

Northwest District's Newsletter

THE WEAVER

February 2024



United
Women
in Faith

United Women in Faith's new mission statement.....

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.

A message from our President.....Billie La Bumbard



“Make the most of every opportunity. “ Col. 4:5 NIV

I am privileged to travel to Southern States for a couple of months this winter. What a great opportunity to meet other people, to help those in need and to relax in the warm weather. This brings to mind, “when you have done this to the least of these you have done it to me.” I pray daily that my Father would have me do the thing that will help my brothers and sisters, in this place, at this time.

I take this time to thank you for being with me in prayer and phone. I’m praying that we can make the most of every opportunity as we focus on the care of each other and care of the earth.

We will be lifting up opportunities for our day of fellowship, Spring Day of Enrichment. Hope to see you there.

Today (1-9-24) I attended a UWF meeting at St. Paul’s UMC here in Kerrville, TX. Our program was from the new program book called “Food, Faith and Fellowship”. We learned and discussed food especially in relation to communion. We ate crackers and drank grape juice. There were 12 women attending. We shared memories and laughs. In the business meeting they designated local mission projects to give the spend-down mission funds to. Programs included a scholarship for a student from the ESL class that is planning to take the citizenship test that cost \$725 dollars. The second one was a snack program for elementary students that needed food for the weekend. The third was a Women’s crisis center and the fourth was Mission Border Hope program that helps immigrants. Many familiar needs and programs. Making the most of every opportunity.

Take care of yourself and if you can, take care of someone else by thought, prayer, and deeds.

Billie LaBumbard 1-8-24

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SAVE THE DATE

Mission u 2024

Registration forms will be available in the May WEAVER or forms should be available on the Conference UWF site.

**Theme: Living the Kin-dom (Part 2) -
Welcome Home**

2 Options to participate.....

#1 Zoom:
June 18, 20 & 25, 27, 2024
6:30-9:00PM

#2 In Person Overview Day
New Lisbon: Winding Rivers UMC
Saturday, July 13, 2024

**5 STAR AWARD
UNITS for 2023**

Canton
Chippewa Falls - Trinity
Eau Claire - Lake Street
Mondovi
New Centerville

New Richmond
Pleasant Valley
Prairie Farm
River Falls
Superior



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**Be informed message from our Education and Interpretation
Coordinator.....Robin Burke**

Hi,
I am Robin Burke your new Education and Interpretation resource person for our district. I have decided to join this awesome team of women. I am taking over my mother, Barb Benders position in hopes she will train me well and guide me when needed.

I am married to my husband, Chris and have four stepchildren, Eric, Brian, Nicole and Jacob. Along with this are grandchildren. I live in Cumberland and attend my hometown church in Prairie Farm. I am active on committees with church and United Women in Faith.

I recently retired from nursing and hope to find time doing much I haven't made time for over the years. I am certified in parish nursing. I like to read and enjoy music. I enjoy the great outdoors activities gardening(flowers), motorcycling, snowmobiling and fishing trips up north. I have been blessed to make many travel trips and hope to do more of.

My mother says 18 units received Mission Today recognition last year. Let's keep it going!
May 2024 be a Wonderful Year for ALL! Robin





A Message from our Social Action Coordinator...

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 2024.

Winter is a time to breathe after the busyness of the holiday season and enjoy the warmth of our homes even if the “weather outside is frightful.” Are you in the midst of sorting, purging or cleaning during this time? We have a wonderful and easy new Mission project to participate in – collecting old socks! Yes, all old socks are welcome - mismatched, worn out, even “holy” ones! The sock that comes out of the dryer without its mate? Now it has a place to go! United Women in Faith units will be collecting old socks which will be boxed and sent to be recycled. For each box we fill, we will earn a small \$ donation that will be designated for Northcott Neighborhood House in Milwaukee. What a wonderful way to repurpose these old socks and assist the great mission work that happens at Northcott!

Please get the word out that all socks are welcome and start a collection in your local church! You can bring your socks to our Spring Gathering on April 27th. We will continue to collect old socks at our State UW in Faith gatherings throughout the year too!

Another great opportunity will be to zoom in to our Social Action Day on Saturday, April 13th. We will learn about ways support is needed for girls/women who have served their time of incarceration and are ready to re-enter the Community. This is such an important follow-up to our study on the School to Prison Pipeline!

Meanwhile, a new year is always an excellent time to examine our own individual habits that affect our beautiful world! Are we cutting down on our use of plastic? Remembering to take cloth bags to our local stores, and finding products that use less or no plastic? Have you read articles in the Response magazine that address Climate Care or perhaps a book on our reading list that can bring you up to date?

Sisters in Faith, I give thanks for the important work you are doing and encourage you to go forward with Social Action in 2024 with even wider vision!

“The Earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it, and all who live in it.” Psalm 24:1



Yours in Social Action, Laura

A message from our Membership, Nurture and Outreach



Coordinator....Cheryl Starr

As I write this, it is early in January and our first real snowstorm is happening outside my windows. For many of us, this is a time for reflection and a time to look towards the unknown possibilities of 2024.

As a reflection of our past, I would like to share the names of our members who passed away between September 1, 2022 and August 31, 2023. These women were honored at our Fall Day of Enrichment for their years of service and dedication to United Women in Faith.

Barron First United Methodist Church

Marge Allison

Downing United Methodist Church

Connie Hurtgen

Lake Street United Methodist, Eau Claire

Martha Fuller Nancy Espie

Lois Dodge Winnie Joos

Glenwood City United Methodist Church

Lorraine Palewicz

Holcombe United Methodist Church

Erma David Alice Troupe

Rita Cigan

Our Saviors United Methodist Mondovi

Norma Ward

Gunde Schreiner

New Centerville United Methodist

Marlys Hudson

New Richmond United Methodist

Janet Andrea Lorraine Libbey

Mary Hanson

Pleasant Valley United Methodist

Harriet Hayden

Prairie Farm United Methodist

Gloria Kahl

Rice Lake United Methodist, Rice Lake

Eleanor Nielsen Betty Sharp

Betsy Gerland

Spirit of Grace, River Falls

Helen Rhode

Spooner United Methodist Church,

Spooner

Audrey Gipple Patricia Morris

Patricia Schue

Faith United Methodist Church, Superior

Carol Lund Meredith Manley

Nancy Gotham

I don't know if you like to make New Year's resolutions or not, but I'm sure your UWF chapter has spent time planning ahead....setting a budget, planning special events and fundraisers, selecting mission projects you will support this year. I know we have. As you begin meeting and jumping into these activities, keep in mind these words from **Romans 12:10-12**. I think it is the perfect New Year's Resolution—for how we care for each other in our units and those beyond. **“Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.”**

God bless you and your work for the Lord this year. Cheryl

Mission Today Local Unit Report Form Year 2024

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 Robin Burke, E&I Coordinator, at 715-822-3089 or your district sister. **Return form by December 1st** to 578 21stAve., Cumberland, WI 54829. Report on criteria used during the year 2024.

Name of Church: _____

Your Name: _____

Your Address: _____

Home Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

On the back of this you will find the Mission Tasks for 2024 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 those 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 2024

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.

MABEL HEIL SCHOLARSHIP FUND.....WISCONSIN CONFERENCE

Purpose: The Mabel Heil Scholarship is made possible by earnings from a trust established in 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.

Available Funds:

- a. Funds will be invested in the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation, in a fund split 60% equity and 40% fixed.
- b. Funds available to provide scholarships for each semester will be calculated as 2.5% of the fair market value of the Mabel Heil Scholarship Fund as of the end of the month prior to the approval of scholarships.

Eligibility Requirements:

- a. Must be a female member of the United Woman in Faith and/or United Methodist Church, Wisconsin Conference
- b. Submit a written answer to the question, "In what ways do I consider myself a worthy student?"
- c. Letter of recommendation from either the president of the local UWF unit or from your pastor.
- d. Letter of recommendation from a church member who is not a member of your household and is not a relative. (Person writing letter on behalf of 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. Awarded for one semester at a time. To be considered again for any subsequent semester, send a letter asking to be considered
- b. Graduate students may apply for each semester as long as they meet the other requirements.
- c. Application and two (2) letters of recommendation OR RECONSIDERATION LETTER must be received by May 1 for the fall semester or October 1 for the spring semester. Checks will be disbursed by August 15 and January 15.
- d. Application forms may be requested from the address below.

Obtain application from and send to:

Mabel Heil Scholarship

Lucy Silvester

373 15th Ave

Nekoosa, WI 544

For more information, call 715-325-2841 or

email at loosesilv45@gmail.com

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Spring Women's Retreat April 26- 28, 2024 Join women from across the state for ***Sole Sisters, Walking with Jesus*** at Lake Lucerne Camp and Retreat Center, It will be a weekend of fun, relaxation, and learning. Each day features enriching workshop choices. devotions, nature walks and more. There's no shortage of fellowship, good food, and time to relax in nature. The retreat includes 2 nights lodging, 5 meals, 3 workshops, and all necessary materials. Registration forms are at <https://wiumcamps.org/retreats/>. Deadline to register is April 1, 2024. Questions contact Bonnie at bonnieclement05@gmail.com



SAVE THE DATE.....SOCIAL ACTION DAY

April 13, 2024 9:00-12:00

This is a VIRTUAL EVENT.

“Ending Mass Incarceration and Improving Treatment of Incarceration Impacted Women”

SPEAKERS:



Honorable/Reverend Everett Mitchell (he/him) Judge Mitchell is a Dane Co Circuit Court Judge and Senior Pastor of Christ the Solid Rock Baptist Church. He is a fierce advocate for education, social justice and equity. Judge Mitchell also oversees Dane County’s Drug Court Program and is committed to dismantling the Child Welfare to Juvenile Delinquency to Adult Prison Pipeline operating not only in Wisconsin, but also around the country.

He is a sought after lecturer, has won many awards and serves on several Dane County boards. As a trauma survivor himself, he has worked to change court policies to reflect trauma informed practices such as removing restraints and shackles from youth during hearings. Mitchell received a Bachelors Degree in mathematics and religious studies from Morehouse College in 2000, a Master of Divinity and Master of Theology from Princeton Theological Seminary, and a J.D. from the UW-Madison Law School. Mitchell was an assistant district attorney in Dane County, Wisconsin, from 2010 to 2012. From 2012 to 2016 Mitchell was the director of community relations at UW-Madison. He was elected to the Dane County Circuit Court in 2016 . Judge Mitchell and his wife have two children.



Peggy West-Schroder (she/her)

Ms. West-Schroder is the Executive Director for FREE. Directly and indirectly impacted, Peggy has been affected adversely by mass incarceration since birth, having been born while her mother was incarcerated in Taycheedah Correctional Facility (TCF). Raised in Foster Care and later adopted into a loving family, Peggy graduated from Milwaukee Area Technical College and has worked for the past 30 years in Human Services in addition to 14 years as an elected member of the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors (2002 – 2018) at which she made history as the first Hispanic Person ever elected to the board. Today Peggy is working to assure that incarcerated women across the State of WI are treated with dignity, that feel supported, and are provided trauma-informed care. Her goal is to change the process by which babies are born within DOC, righting the wrongs faced by her mother and many other women. Peggy and her husband live in Milwaukee and are the proud parents of 6 children and 6 grandchildren.

IMPORTANT!!!!!!! IMPORTANT!!!!!!! IMPORTANT!!!!!!! IMPORTANT!!!!!!!

All churches planning a watch party must notify Josie Gobel by February 19 so registration can begin! To register a Watch Party please contact: Josie Gobel, 920-988-0705 or email josiegobel@charter.net Additional Questions contact Kathy Hartke kdhartke@gmail.com 262-366-6770

SPRING DAY OF ENRICHMENT



THE BEAUTY OF GOD CREATION: PLANTING SEEDS OF FAITH

Saturday, April 27, 2024

Parkview Turtle Lake United Methodist Church
236 Maple Street N, Turtle Lake WI 54889



NOURISHING SOULS: PLANTING SEEDS OF FAITH SPEAKER: MARGARET MURPHY

Margaret Murphy serves as the UW Madison Division of Extension Horticulture Educator for Chippewa, Dunn, and Eau Claire Counties. She provides educational outreach on a variety of gardening topics and has extensive experience in vegetable and herb gardening. Margaret supports efforts to create pollinator-friendly landscapes and has a special interest in the wellness benefits we gain from gardening. Margaret has been a horticulture educator with both Iowa State University Extension and Outreach and UW Madison Division of Extension for a total of 13 years. She holds a Master of Science in Biology.

CELEBRATING GOD'S CREATION SPEAKER: RICK KOZIEL

Aldo Leopold said "There are some who can live without wild things, and some who cannot." I learned at a young age that I'm one who cannot. My love of the outdoors led me to a professional career as a naturalist and director of Beaver Creek Reserve for over 35 years. I was able to share my enthusiasm, passion and love for nature and wild things with others. Capturing fleeting moments of wonder, beauty and magic in the natural world... whether it's an "explosion" of a flock of red-winged blackbirds, a spectacular sunrise or a grizzly warily sniffing the wind, became a passion. Now that I am retired, I'm finding more time to look through a lens as I hike and paddle the woods and waters of Wisconsin and the rest of the world. I hope my images evoke an appreciation of the beauty and complexities of the natural world and inspire viewers to help preserve and protect our wild critters and natural places.



SPRING DAY ENRICHMENT (continued)

MISSION OUTREACH

MISSION PROJECT



United Methodist Camp Programs



Holey Sock Collection

THE BEAUTY OF GOD'S CREATION: PLANTING SEEDS OF FAITH

REGISTRATION FORM

Please use this registration form for both a group registration or for an individual registration. We ask if you are registrar as a group, please list the names of the women attending on a separate sheet of paper.....thank you.

Name _____

Local Unit _____

Any dietary needs: YES or NO _____

Please list the type of special diet, example....gluten free, diabetic etc. in general, not for each woman attending.

Child Care Needed: YES or NO

\$3 per child or \$5 per family, please include number of children _____ and ages _____

Registration is \$15 for in-person attendance, times the number of women attending from your group.

Registrations is \$10 for viewing this event via live streaming from the Parkview Turtle Lake UMC Facebook page. Please indicate that you will be watching live stream so we can welcome you that day. Attending this way, you will be able to hear everything happening, however, you will not be able to ask questions or participate in group activities and discussions.

Please include your name and cell # so we can contact you with further info on receiving the live stream. _____

Mission Outreach monetary donations and registration fees and forms should be mailed to

Annette Pederson
S 119500 Hillview Road
Eleva, WI 54738

Monetary donations for our Mission Outreach and supplies for our Mission Project can be brought to Turtle Lake the day of the event.

Please make checks payable to **Northwest District UMW or Northwest District UWF**, noting on the memo line registration fee and/or mission outreach donation.

!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!Registration forms are due by April 17th, 2024!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

North West District 2023 Reading Program Participants

Barron-

Deanna Keppen - 1
Kathee Yamada - 1

Canton-

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

Chippewa Falls - Trinity

Donna Kraemer - 2
Ruth Olson - 1
Carole Frederick - 1
Shirley Woodruff - 2
Alberta Koneazny - 1

Eau Claire - Lake Street

Rita Houser - 1
Suzanne Heabler - 1
Florence Shepherd - 1
Marty Fisher-Blakeley - 1
Pat Peterson- 2
Chris Draxler - 2

Holcombe-

Cheryl Bingham - 1

Mondovi - Our Saviors

Becky Davis - 4

Pleasant Valley -

Annette Pederson - 3

Rice Lake-

Carolyn Kaupanger - 1
Kathy Wagenbach - 1
Lisa Mink - 1
Nancy Zabel - 2

River Falls-

Laura Ida - 2
Janet Leonard - 2

Superior - Faith-

Mary Manion-Bick - 1
**Jacqui Jelinek - 1
**Peggy VanValkenburg - 1
**Carol Larson - 1

** These 3 ladies also completed the Reading Program for 2022 but were inadvertently left off the list last year. They have received their certificates - my apology to each of them for the omission.

Please check the list & let me know if you are aware of any omissions or corrections needed. This list is used to prepare your certificates for distribution in the unit packets at the Fall Gathering- Thank you!

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T E R R A C Y C L E

Have you been saving items that can be recycled?

EASY SAVES.....

- Old tooth brushes, dental floss containers, heads from electric tooth brushes,
- Clean Styrofoam meat trays
- Old pens, pencils, dries up markers, used glue sticks
- Empty cereal bags

JUST THINK...if we each saved 2 old tooth brushes times 50 United Women in Faith, that would be 100 toothbrushes *NOT* sitting in a landfill.

A box will be available at the Spring Day of Enrichment to drop off any items you have collected.
“Small changes can have a big impact.”

The WEAVER

Published 3 times a year by the North West District of United Women in Faith of Wisconsin. Feel free to reproduce these materials to share with the women in your local unit.

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.

Thank you

Please make checks payable to the North West District UMF and mail to.....

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

Please print and include \$3 donation:

NAME _____

UMW UNIT _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

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

24x7gig@gmail.com

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North West District Calendar 2024

- March 11 District Team meeting Parkview Turtle Lake UMC 10:30am – 2pm
- April 26 District Team set-up Parkview Turtle Lake UMC 1:30pm – 4pm
- April 27 Spring Day of Enrichment Parkview Turtle Lake UMC
8:45am – 1:30pm
- July 23 District Team meeting Rice Lake 10am – 12noon
Potluck Lunch for District Team and past District Team members
Rice Lake - 12 noon
Exact location in Rice Lake TBA
- August 24 District Team meeting Chippewa Fall–Trinity UMC
10:30am – 2pm
- September 27 District Team set-up CF–Trinity UMC – 1:30pm – 4pm
- September 28 North West District Annual Fall Gathering CF-Trinity UMC
8:45am – 1:30pm
- November 9 District Team meeting TBA 10:30am – 2pm
- December 7 District Team & Past District Team members Christmas Lunch

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Sister Units for 2024

- Annette Pederson** Holcombe
- Robin Burke** Clear Lake, Cumberland, Downing (District Members Chetek and Chippewa Falls Zion)
- Billie LaBumbard** Grantsburg, Balsam Lake/Centuria, Superior, (District Member Webster)
- Cheryl Bingham** Bloomer, Cadott, Jim Falls, Eau Claire Lake Street (District Members Augusta and Thorp)
- Cheryl Starr** 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, Glenwood City, New Centerville (District Members Pepin)
- Laura Ida** New Richmond, Osceola, Rock Elm