

Mission Matters

President's Message

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. NRSV*

Once again I greet you Dear United Women in Faith Sisters and friends in Wisconsin's South West District.

Let me get right to what's on my mind. I am in a hard place where finding hope is difficult. My church of 43 years--Madison Wellspring closed June 25, 2023. We were a Reconciling Congregation. Our reasons for closing were many. The closing means we will no longer meet in the building at 5702 South Hill Drive as a community of Christian believers who welcomed all to the table. I imagine I have experienced emotions felt by many who voted 'yes' and 'no' during the process of disaffiliation. Our beloved United Methodist Church worldwide is going through change and we are all part of it. What will become of us?

I need the words of hope I find in Jeremiah, Chapter 29:11. God sent the prophet Jeremiah to the exiles taken from Jerusalem to Babylon to give them a message of hope. Read Chapter 29 for the background from the time of the prophet Jeremiah. I am not a Biblical scholar but this verse continues to speak to me since the first time I heard it during worship at a mega United Women in Faith Conference planning meeting at Pine Lake. Thank you, Deb Pattee.

In this day and time, where do I find God's plan for my welfare and save me from these experiences which could cause me harm? What do I do now? First I need to grieve for my wonderful Wellspring but not let the grieving weigh me down for too long. Our unit was chartered in October 1968. The women who established Divine Savior's Women's Society of Christian Service laid the groundwork for all of us who knew them and have come after them. The work we've done with Divine Savior/Wellspring's United Methodist Women and now United Women in Faith has impacted many lives for good. I celebrate and thank God for that.

(Cont. on pg. 7)

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Events

Sept 16	SW Annual Gathering Bethany UMC
Oct 13-14	Conference Annual Gathering Eau Clair-Lake St UMC
Nov 11	Day of Enrichment Columbus UMC

Help Us Help You

Aug 9	Mission Matters Due
Sept 1	Reading Program List Due
Sept 2	SW Annual Gathering Form Due

Next Mission Matters will be devoted to the Annual Gathering. Space will be limited.

Treasurer's Note

United Women in Faith Treasurers,

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 roughly at 36% of our pledge which is close to where we were last year, but we failed to make our pledge last year, so we will probably plan to lower our expectations next year. It is unfortunate since when our giving goes down, mission suffers. Although I know that we cannot avoid the general trend of our denomination with fewer members, churches and units, it is difficult to face the reality that as we raise less and less money, more and more cuts will need to be made at our National office – staff, grants and mission support. We are the inheritors of a legacy of 150+ years of mission building. If we fail to support it, it cannot survive and thrive in the future.

I urge you to consider new fundraising ideas. Have you heard of the new #move4mission fundraiser (<https://uwfaith.org/move4mission/>) which was developed by our own Heidi Caragega, Chair of the National Finance Office? I will bet that you know some teens or young people who are active in running/walking or other types of active fundraisers who might be willing to participate in this activity. There are sign-up sheets, t-shirts – (with a bible scripture on the back) and many other resources available to help your group organize this event. What a great way to introduce a new generation to the joy of raising money to transform the lives of women, children and youth around the world! If you are lacking in young people, why not try a modified version of “rockers” or lappers around a community mall or other space? There is no end to the ways in which we can continue to work to support God’s mission at home and around the world.

Finally, just a reminder to all of you to make out all checks to our new organization name “**South West District UWF** (United Women in Faith)”. My bank has been very kind in accepting various ways of designating checks to us, but they are warning me that it is difficult for them to process checks which are not made out properly (It looks wrong to bank regulators if they see a mis-match in names/designations). Please fill out a giving form indicating where your money should be designated (my auditor will thank you) and make checks out to our organization (not to me or to my office, but to the new organization name) or we may be forced to return checks for corrections.

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 UWF</u>	

We are a Team

Dear wonderful women of the South West District United Women in Faith area. There's an opportunity to be part of an amazing team. There is joy! There is love and support from women who are waiting just for YOU to be part of the group. Come as you are. Come ready to be surprised with positive energy and information. Come and expand your vision and possibility for a life enriched by fellowship and outreach. The areas of leadership are fulfilling and can be life changing! There is something spectacular just waiting for you to become part of. There is room at the table! There is welcome and warmth, learning and sharing, growth and development that is inspiring and uplifting.

This group celebrates MISSION, VISION, and PURPOSE. We are looking forward to your unique self to be with us as we seek to connect and nurture women through Christian spiritual formation, leadership development, creative fellowship, and education so that they can inspire, influence, and impact local and global communities.

Our team is waiting with anticipation of your wonder to join us. Take the hands of women who will guide, direct, inspire, listen to, and walk with you through this spectacular journey of turning faith, hope and love into action on behalf of women, children, and youth around the world.

Contact me for information! Blessings galore await you!

Mary Baker

Chairperson of Nominations

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South West District Annual Gathering

United Women in Faith



United
Women
in Faith

Bethany-Madison United Methodist Church, 3910 Mineral Point Rd, Madison, Wisconsin

Saturday, September 16th, 2023, 9:00 – 3:00

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

Here are some of the highlights:

- ✚ Amanda Stein Keynote “Bold Women in Faith”
- ✚ Robin Kelby Breakout “How to be a welcoming unit”
- ✚ Bethany UMC Breakout/tour “The Playing Field”
- ✚ Josie Gobel Breakout “Green Team”
- ✚ Eileen Bennett Breakout “Faith and Gun Violence” (World Council of Churches)
- ✚ Singing and Gathering
- ✚ Memorial Service for members we have lost since last year
- ✚ Communion will be celebrated

You are invited to bring donations for the Playing Field. If you would like to shop for items, the Amazon wish list can be found here: <https://playingfieldmadison.org/donate/> New, child-sized underwear and diapers are always needed and appreciated. Gas and grocery gift cards are also appreciated!

Checks may be sent with your registration or brought to Annual Gathering.

Please make checks payable to The Playing Field.

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. **Please make checks payable to SW District UWF.**

Please send the registration form and payment to:

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

bennettpesl@charter.net

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? _____ (Will be available on-site at no charge)

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.

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 – One item in each category. (5 items)</i>
Leadership Development (LD): <i>Title, Author and Year</i>	<i>Plan 2 – Two Items in each category. (10 Items)</i>
Nurturing for Community (NC): <i>Title, Author and Year</i>	<i>Plan 3 – Plan 2 plus 5 items (15 Items)</i>
Social Action (SA): <i>Title, Author and Year</i>	<i>Plan 4 – Plan 2 plus 10 items or more. (20 Items)</i>
Spiritual Growth (SG): <i>Title, Author and Year</i>	<div style="text-align: center;"> Send to: Mary Ann Morack 254 Strangeway Ave. #5 Lodi, WI 53555 (608) 592-4784 (608) 581-6353 mmorack1@yahoo.com </div>
Plus 5 for Plan 3 <i>Title, Author, Year and Category</i>	
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)							
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All Items in the Reading Program are listed at <https://uwfaith.org/resources/reading-program/>
Books from this year's list and the previous 5 years lists can count.

Spiritual Growth is an important part of UWF. Having a person on our team who shares with us inspiration and biblical understanding helps us in our daily lives. Our world is so interconnected and there are always people in need and we can become overwhelmed. At this time, our team doesn't have a volunteer to help keep us grounded in our faith.

Cynthia Morse who is chair of the Conference Nomination Committee volunteered to find something to share with all of us for Spiritual Growth. Thank You Cindy.

I Cannot Pray

Author Unknown

I cannot say **"Our"** if my religion has no room for others and their needs.

I cannot say **"Father"** if I do not demonstrate this relationship in my daily life.

I cannot say **"Who Art In Heaven"** if all my interests and pursuits are in earthly things.

I cannot say **"Hallowed Be Thy Name"** if I, who am called by his name, am not holy.

I cannot say **"Thy Kingdom Come"** if I am unwilling to give up my own sovereignty and accept the righteous reign of God.

I cannot say **"Thy Will Be Done"** if I am unwilling or resentful of having it in my life.

I cannot say **"On Earth As It Is In Heaven"** Unless I am truly ready to give myself to his service here and now.

I cannot say **"Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread"** without expending honest effort for it or by ignoring the genuine needs of my fellowmen.

I cannot say **"Forgive Us Our Trespasses As We Forgive Those Who Trespass Against Us"** if I continue to harbor a grudge against anyone.

I cannot say **"Lead Us Not Into Temptation"** if I deliberately choose to remain in a situation where I am likely to be tempted.

I cannot say **"Deliver Us From Evil"** if I am not prepared to fight in the spiritual realm with the weapon of prayer.

I cannot say **"Thine Is The Kingdom"** if I do not give the King the disciplined obedience of a loyal subject.

I cannot say **"Thine Is The Power"** if I fear what my neighbors and friends may say or do.

I cannot say **"Thine Is The Glory"** if I am seeking my own glory first.

I cannot say **"Forever"** if I am too anxious about each day's affairs.

I cannot say **"Amen"** unless I honestly say "cost what it may, this is my prayer".

Soot pollution is deadly.

Soot, also known as particulate matter, kills at least 85,000 Americans every year. Thousands of lives could be saved with better air quality The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to clean up deadly soot pollution.

Recent scientific studies have found that no level of fine particulate pollution is safe, and our current standards don't protect people's health and safety enough. **New limits on soot pollution are one of the best ways the Biden administration can improve Americans' health.**

It's long overdue. Air pollution standards for soot haven't been updated in a decade.

If the EPA adopts the stronger clean air standards on the table, it could save an estimated 15,000 lives per year. The options proposed by the EPA could reduce air pollution and improve the lives of communities impacted by air pollution, or keep the status quo of disease and premature death.

Thank you Judy for giving us information about how important having clean air is to all of us. At this time our team doesn't have a Social Action Coordinator. This person finds information and shares it with all of us. Without someone to help us see what the rest of the world goes through, it is hard to connect policies and laws to people's health and welfare.

Without knowledge, it's hard to organize for change.

(President's Message cont. from pg.1)

Who knew Mission u on Zoom would be happening just when I was in such a hard and difficult place. We explored the Lord's Prayer using the study book ***Living the Kin-dom: Exploring the Lord's Prayer as a Spiritual Practice for Social Transformation***. I was blessed to study with wonderful women who opened my eyes to new understanding of the Lord's Prayer and lifted me up by their presence. That gave me hope. I recommend the study to your unit or adult study group. Resources are available online. Read May/June 2023 **response** magazine "learn" and the article "Unwrapping the Lord's Prayer" for more information, p7-9. Read "listen" and Tara Barnes' article "What's Happening in the United Methodist Church" on pages 38-41 about the changes we are experiencing in our United Methodist Church. The article includes information about how United Women in Faith can continue in new ways. That information gives me hope.

Even though Wellspring is closed our United Women in Faith work is not done. We are making plans to continue. It has been my experience that God provides the resources and women to guide and hold all of us up so that we can continue to make life better for women, children and youth here and around the world.

Sue Plasterer, President
Wisconsin South West District
United Women in Faith

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NEWS FROM NORTHCOTT NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE

On Sunday, April 30 Northcott Neighborhood House held their Board of Directors Annual Meeting. I was happy to attend, and I met Tony Kearney, Jr. Executive Director and Elizabeth Coggs, Director of Operations. We were served a delicious brunch. The meeting started with highlights from the past year.

What is Juneteenth? In Galveston TX. On June 19, 1865, the day a Union Army officer read the order that all people were free and had “an absolute equality of personal rights” and they were entitled to work for wages. The enslaved population knew that day that they were free! From that year on a celebration was held to commemorate the day. It has spread and is now a federal holiday.

Northcott has hosted the Milwaukee event for 52 years. This historical holiday includes floats in a parade, marching bands, dance/drill groups and plenty of other activities.

FAITH TALKS for Thursday, June 15 will teach us more about Juneteenth and the celebration in Milwaukee. Elizabeth Coggs will be one of the speakers. The show is available as a audio recording at uwfaith.org. go to the pod casts and select Faith Talks.

We learned of all the successes of 2022. They were recognized for their involvement in COVID Campaign. They provided free masks, hand sanitizer through their partnerships with their partners at their pantry. On Tuesdays and Fridays, Healthcare Connection offered free testing and vaccinations. They worked to help the community everyday.

The staff and families are looking forward to celebrating Jazz & Blues Summer Concerts. At Bernice & Clinton Rose Park on Dr. Martin King Jr. Drive—**Saturdays 2-6 p.m.** Saturday June 24 thru Saturday July 29. Let friends know.

IN THIS TOGETHER, Mary Ann Morack

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

Bright Lights of South West District UWFaith



Lodi United Women in Faith held their UW in Faith Sunday on June 11.

Mary Baker gave an inspiring presentation on our 2023 Program book:

Mosaic of Faith.

Thank you Mary.

Pictured left to right: Mary Ann Morack (Vice President), Laura Pfeiffer (Program Resources & Social Action), Mary Baker (Nomination Chair for SW District), Nada Zeimet (Treasurer) and Kay Putman (President).

MABEL HEIL SCHOLARSHIP FUND WISCONSIN CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Purpose: The Mabel Heil Scholarship is made possible by earnings from a trust established by the will of Sarah Mabel Heil, a resident of Cuba City, Wisconsin. Funds are awarded by the Heil Scholarship Committee of the Wisconsin Conference United Methodist Women and are invested in the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation. Any Wisconsin United Methodist woman working to improve her education may apply.

Eligibility Requirements:

- a. Must be a female member of United Methodist Women, Wisconsin Conference
- b. Submit a written answer to the question, "In what ways do I consider myself a worthy student?"
- c. Send a letter of recommendation from either the president of the local UMW unit or from your pastor
- d. Send a letter of recommendation from a church member who is not a member of your household and is not a relative. (The person writing a letter on behalf of the applicant is to send the letter directly to the contact person.)
- e. All letters must be written (Preferably typed) on one side of an 8.5x11" sheet of white paper using black ink.

Application Procedure:

- a. Scholarships are awarded for one semester at a time. To be considered again DURING a one-year period send a letter asking to be considered AFTER one year, complete another application and secure new recommendations.
- b. Women responsible for others will be favored.
- c. Women preparing to return to the employment field will be favored.
- d. Graduate students may apply for each semester as long as they meet the other requirements.
- e. Recent high school graduates will receive the lowest consideration.
- f. The application and two (2) letters of recommendation must be postmarked no later than May 1 and/or October 1. Checks will be disbursed by August 15 and January 15.
- g. Application forms may be requested from the address below. Obtain an application form and send to:

Contact person: Lucy Silvester 373 15th Avenue, Nekoosa WI 54457

For more information call 715-325-2841 or email loosesilv45@gmail.com

MABEL HEIL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION
WISCONSIN CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Please Print

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____ Email _____ Birth Date _____

1. Local Church:

Name & City _____

Pastor _____

Are you a member of United Methodist Women? _____

2. Activities:

In United Methodist Women _____

In your local church _____

In the community _____

3. Education: (Give year of graduation) High School _____ College _____ Other _____

School you will be attending _____

Have you been accepted as a student? Yes _____ no _____

Present (post high school) status:

Freshman _____ Sophomore _____ Junior _____ Senior _____ Graduate _____ Other _____

Course of study _____

4. Family Status _____

5. Please answer the following question using an additional sheet.

IN WHAT WAY DO YOU CONSIDER YOURSELF A WORTHY STUDENT?

Mail to: Lucy Silvester

373 15th Avenue

Phone: 715-325-2841

Nekoosa WI 54457

Email: loosesilv45@gmail.com

Count Count Count

2022 census is now in the works, due by **August 30, 2023**. Again this year by SurveyMonkey.

Last year South West District had 39 of 44 units report with 855 members being the last count I received. Can we do better this year? I think we can if we try really hard. We Can. Like the little engine that could!

Use the link below in your browser to go to the census form.

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

Every question needs an answer. At the end of the survey your answers are automatically entered and the last page thanks you for doing the survey. That's it. No button that must be pushed to record the answer, you are done. If your unit geared down in 2022 and you are no longer meeting as UWF, please do the survey to record 0 (zero) as your membership number. You will need to complete the entire survey but this will help national know what is happening with membership nation wide.

Your SW District sisters will be contacting your units to find out what we can do to be of service to you as we go forward.

Just something to remember about United Women in Faith, we welcome any woman who supports our purpose and mission. Thank you for your support and work in mission. Don't forget to call with your questions.

Serving to Learn, Learning to Serve,

Kay Putman

Membership Nurture and Outreach

Kay Putman

215 Water #205, Lodi, WI 53555

608-592-2294

Year Book Corrections Continued

p.10—Sue Plasterer, 6813 Winstone Dr. (address # correction)

p.37—Marjory Lyford, marjorylyford@gmail.com (new email address)

p.37—Ann Hill, anniehill50@gmail.com (new email address)

p.11 and p.36—Mary Ann Morack, (608) 581-6353 (new cell phone #)

Communication Coordinator

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

Subscribe to response: Magazine with a Mission

<https://uwfaith.org/resources/response-magazine/>

By Mail

response Magazine
PO Box 395
Congers, NY 10920-0395

By phone

1-877-881-2385

By Fax

1-845-267-3478

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United
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