

# Mission Matters

Jeremiah 29:11

*For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord,  
plans for your welfare and not for harm,  
to give you a future with hope.*

Hello Dear Sisters and Friends of the South West District United Women in Faith (UWF). Can you believe it? The new year of 2023 is already underway and this year presents us with more challenges and opportunities to continue the mission work of our wonderful sisterhood. The words of Jeremiah 29:11 from my first article for Mission Matters in 2022 still ring true in my mind. With all that is facing our United Methodist Church, United Women in Faith and our country we need to believe in and rejoice together that our Lord will be with us on our journey. God has plans for us for our well being not for harm but to give us a future with hope. Are we listening? Do we believe that together with God's help we WILL continue putting our faith, hope and love into action? I believe it! Our mission to work with women, children and youth here and all over the world is still before us. Hold the words of Jeremiah in your heart. In addition our uwfaith.org website out there for the whole world to see is this statement "We believe love in action can change the world".

To continue putting our love into action the South West (SW) District leadership team met on January 7<sup>th</sup> and began planning for what that action will look like in 2023. As part of our listening to what God is saying to us, each of our leaders will be reaching out to all units and district members. We want to hear what God is guiding us to do. The article listing your unit sister is in this edition of Mission Matters. Their contact information is provided. Your sisters want to listen to you and learn about your unit. We want to answer questions if you have them, invite you to events and get to know you. Consider inviting us to one of your events. District members I invite you to contact me or other officers so we can keep you connected to our sisterhood. We want to listen to you too.

We learn together. What do you know about disaffiliation? How will it affect our conference, districts, churches and units?

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## Events

April 1	District Spring Retreat Lodi UMC
April 15	Conference Event Mission Action Day Zoom
June 20,22 and 27-29	Conference Event Mission u Zoom
July 13-15	Conference Event Mission u Mauston UMC

## Help Us Help You

Mar 1	Mission Today for 2022
Mar 25	Spiritual Growth Retreat Registration Due
Mar 16	Mission Matters Article Due
	Conference Event registration forms will be in "Catch the Vision" sent to your units.

## Treasurer's Note

UMW Treasurers,

I am very thankful for the persistence of units in fundraising and giving in 2022. After a large shortfall in 2021 we are gradually coming back to a more normal pattern of giving. We raised 88% of our pledge for 2022. This is less than historical giving but much more in the range of our usual amounts. Clearly units are adapting and coming to terms with their own new normal. We have increased the number of 5-star units to 10 as local units have found creative ways to access all 5-channels of giving during the year. I have sent out year-end reports to units who gave in 2022 for your records as well as new forms and updates to all unit treasurers.

I hope you are finding lots of resources and ways to tell our mission story. I have found the Faith Talks webinar/podcasts to be wonderful ways to become aware of our mission institutions, partnerships and faith development. Of course, **response** magazine continues to be an avenue of reading and sharing mission stories and stories of outreach done by other units. There are lots of special resources as well such as a new Bible study on the School-to-Prison pipeline and monthly meetings of groups like "Just Energy 4 All" as well as on-line groups through Mighty Networks. Last, but certainly not least, your Conference and District are offering events: District Spiritual Retreat, Conference Social Action Day and Mission u and I hope you will encourage as many as possible to attend these events centered on deepening our commitment to mission and God's call to be in mission throughout the world. Our mission work is truly vital and transformative and I thank you for your continued support for it.

Please send checks along with the remittance forms to my address in order for your money to be processed in a timely manner. Please make checks out to our new official name: **South West District United Women in Faith** (not to me or to my office).

Although local treasurers are not (to my knowledge) in the habit of sending copies of their yearly audit/review to the district treasurer as well as the local president, I hope that you are being contentious and accountable to best practices by going through this process on a yearly basis. We are entrusted with money and it is important to make sure your records are accurate and all transactions are accounted for properly. It is also good practice to send notice for tax filling to anyone who gave more than \$250 to your unit in a year (this has become less important since fewer people itemize their deductions these days, but is still a good idea).

I look forward to celebrating your mission giving and support in 2023.

Yours in Christ,

Laura Pfeffer

South West District Treasurer

pfeffer.umw@gmail.com	608-592-5228(H)
W10132 Koltes Rd, Lodi, WI 53555	608-698-7508(C)
Checks payable to: <u>South West District UWF</u>	

## Day of Enrichment 2022—Crossroads-Waunakee UMC

South West District Day of Enrichment was held at Crossroads-Waunakee United Methodist Church on November 12th. Our theme was Status of our Schools. Our keynote speaker Mary Baker presented an update on the status of America's children, based on information from Children's Defense Fund. Eileen Bennett presented information about how to address bullying in our schools. Our special guest for the day was Amanda Stein, our new SW District Superintendent. The program also included Unit Sharing and Reading Program reports by Laura Pfeffer and Mary Ann Morack. Carol Lange led a Litany on Psalm 100 during our offering. Communion was led by Pastor Luis Velasquez of Crossroads UMC. The program was a half day this year, followed by lunch at a local café.

Thank you for all the great participation in Unit Sharing! We will be sure to allow more time for this next year. Here are some of the things our local units are doing:

Baraboo 1st: Hosted WI Conference Annual Gathering, made cookies for the construction crew and library staff while the area was under construction, "At Home" remembrances, Project Period, Prayer Shawl ministry, Backpack project, Neighborly Free Store.

Lodi: Collecting nickels for Northcott, scholarships for children to attend camp, summer meal program, collected school supplies for teachers.

Platteville: Collected gloves, mittens, socks for Preschool through High School, contributed to weekend backpack program.

Bethany: Raised money for missions, contributed to Youth mission trip, participated in Food Pantry, sent cards & treats to college students, Playing Field preschool, new children's choir leader.

Columbus: Ecumenical Loving Lunches program for children when school is not in session, hosted Club House school-aged childcare program on days when there was no school, including summer vacation.

Midland: Support 3 local food pantries, offer camp scholarships, support Helping Hands Fund.

Dodgeville: Held 2 rummage/book sales, served funeral lunches, supporting 8 different community projects, contributing to Red Bird Mission, Harbor House, Northcott, and UMCS.

Crossroads: Held bake sales throughout the year to benefit mission giving, whole church volunteers at a local school.

We also asked what the issues are in their local school districts and how local units could help children. Here are some of the comments: funding for Special Ed too low, teacher salaries too low, respect for teachers and school boards is low – attend school board meetings and promote respect on social media, racial disparities, lunch programs are under-funded (especially in the summer), bullying – Promote "Be Kind" program started in Sauk Prairie, gun violence, students still need emotional support because of COVID.

Day of Enrichment this year will be held in Columbus on November 11th from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Lunch will be served at the church after the program.

*Eileen Bennett*

920-623-4659    bennettpesl@charter.net  
eileenb0714@gmail.com

332 W. Prairie Street Columbus, WI 53925

## ***I Pray and Ask---Who Is in Control?***

What is *control*? Why do we feel the need to control? How do we let go and let God control?

Especially during times of stress, we tend to grab and hold on to what we think of as control of things, places, relationships. However, change still happens, and we often do ourselves and others harm. We will look at how the need for control impacts forgiveness, hope, and humility as we consider our trust in God's steadfastness.

**Barbara Dick** believes in the strength of relational leadership for the church shared between caring, informed clergy and laity who understand the responsibility of the freedom we have chosen in following Christ. Coauthor of *Equipped for Every Good Work* (with her wonderful husband, Dan), Barbara works as a freelance editor for religious publishers on leadership, worship, and preaching resources. She served as project coordinator for the Wesley Study Bible (NRSV) and several UMW resources. When not engaged in ministry, Barbara loves to cook, read, watch old movies, serve Isaiah the cat's every need, and live in love with Dan. Barbara and Dan adore their grown children and their partners: Greg & Hannah, Josh & Caroline. They are over the moon as grandparents to the remarkable and wonderful Evie.



*(Presidents Message Continued from Page 1)*

By the time you read this I will have attended our National Leadership Development Days. I hope to learn more about disaffiliation from a national perspective and what our UWF plans are. At our first SW District leadership team meeting this year our SW District Lay Leader and member of the District Superintendents Disaffiliation team briefed us on what is happening in our district. Working together we will learn how it will affect the mission work we do and make plans for our future.

To care for our souls and strengthen and lift our spirits our team is preparing a spiritual retreat April 1 at the Lodi UMC. We will be gathering to be inspired to continue our work together. Find more information elsewhere in the newsletter along with a registration form. Join us, won't you?

January is the month of new beginnings. Together with God's help we can plan anew and continue our journey. Again from our uwfaith.org website "We're a sisterhood acting in faith to tackle the hard work of the world without hesitation".

Join us on the journey putting our faith, hope and love into action.

(608)274-0275

seplasterer@charter.net

6313 Winstone Dr. Madison, WI 53711

Sue Plasterer, President—South West District





South West District UWF  
Spiritual Growth Retreat  
I Pray and Ask---

## Who Is in Control?

Retreat Leader: Barbara Dick  
Saturday, April 1, 2023 at  
Lodi UMC

130 Locust St, Lodi WI

9:00am - Check-in, coffee, & continental breakfast

9:45am - 2:30pm, lunch included.

To participate in the live stream, go to your internet browser and type in:

<https://www.facebook.com/lodiumc/>

You do not need to be a member of facebook to watch the retreat.

Join us watching our event.

**In-Gathering** – Reach Out Lodi will be mission focus. It is a welcoming community center that includes a food and personal care supplies store to support the community among other projects. We will be collecting: Paper Towels, Non-perishable Food Items, Diapers (newborn – size 6), Feminine Hygiene Supplies and Check Donations.

*(Remove and Return Bottom Portion.)*

### Spiritual Growth Retreat Registration Form

Name -

Address -

Phone -

Church -

Email -

Food allergies and preferences:

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

Enclose \$15.00 check payable to **South West District UWF** due March 25, 2022

☐ I will live-stream the event at <https://www.facebook.com/lodiumc/>

Enclose \$10.00 check payable to **South West District UWF** due March 30, 2022

☐ Separate Check made to "Reach Out Lodi" for in-gathering donation.

Send or email registration to – Nada Zeimet 257 Water St. Lodi, WI 53555

Question? (608) 512-2311 – [nadarae@charter.net](mailto:nadarae@charter.net)

Membership, Nurture and Outreach – January 2023

Happy New Year.

I hope all is well with you and yours. As I write this the sun is trying to shine through the clouds – I love it.

Now to the business of last year. I have to tell you that we have not received the final count yet. South West District had a very good record of units participating.

Thank you so much for all your good work/ Now the new year – I hope you are working on plans for programs and get togethers in 2023. Remember your sister on the District Team. They can be a very good resource. The program book or response Magazine can also give you good ideas, what about the Mission u study book? Community, school, and church people can have information about all kinds of topics.

Keep up the good work and God Bless,

Kay Putman,

Membership, Nurture and Outreach

215 Water # 205, Lodi, WI 53555

608-592-2294

*An Appeal for the Nominations Team—*

## **We Need Coordinators to Write Articles and Help with Putting Together Events**

**Education and Interpretation** - Maintains Mission Today criteria for the Mission Today award. Keeps track of the forms and makes a list of which units have completed their projects for this program. Organizes and invites the speakers for the Day of Enrichment in November. Writes articles for the newsletter to support units in learning about mission opportunities for the coming year. Also works on Program Resources to promote the Reading Program.

**Spiritual Growth** – Organizes and invites the presenter for the Spiritual Growth Retreat in April. Also writes newsletter articles to support members in bringing worship and prayer ideas for use individually and in unit meetings.

**Social Action** – Writes articles and keeps in touch with the Conference Social Action Officer and National UWF to keep us informed of justice issues that our organization advocates for.

Please inquire through your units and congregations to find women interested in helping us all out.

Mary Baker	Carol Lange	Judy Loveless	Charlene Mingst
(608) 210-4048	(608) 348-4588	(608) 848-8243	(608) 935-5758

### **Communication Coordinator**

Karen Mayeshiba

1702 Lynndale Rd. Madison, WI 53711

(608)228-8351 c. (608)277-1883 h.

Email: kamayeshiba@yahoo.com

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## ***NEWS FROM NORTHCOTT NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE REPRESENTATIVE***

Saturday, September 17th, I attended the Southwest District 2022 Annual Gathering at Cuba City UMC. I found myself saying **YES** to becoming the new Northcott representative on the District Team.

We have been fortunate to have Carol Lange share all the Northcott Neighborhood House news for us for the past years. I am looking so forward to learning more about Northcott. I am happy to be joining the SW District team to learn, grow and become more involved.

It has been a busy few months with Northcott hosting a TRUNK or TREAT event on Halloween. It was a safe and fun event for more than 1,200 children.

I was happy to see they provided a Thanksgiving Dinner Giveaway on November 24th. A total of 1,000 bags were packed by volunteers. They contained home-cooked meals for 4 people. Daddy's Soul Food & Grille supplied the meal of chicken, mashed potatoes, gravy, corn, rolls and pound cake.

'TIS THE SEASON Christmas event was once again held at Northcott on December 25th. They served home cooked meals from Daddy's Soul Food & Grille to over 4,200 families and individuals. They gave out over 5,000 wrapped toys to children. The event was a success due to more than 100 volunteers, donors and local churches. It was a rewarding feeling for the volunteers to see the smiles on Christmas morning. Families were grateful for the acts of kindness.

On Thursday, December 29th, a homicide candlelight vigil was held at Ephesians Missionary Baptist Church with Pastor Raymond Monk.

Forever in Our Hearts has been sponsored by Northcott and other organizations since 1992. The vigil brings people together who have lost a love one through homicide. Elizabeth Coggs of Northcott introduced the speakers who were law enforcement officers, elected officers and other individuals who for years have been involved with this program. I was fortunate to watch this program on YouTube. Bible verses were mentioned that were to bring peace and support for the families attending. This year there were over 200 names that were read, and we were all asked to make a commitment to help stop this violence.

Once again I want to thank Carol Lange for all her articles that kept us informed about our Wisconsin National Mission Institute Northcott. Wishing you all a blessed New Year.

*IN THIS TOGETHER,*

Mary Ann Morack

254 Strangeway Ave. #5, Lodi, WI 53555	
mmorack1@yahoo.com	
608-592-4784	c.608-334-4790

Go on line to [uwfaith.org](http://uwfaith.org) to find information about pod casts (like a radio) and listen to Faith Talks, Voices From the Field or response podcast at any time. They are recorded live and are a great way to spend an evening learning more and becoming better informed.

Look into adding these opportunities to listen together and discuss what you learned about. *KM*

## South West District UMF Sister Units 2023

	Units	Sisters
<b>A</b>	<b>Arlington UMC</b>	Kay Putman
<b>B</b>	<b>Baraboo - First UMC</b>	Kay Putman
	<b>Baraboo-Emanuel UMC</b>	Kay Putman
	<b>Benton UMC</b>	Karen Mayeshiba
	<b>Boaz UMC</b>	Carol Lange
	<b>Brodhead UMC</b>	Judy Loveless
<b>C</b>	<b>Cobb UMC</b>	Charlene Mingst
	<b>Columbus UMC</b>	Cindy Morse
	<b>Cuba City UMC</b>	Sue Plasterer
<b>D</b>	<b>Dodgeville UMC</b>	Laura Pfeffer
<b>F</b>	<b>Fayette UMC</b>	Kay Putman
	<b>Fennimore UMC</b>	Carol Lange
<b>L</b>	<b>LaFarge UMC</b>	Carol Lange
	<b>Lancaster UMC</b>	Sue Plasterer
	<b>Liberty Pole UMC</b>	Charlene Mingst
	<b>Livingston UMC</b>	Charlene Mingst
	<b>Lodi UMC</b>	Eileen Bennett
<b>M</b>	<b>Madison - Beth-any UMC</b>	Kay Putman
	<b>Madison - First UMC</b>	Laura Pfeffer

	Units	Sisters
<b>M</b>	<b>Madison - Well-spring UMC</b>	Judy Loveless
	<b>Mazomanie - Midland UMC</b>	Sue Plasterer
	<b>Merrimac UMC</b>	Eileen Bennett
	<b>Monona UMC</b>	Mary Lainberger
	<b>Montford UMC</b>	Charlene Mingst
<b>N</b>	<b>North Windsor UMC</b>	Cindy Morse
<b>P</b>	<b>Platteville UMC</b>	Sue Plasterer
	<b>Portage UMC</b>	Eileen Bennett
	<b>Prairie du Chien UMC</b>	Carol Lange
<b>S</b>	<b>Stitzer UMC</b>	Karen Mayeshiba
	<b>Stoughton UMC</b>	Cindy Morse
<b>V</b>	<b>Viola UMC</b>	Eileen Bennett
	<b>Viroqua UMC</b>	Eileen Bennett
<b>W</b>	<b>Waunakee - Crossroads UMC</b>	Kay Putman
	<b>Whig UMC</b>	Karen Mayeshiba
	<b>Willow Valley UMC</b>	Karen Mayeshiba
	<b>Wisconsin Dells - Davis Corners UMC</b>	Kay Putman
	<b>Wisconsin Dells - Dells-Delton UMC</b>	Kay Putman



## South West District UWF Mission Today Report Form

Year: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>F A I T H</b>	<b><i>United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose PURPOSE is to know God</i></b>
	1. Plan programs that encourage spiritual growth. (Program book, response magazine, etc.)
	2. Create prayer partners with other church groups.
	3. Pray using the Prayer Calendar at meetings.
	4. Organize the spiritual growth study from Mission u, possibly several evenings/ weeks.

<b>H O P E</b>	<b><i>to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ;</i></b>
	1. Take advantage of opportunities thru UWF such as Mission u, Spiritual Growth Retreats, Annual Gatherings, Mission Action Day.
	2. Set aside a time to go over the year's plans using Mission Today Mission Tasks.
	3. Implement the Charter for Racial Justice program.
	4. Present a mission study from Mission u, inviting church members. Host a church-wide discussion of United Methodist initiatives and programs such as the Way Forward.

<b>L O V E</b>	<b><i>to develop a creative, supportive fellowship;</i></b>
	1. Honor the organization's leaders and member's contributions with Special Mission Recognition pins. Don't forget community leaders.
	2. Encourage everyone to visit or invite visitors to/from other local UWF organizations.
	3. Publicize your events using newsletters, bulletin boards, Sunday bulletins, social media, phone calls, etc.
	4. Plan a year end program to give thanks and celebrate your accomplishments.

<b>I N A C T I O N</b>	<b><i>and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.</i></b>
	1. Encourage all members to participate in the Pledge for Mission; give reports on where the money goes.
	2. Involve all members in fundraising (think creatively).
	3. Contribute to scholarships (UWF related) and Mission u. (\$25.00 or more).
	4. Partner with a mission institution such as Northcott, or Wisconsin Conference supported Harbor House, United Methodist Children's Services of Wisconsin, etc.

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

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

**Name of Church:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Your Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Your Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Home phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Cell Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Criteria Completed (Circle the numbers completed)</b> <i>*Any criteria that are not currently listed but would fit in one of the categories can be included in the unit reports.</i>									
Faith	1	2	3	4	Hope	1	2	3	4
Love	1	2	3	4	In Action	1	2	3	4

Report any new criteria tried this year and comments:

Send to: Eileen Bennett, 332 W. Prairie St., Columbus, WI 53925  
 Email: [bennettpesl@charter.net](mailto:bennettpesl@charter.net)

## 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>						<i>Plan 1 – Use one item in each category. (5 items)</i>	
Leadership Development (LD): <i>Title, Author and Year</i>						<i>Plan 2 – Use two items in each category. (10 items)</i>	
Nurturing for Community (NC): <i>Title, Author and Year</i>						<i>Plan 3 – (15 items)</i>	
Social Action (SA): <i>Title, Author and Year</i>						<i>Plan 4 – (20 items)</i>	
Spiritual Growth (SG): <i>Title, Author and Year</i>						Send to: Mary Ann Morack 254 Strangeway Ave. #5 Lodi, WI 53555 (608) 592-4784 (608) 334-4790 mmorack1@yahoo.com	
Plus 5 for Plan 3 <i>Title, Author, Year and Category</i>						c.	
Plus 5 for Plan 4 <i>Title, Author, Year and Category</i>						<i>Make a copy to keep for your personal record.</i>	
Response Magazine (Read 6 issues a year)							

All Items in the Reading Program are listed at  
[uwfaith.org/resources/2022-reading-program/](http://uwfaith.org/resources/2022-reading-program/)

South West District UWF

Karen Mayeshiba

1702 Lynndale Rd.

Madison, WI 53711



United  
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FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION