

North West District
United Methodist Women

Newsletter

The WEAVER



February
2022



United
Methodist
Women
FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

United Methodist Women shall be a community of women
whose PURPOSE is to.....
know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ,
to develop a creative, supportive fellowship,
and
to expand concepts of mission through
participation in the global ministries of the church.



A message from our North West District Team's President.....
Liz Dempsey

Greetings to all of you, our diligent and faithful United Methodist Women. We both grieved and then treasured the memories of those whom we have lost while knowing that they have gone where the Creator has provided a paradise of peace, color, and light. So, let us look forward to using our gifts to carry on the Purpose of United Methodist Women here while providing our brand of peace, color and light to those around us and in faraway places.

So how creative have we gotten this past year while we try to work around the continuing obstacles? I just finished examining the Mission Today reports that came in since I was still operating as the Education and Interpretation Coordinator. I am delighted in reading some of the ways that you worked around those obstacles. And, I hope you won't mind when I share those. Again, it takes the unique gifts that each of us has to conquer obstacles that come into our path of living day to day. So, blessings to all and let us all cast off anything negative and make it a positive as we move forward into this new year 2022. My prayer for each is that we create an aura of serenity and love.

Now, MARK your calendar! **March 19**, will be virtual **Spring Day of Enrichment**. Work with your church or one of our large churches near enough to gather safely if you do not have access to the virtual process. You do not want to miss seeing and hearing Rob Odum. Some of you have been in Mission u classes with him and enjoyed and absorbed whatever the topic was. He is a promoter of UMW just as our District Superintendent Barb is a promoter. The theme of our day will be **Calling Women to Action! Our mission outreach will be concentrated on "disaster areas resulting from the Afghan refugee displacements**. You will find the REGISTRATION FORM ON THE LAST PAGE OF THE WEAVER. We will begin at 9:30 a.m. and close at around 12:30 p.m. Meet us there!

Blessings to each of you and your units, Liz



From the desk of our North West District Team's Treasurer's...
Annette Pederson

UMW Sisters,

I am writing this on Martin Luther King Day and one of his quotes that I like is "Only in the darkness can you see the stars." These last couple of years have certainly seemed like darkness in many ways including with our UMW units. Many units have been unable to meet regularly, unable to do their usual money-making activities and unable to give as they have done in the past. Thus, our district was only able to make 65% of our pledge to conference for 2021.

I am choosing to look to the stars, knowing that their sparkle and light can guide us. 2021 did have some highlights; we gave \$1115 to the Bolivian Motorcycle Ministry; we were able to have an uplifting Fall District Annual Meeting, with a speaker and many units began meeting again. As we move into 2022, I hope that our units continue to thrive and expand. I hope that our money raising improves so we can do better with our District Pledge to Conference. I hope that the stars sparkle for each of you and for our UMW units.

The following units have received the 5 STAR AWARDS for 2021, even with limited time to meet together and without the usual opportunities for mission money raising opportunities.

Congratulations Ladies!!!!

Barron UMW
Chippewa Falls Trinity UMW
Eau Claire Lake Street UMW
Holcombe UMW
Prairie Farm UMW
River Falls UMW

Canton UMW
Grantsburg UMW
Mondovi UMW
New Centerville UMW
Rice Lake UMW
Superior UMW



A Note from our North West District Team's Secretary.....
Karen Leichtle

I never belonged to a church women's group until we joined the River Falls UMC in the 1990's. None of our previous churches had groups that met in the evening. But here there was an evening Circle – the Esther Circle – for the working gals such as teachers. I became a Methodist, then a Circle member, a unit officer and then a district officer. I don't have much experience with District or Conference activities - only a few Spring and Fall Gatherings and two Mission u's in 2018 and 2019. But the other officers here will help me learn.

May God bless all we do – all of us.

A Message from our North West District Team's Social Action Coor.....

Laura Ida



New Year's Blessings to all of you! I hope that you will join me in uniting our voices, prayers and faith in Social Action during 2022!

Recently I went through a fast-food drive thru – and the young man who handed my beverage to me said, “No straw, right?” I replied, “Correct, you have a great memory!” He smiled and said, “Save the turtles!” I drove away smiling, thinking of the “**little things**” we can do to make a difference in this world.

So as United Methodist Women, this month let's give renewed attention to all the “**little things**” we can do that do make a difference.

- 1) **Straws** - Keep some washed/recycled straws in the car if you go through a drive through, and have the business keep their straws! Or drink without one!
- 2) **Cloth bags** - Don't leave home without them! Keep them in the car and take them into the store with you. (Some grocery stores and businesses even give you a nickel credit for using your own – a little change to donate to mission!)
- 3) **Read** – Winter is a great time to be cozy with some reading material. Take a look at the Response Magazine, it is such a great resource to keep us up to date with current issues and ways to take action. Also, explore a Social Action book from our Reading Program.
- 4) **Learn** – Learn what you can about “Just Energy,” or our new Afghan neighbors.
- 5) **Investigate** – Bee's Wrap – an alternative to plastic wrap that is reusable.
- 6) **Pray** – that we can be strengthened to continue to bring hope and light into the world around us, even through the “**little things!**”

“Learn to do good, seek justice, help the oppressed.” Isaiah 1:17

Yours in Social Action,



A message from our North West District Team's Membership, Nurture & Outreach
Coor.....Cheryl Starr



Happy New Year! My name is Cheryl Starr and I am beginning my term as Membership Chair for the Northwest District. I hope that during my tenure I will be able to meet many of you and we will be able to find ways to get more of our United Methodist sisters involved with the United Methodist Women organization. I have to confess that I have only been part of UMW for the past 3 years here at Osceola United Methodist, where my husband, Jack Starr, is pastor. Before that, I was working: 25 years of teaching in the UW System (UW-Superior and UW-Eau Claire) and then 12 years of retail sales, primarily in quilt shops and found UMW meetings to be at times when I could not participate.

However, through the years UMW friends have invited me to the spring and fall events and I remember being surprised and impressed with the range of activities and commitments I found within the UMW. I am currently the Social Justice & Education Chair here at Osceola and also am trying to encourage our church members to be involved with the UMW Reading Program. I also attended my first Mission U in May 2020. Perhaps my recent "discoveries" of all the UMW has to offer will help me encourage others.

So, as we move into this new year, I pray that our churches and our UMW organizations can overcome the challenges we are facing with the continued covid surges and that we can continue to be Jesus' hands and feet in our communities and across the world.

Blessings!

North West District UMW – 2021 Reading Program Participants & Plans Completed

Barron:

Laurie Church- 1
Marilyn Gilbertson -1
Deanna Keppen -1
Linda Rogers -1
Jean Strang -2

Canton:

Rose Snyder -1
Michele Halvorson -1
Arlene Ciulla -1

Chippewa Falls - Trinity:

Carole Frederich -1
Ruth Olson -1
Alberta Koneazny -1
Shirley Woodruff -1

River Falls:

Janet Leonard - 2
Laura Ida - 2
Barb Wall – 4 (died Fall 2021)

Eau Claire – Lake Street

Rita Houser -1
Bev Maser - 4
Chris Draxler -3
Marty Fisher Blakeley -1
Suzanne Heabler -3
Pat Peterson -2
Joyce Simpson -1

Holcombe:

Cheryl Bingham -2

New Richmond:

Kay Peterson -1

Pleasant Valley:

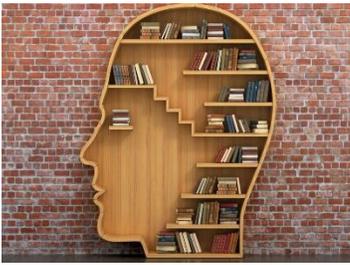
Annette Pederson -3

Rice Lake:

Kathy Wagenbach – 1
Lisa Mink - 1

Superior -Faith:

Joyce Jelinek -1
Peggy Van Valkenburg -1
Carol Larson - 1



Inspiration to READ from our North West District Team's Program Reading Coor.....Cherie Bingham

Greetings once again to my United Methodist sisters of the North West District.

As I write this in January, it is a beautiful sunny day! It is still cold out, but, after the bitter cold, gloomy days of the past couple weeks, I am praising God for the sunshine!

We are now on the second year of the 2021-2022 reading program developed by our National Program Resources leaders. If you have been reading but were not able to complete or submit your list in December 2021, please continue reading & filling out your report and submit it by December. Also, remember that there are Faith Talk Podcasts and movies that you may watch to help you meet the criteria for each plan. Regular reading of the Response magazine is required & the articles in the magazine are outstanding! It is a joy to read about what United Methodist Women are doing around the world. All 2022 and 2021-2022(combined) completed reports will be due by 12/1/2022.

We had 30 women participate in the Reading Program for 2021. See the separate listing in this issue of the Weaver. Twenty women completed Plan I, five completed Part II, three completed Part III and two completed Part IV. Congratulations to each participant!

If you are new to UMW and the reading program, the listings and all the criteria for the different categories and plans may be found at the UMW website at: www.unitedmethodistwomen.org.

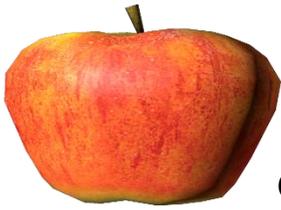
If you have questions, you may email me at: cheriJeanb@hotmail.com, or call me at: 608-712-7820. Please leave me a message with your name, phone number, and the best times to contact you.

Enjoy your time spent reading this winter!

Sister Units for 2022

- Annette Pederson—Holcombe
- Barbara Bender—Clear Lake, Cumberland, Downing: (District Members Chetek and Chippewa Falls Zion)
- Billie LaBumbard—Grantsburg, Balsam Lake/Centuria, Superior, Ashland: (District Member Webster)
- Cheryl Bingham—Bloomer, Cadott, Jim Falls, Eau Claire Lake Street: (District Members Augusta and Thorp)
- Cheryl Starr—Turtle Lake, Spooner, River Falls, Pleasant Valley
- Chris Draxler—Barron, Rice Lake, Prairie Farm, Canton: (District Members Birchwood and Wheeler)
- Claudette Smith—Chippewa Falls Trinity, Mondovi, Exeland
- Karen Leichtle—Knapp, Whitehall, Glenwood City, New Centerville: (District Member Pepin)

Laura Ida—New Richmond, Osceola, Ono/Plum City, Rock Elm



Be informed message from our North West District Team’s Education and Interpretation Coor.....Barbara Bender

Having just finished five years as Membership, Nurture, and Outreach Coordinator, I’m now your Education and Interpretation Coordinator. This is really not new to me because fifteen or more years ago I held this position for four years. I remember at that time there were sixty or sixty-two units. It was a long list. I’m sorry that so many have become inactive in recent years, but age and COVID have been factors, I’m sure.

I hope you look over the four categories, listed on page 8 & 9, work on them throughout the year, and then come December 1st, return them to me completed. It seems all, or nearly all, should be able to do two from each category. Let’s strive for 100%.

One year ago in the March 2021 Weaver, Liz had some excellent ideas. I hope they were helpful and that you continue your good mission work.

Blessings

CELEBRATE NORTH WEST 2021 MISSION TODAY UNITS

Considering the difficulty of meeting monthly with COVID issues in our various North West Unit locations, we celebrate the following unit’s successes.

Barron First UMW

Canton UMW

Chippewa Falls Trinity UMW

Clear Lake UMW

Downing UMW

Eau Claire Lake Street UMW

Exeland First UMW

Grantsburg Central UMW

New Centerville UMW

Osceola UMW

Prairie Farm UMW

Rice Lake 1st UMW

River Falls Spirit of Grace UMW

Superior Faith UMW



**Mission Today Local Unit Report Form
Year 2022**

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 Barb Bender, E&I Coordinator, at 715-455-1471 or your district sister. **Return form by December 1st** to 328 8 ¼ St., Prairie Farm, WI 54762. Report on criteria used during the year 2022.

Name of Church: _____

Your Name: _____

Your Address: _____

Home Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

On the back of this you will find the Mission Tasks for 2022 listed with a check box to be checked if your unit has accomplished the specific tasks under the criteria Faith, Hope, Love, and In Action. *There will also be a check box inside of a larger box where you can describe actions your unit took that you believe fulfill the criteria of Faith, Hope, Love and Action.* Many of your units undertake tasks that fit your locale and your membership more effectively. In order to count these undertakings as suitable to count as one of two tasks accomplished by your unit for consideration as Mission Today Award, describe them clearly. They will need to carry out the mission (purpose) of that criteria.

i.e.

Faith: must have the purpose *of strengthening faith in God and the personal relationship with Him while maturing and growing spiritually.*

Hope: must have the purpose *of increasing knowledge through attendance at personal growth educational gatherings, implementing and/or studying social action issues, as well as encouraging those outside of UMW to increase understanding and knowledge of social issues.*

Love: must have the purpose *of building relationships inside and outside of UMW.*

Action: must have the purpose *of service and mission tasks.*

Please report on any new criteria tried this year:

Comments:

MISSION TODAY REPORT FORM – Tasks for 2022

Becoming a Mission Today UMW means that you have completed two (2) tasks from each criterion: Faith, Hope, Love, and Action. Think outside the box; there may be things you did this year that fit the criteria. The box following each criterion allows you to explain something that you feel fit the criteria you find on the other side of this form. The challenge each year is to try at least 1 new criterion during the year.

FAITH – United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose PURPOSE is to know God.....

- Plan programs that encourage spiritual growth. (occasionally used Program book or *response* magazine)
- Create prayer partners with other church groups. (Prayer chains, World Day of Prayer, etc.)
- Pray using the Prayer Calendar at meetings.
- Organize the spiritual growth study from Mission u, possibly several evenings/weeks.

HOPE – to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ;

- Take advantage of opportunities through UMW. (Mission u, Spiritual Growth Retreats, Annual Gatherings, Mission Action Day)
- Set aside a time to go over the year’s plans using Mission Today Mission Tasks.
- Implement the Charter for Racial Justice.
- Present a mission study from Mission u, inviting church members.

LOVE – to develop a creative, supportive fellowship;

- Honor the organization’s leaders and member’s contributions with Special Mission Recognition pins.
- Encourage everyone to visit or invite visitors to/from other local UMW organizations.
- Publicize your events using newsletters, bulletin boards, Sunday bulletins, social media, phone calls, etc.
- Plan a year-end program to give thanks and celebrate your accomplishments.
- Plan visits to former members or friends of UMW who are unable to attend due to illness or residing in rest homes, etc.

ACTION – and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

- Encourage all members to participate in the Pledge for Mission; give reports of where the money goes.
- Involve all members in fundraising (think outside the box)
- Contribute to scholarships related to UMW programs such as Mission u and seminar experiences.
- Partner with a mission institution such as Harbor House, Northcott, or UM Children’s Services of Wisconsin.



Billie Labumbard

Psalm 121:8 “The Lord will protect you on your journeys –whether going or coming—From now until forever.”

Birthdays are Fun!

I've been on a short trip to visit my sister for my birthday. More and more people we know have COID; friends, relatives, and neighbors. It's a big risk just to visit my sister and nearby brother. We've taken **precautions**; shots, masks (N95), hand washing, and distancing.

For good mental health **interaction** is important. It might be face time, zoom, phone calls, or even a short visit with precautions. I've perfected the “virtual hug” by opening my arms and saying this is a virtual hug. Others are doing the fist bump.

WE took some pictures that we can look at in the future to remember our short time together.

So all-in-all my prayers have increased, my knitting has increased, my reading has increased, my craft/painting time has increased, my day-dreams about summer, flowers, bike rides, and reminiscing have increased.

My petition to God is that God will guide our future, especially our Spring Day of Enrichment

As we plan for ACTION to help out in the world
As we encourage each other
As Pastor Odum prepares and presents

See each of you on Zoom
God will be with you on your journey

2022 UMW Important Dates

- March 14th – Practice run for team members involved in SDOE
- March 19th – Virtual Spring Day of Enrichment
- June 4th – Team Planning Meeting
- July 12th & 14th and July 19th & 21st ZOOM Mission u
- July 28th – July 30th – In-Person 3-day mission u
- August 6th or 13th – Team Planning Meeting
- September 16th- Prep for Fall Gathering
- September 17th- Fall Gathering
- November 5th – Team Planning Meeting
- December 3rd – Team's Christmas Gathering

Mission u 2022



Who Can We Be Together?

Building Communities
of Hope and Joy

Wisconsin Conference United Methodist Women Mission u 2022

Great news—COMMUNITY is God's desire for us! Join us at Mission u 2022 as we reflect on the community that Jesus is calling us to be!

This year, as we study Luke 13, we find ourselves in a period of disruption and uncertainty. In the midst of a devastating pandemic, divisive political climate, unaddressed systemic racism, ecological crises and economic turmoil, we turn to the stories of Jesus that have anchored Christian communities for two millennia.

Our hope is that we will leave Mission u with a bigger and broader vision of the community Christ is calling us to be in times of loss, grief and massive disruption. What would be possible if we tended to the needs of our communities in small yet radical ways, as Jesus did in Luke 13?

Our newly designed Mission u 2022 is more flexible than ever. You may choose to do an In Person class or a Zoom class. The text for the class, *Who Can We Be Together?*, will be available soon..

In Person Mission u
3-day class
Thursday evening to Saturday
afternoon
July 28—July 30, 2022
Christ United Methodist Church
Watertown, WI

ZOOM Mission u
4 evening sessions
Tuesdays and Thursdays
July 12 & 14, 2022
July 19 & 21, 2022
In your home
or chosen location

2022 North West District Team

Team Secretary: Karen Leichtle 715-425-8541
N 8207 970th St., River Falls, WI 54022 715-425-8541 kleichtle@comcast.net

Team Treasurer: Annette Pederson 715-770-9322
S11950 Hillview Road, Eleva, WI 54738 annettepederson@centurylink.net

Team Spiritual Growth: Billie LaBumbard 715-939-0118
W6578 Lone Ranch Road, Spooner, WI 54801 missionbillie@gmail.com

Team Social Action: Laura Ida 612-801-6284
853 McDiarmid Dr., Hudson, WI 54016 faithwalkerlee@yahoo.com

Team Education & Interpretation: Barbara Bender 715-455-1471
328 8 3/4 St., Prairie Farm, WI 54762 obbender@chibardun.net

Team Membership, Nurture & Outreach: Cheryl Starr 715-559-8533
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19474 234th St. Cornell, WI 54732 cheriJeanb@hotmail.com

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30572 122nd Street, New Auburn, WI 54757 24x7gig@gmail.com

Team Historian: Claudette Smith 715-595-4656
W10364 Town Line Rd., Holcombe, WI 54745 smith_5329@yahoo.com

Team President: Liz Dempsey 715-517-1014
27596 264th Avenue, Holcombe, WI 54745 lizzied23@live.com

North West District Superintendent: Reverend Barbara Certa-Werner
305 Mound Park Road, Elk Mound, WI 54739 bcertawerner@wisconsinumc.org

MABEL HEIL SCHOLARSHIP

The Mabel Heil Scholarships are a result of funds from the will of Sarah Mabel Heil, a woman from Cuba City, Wisconsin. The first scholarships were granted in 1981. Since then more than 240 women have received help with their education.

Instructions:

1. Be a female member of Wisconsin United Methodist Women
2. Submit a written answer to the question, "In what way do I consider myself a worthy student?"
3. Send a completed application form to the contact person by May 1 for the Fall semester or October 1 for the Spring semester.
4. Request that a letter of recommendation be sent to the contact person by the president of the local United Methodist Women or the pastor of the church.
5. Request that a letter of recommendation be sent to the contact person by a church member who is not a member of your household and is not a relative.

Guidelines:

- Any member of Wisconsin Conference United Methodist Women working to improve her education may apply.
- Please have all letters written (preferably typed) on one side of 8 1/2 x 11 sheet of white paper using black ink.
- All applications are photocopied for the committee members.
- Scholarships are awarded one semester at a time. To be considered again DURING a one-year period, you must send a letter asking to be considered. AFTER one year, you will need to fill out another form and secure new recommendations
- If in any given year there is an increase of applications, these priorities will be followed: Women responsible for others will be favored. Women preparing to return to the employment field will be favored.
- Application and two letters of recommendation must be postmarked no later than May 1 and October 1 to be considered.

Schedule:

1st semester: apply by May 1; notified by June 1; check sent by August 15

2nd semester: Apply by October 1; notified by November 1; check sent by December 1.

MABEL HEIL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION – WISCONSIN CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Please print

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

Phone # _____ E-mail _____

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 your community.....

3. Education: (give year of graduation)

High School _____ College _____ Other _____

School you will be attending? _____

Have you been accepted as a student? _____

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: Helen Robinson

N2101 Cleghorn Road, Waupaca, WI 54981

715 258-0973

pottsheyahoo.com

**North West District United Methodist Women
VIRTUAL Spring Morning of Enrichment**

Calling Women to Action

Saturday, March 19, 2022

9:30am – 12:30pm

Spiritual Focus: Bearing Witness in the Kin-dom:

Living into the Church's Moral Witness through Radical Discipleship

In Jesus' own words, he came to bring good news to the poor, release the captives, restore sight to the blind, and to let the oppressed go free.

What is the responsibility of the church to follow Christ's example in word and deed?

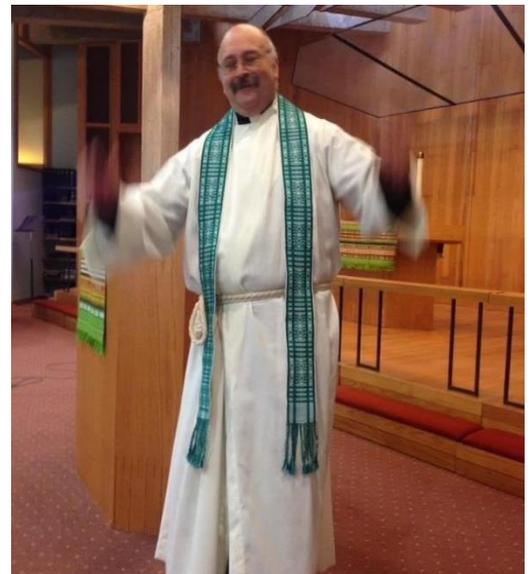
While these times might feel particularly turbulent, society has always confronted the church with challenging issues where she has had to discern how God was calling her. The church's history in these moments is far from perfect. The purpose of this study is to help the church and its members discern our call and bear witness to the will of God for a more just world.

Speaker: Pastor Rob Odum

Originally from Alabama, Pastor Rob Odum has served as a Licensed Local Pastor in the Wisconsin Annual Conference since 2003. In that time Rob has been appointed to the Milwaukee Native American Ministry, Central UMC (a diverse urban congregation), and is currently serving a two-point charge at Blessed Hope, West Allis, and Memorial UMC in Greenfield.

Prior to coming to Milwaukee, Rob worked with Habitat for Humanity in Armenia, Bolivia, Paraguay, The Philippines, and at HFHI International office in Georgia. Rob also served as Associate Director for Little Children of the World, an organization serving street children and other at-risk children in The Philippines.

Rob has two daughters, Fiona and Fatima. Rob's passions include his family, Missions, Community Development, International travel, and world music.



UMW North West Gathering

*First Name

*Last Name

Email

Church Name

Are you registering for a group?

- Yes
 No
 No answer

Register Now

Mission Focus: Afghan Refugee Response

Speaker: Rev. Peder Johanson, Volunteer Coordinator for Afghan Refugee Response, Wisconsin Council of Churches

Rev. Peder Johanson was hired in December 2021 to help navigate and coordinate the funds and volunteers from various denominations.

Offering Designations: WI UMC Conference, Immigration Assistance Fund - Afghan Project

Offerings can be brought that day or a check made out to **North West District UMW** can be mailed to Annette Pederson, S11950 Hillview Road, Eleva, WI 54738

Published 3 times a year by the North West District of The United Methodist Women of Wisconsin. Feel free to reproduce these materials.

All unit Presidents, Vice-presidents, Treasurers and Secretaries will receive the WEAVER at no cost. Any other Unit officers or members who wish to receive the WEAVER may subscribe to it by sending a donation of \$3.00 (3 issues a year) along with your name and address to the address below. **Please make checks payable to the North West District UMW.**

Chris Draxler, WEAVER Editor
30572 122nd Street
New Auburn, WI 54757
715/225-2983

Please print and include with donation:

NAME _____

UMW UNIT _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TO SUBSCRIBE TO THE WEAVER ON-LINE, at no cost, please e-mail the address below and indicate that you wish to start receiving the WEAVER by e-mail.

24x7gig@gmail.com

IMPORTANT REGISTRATION INFORMATION

If you receive the Weaver via e-mail, you can register for the SDOE right here. Complete the needed information and click 'Register Now'. A confirmation email will be sent giving you the Zoom link. Then 2 days before the event you will again receive the Zoom link as a reminder.

If you receive the Weaver via a hard copy, to register, you will need to send me the needed information, via snail mail, email or text message and then I will register for you. Keep in mind.....the email address listed on the registration form will be where the Zoom meeting can be opened.....Chris Draxler, 30572 122nd Street, New Auburn, WI 54757,.....24x7gig@gmail.com, or.....715 225-2983.

If you are gathering at a church and using the church's computer, then list the church's e-mail. If you are gathering as a group at a home or at church and using your own computer, then that is the e-mail address that needs to be listed.