, and almost 100 die in gun violence (34 from murder, 59 by suicide). That adds up to over 124,750 people shot and 35,000 killed by gunshot in the U.S. every year. Those numbers should be unacceptable to all.

As Christians we are called by scripture to transform a society marked by violence into one of peace. Make it clear to your elected officials that they must act NOW to pass more stringent legislation on firearm sales, background checks, and waiting periods.

The Senate is expected to vote next week on the "Bipartisan Background Checks Act" ([HR 8](#)) and the "Enhanced Background Checks Act" ([HR 1446](#)) which would strengthen background check procedures for those purchasing firearms. Both bills have already passed in the House.

Currently, 22% of all guns sold in the U.S. are purchased through unlicensed and private sellers without a background check. These bills would close that loophole, which currently allows people who are ill-advised or barred from buying and owning guns to go around the national background check system.

(Continued on Page 11)

Survey for 2021 Census (is now ready to be filled out)

The new survey for United Women in Faith is out a ready to be completed. This year's form is on line and is now available on the new uwfaith.org web site. For district members the questions can apply to a single person as well as to a unit.

The survey will only be able to be done on line. There is no paper copy to fill out. There are 37 questions that include contact information and how many members you have.

Each question with an asterix (a star) next to it must answered for the form to be counted. Due date for the survey is August 30, 2022.

Contact Kay Putman or your District Sister to help if you don't have access to a computer or would like help to complete your form. We will try to help.

The South West district did so well with the 2020 Census I hope we can do as well with 2021. Remember we are United Women in Faith!

Serving to learn and learning to serve, Kay Putman

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uwfaith.org/ click on the menu and the last item listed under resources is the 2021 Unit Survey.

Or the direct link is: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TZSYN2B>

(Northcott From Page 6)

- ◆ The Emergency Food Pantry provided food for 5,340 needy people, and 2,520 seniors received assistance from the Stockbox Food Program.
- ◆ The Trunk Day or Treat Day connected families, neighborhoods and the city together by creating a fun-filled day for everyone. Food, treat bags, games, pony rides and hayrides were enjoyed by all who participated;
- ◆ A vaccine clinic provided vaccinations for many residents of the area;
- ◆ The Juneteenth celebration was very successful;
- ◆ The Youth Leadership Program trained many in employment skills, agriculture, community civic involvement, community clean-ups and resolving food insecurities.
- ◆ The arborist program is very successful.

I know you've read about many of these activities in earlier letters and in Laura Pfeffer's letter about her Northcott activities. I thought, however, they needed to be revisited to remind us why we are so proud to support our own Northcott Neighborhood House. The mission has been serving the neighborhood for over 60 years!

I've enjoyed being in touch with you and giving you news about Northcott. We are continuing to search for a replacement, and I'm on the nominating Committee, so let me know if you are interested in serving as the Northcott Representative for Southwest District.

Have a wonderful 2022, stay warm, safe and healthy.

Your partner in mission,

Carol M. Lange

United Women in Faith Assembly, Orlando FL

May, 2022



So proud to be part of the cloud of witness . Kady Her-Yang is consecrated as Deaconess



Cindy at Ubuntu Day



Heidi Cariaga National Treasurer and Kady Her-Yang Deaconess



Experience Hall



Part of our WI Group



Ubuntu Day Projects



United Women in Faith Reading Program Report Form 20____

Name:				Email:			
Address:							
Phone:				Cell:			
Unit:		District:			Conference:		
Education for Mission (EM): <i>Title, Author and Year</i>						Plan 1 – Use one item in each category. (5 items)	
Leadership Development (LD): <i>Title, Author and Year</i>							
						Plan 2 – Use two items in each category. (10 items)	
Nurturing for Community (NC): <i>Title, Author and Year</i>							
Social Action (SA): <i>Title, Author and Year</i>						Plan 3 – (15 items)	
Spiritual Growth (SG): <i>Title, Author and Year</i>						Plan 4 – (20 items)	
Plus 5 for Plan 3 <i>Title, Author, Year and Category</i>						Send to: Pat Gallus 567 W. Main Street Merrimac, WI 53561 608-393-9267 ptgallus@gmail.com	
Plus 5 for Plan 4 <i>Title, Author, Year and Category</i>						Make a copy to keep for your personal record.	
Response Magazine (Read 6 issues a year)							

All Items in the Reading Program are listed at
uwfaith.org/resources/2022-reading-program/

These bills would also increase the wait time for firearms purchase. Studies suggest that waiting period laws can reduce gun homicides by 17% and firearm suicide rates by up to 11%.¹ The United Methodist Church calls on its congregations to advocate at the local and national level for universal background checks as part of our call to pursue “the reality of God’s dream of shalom” in Micah 4:1-4. ([Book of Resolutions, 3428](#))

As a first step in addressing the scourge of gun violence, [tell your senator](#) – pass background checks now!

[1] Michael Luca, Deepak Malhotra, and Christopher Poliquin, “Handgun Waiting Periods Reduce Gun Deaths,” Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences 114, no. 46 (2017): 12162–12165

Church and Society
100 Maryland Ave, NE
Washington, DC 20002
United States

<https://www.umcjustice.org/articles/preview/50b8b1c3-3a89-4b18-9fbd-421f4e003b96?emci=e964fada-d3e0-ec11-b656-281878b85110&emdi=b3a75785-16e1-ec11-b656-281878b85110&ceid=10378512>

Yours in Christ, Pat Gallus,
Social Action Coordinator

567 W. Main Street, Merrimac, WI 53561

Phone: 608-393-9267

Email: ptgallus@gmail.com

There is still time
Please register for Mission u.
Go to
wisconsinumw.org
To get registration forms.

The Team Still Needs YOU

**Pat who is our Social Action coordinator is doing the work of program resource at this time. Eileen our vice president takes care of the Mission Today awards and organizes the Day of Enrichment. These are temporary fixes for a missing member of our team. Our district needs to find a woman who would join our team as Education and Interpretation / Program Resources Coordinator. Help us get information and support to women interested in reading and participating in mission in our district. We have a team that really enjoys being together and working together to make mission and spiritual growth opportunities available for everyone.

Martha Boyer

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Send me items about your
unit activities to include in
our Newsletters.

The link to our YouTube channel is here:

<https://youtube.com/channel/UCCgDIgSToqcpjYQw39L0IHQ>

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United
Women
in Faith

Love in Action Can Change the World