



United
Women
in Faith

The Connection

Mile High Metro District Newsletter

May - July 2026

Save The Date for MHM Annual Meeting September 26

You and your friends, family and even acquaintances are invited to UW Faith's Annual Meeting. Our theme is Love in Action is Unstoppable! Join us on September 26 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Grace United Methodist Church (4905 E Yale Avenue, Denver). More information and registration will be forthcoming.

Lincoln Hills Tour September 11, 2026

We have a tour set up for Friday, September 11, 2026 @ 10:00am. The tour can only consist of 12-15 people. Lincoln Hills was established in 1922 in Gilpin County, it was the only Black-owned vacation resort community west of the Mississippi River during the Jim Crow era. Today, Lincoln Hills Cares a charitable organization that provides youth and underrepresented communities with equitable access to nature. They offer outdoor and

environmental STEM (E-STEM) education, the Nizhoni Equestrian Program, workforce advancement, and cultural history exploration. If interested in joining the tour there will be a sign up sheet coming out in July. Look out for the email.

Conference Annual Meeting and Spiritual Retreat

October 2 and 3, Helena, Montana

Jurisdiction Meeting Announced

Western Jurisdiction will hold its next quadrennial meeting April 20-23, 2028 in Spokane, Washington

Things to Do

- Mail your 2026 pledges to Ann Horton. No need to wait til year end! You can pay monthly, quarterly, or in advance. Anyone is welcome to mail a check made to "Mile High Metro District UWFaith" directly to our District Treasurer: Ann Horton, 7342 S. Delaware St., Littleton, CO 80120. Checks from IRA RMDs are especially welcome. Call Ann for more info.
- Send an update on your Unit activities to news@uwfaithmhm.org.
- Attend Mission u at St. Andrew UMC. See below for more information.
- Join Marcia Canter in the Pride 5K (walking, running, skipping, whatever!), register for the team Methodists on the Move! [Sign Up](#)
- Join Marcia Canter's Everyday Ubuntu online class. Email Marcia for more information at bomaanka@yahoo.com

Mission u - St. Andrew UMC

Friday July 31 (4-8 pm) and Saturday August 1 (9:30 am - 4 pm)

Join us at Mission u as we explore the theme, Experiencing Emmanuel. Mission u participants will study the times in the Bible when people experienced Emmanuel, or “God with us.” How do we discern God’s presence and call on our lives in times of joy and in times of sadness, fear, or anxiety? What can we learn from these Emmanuel encounters in the Bible to help inform our discernment to faith, hope, and love in action?

<https://uwfaith.org/events/mission-u/>

Contact Linda Lloyd for more information linda.umw@gmail.com

The first winner of the **Great 8 Grant** is **Smoky Hill UW Faith Doll Ministry!**

Smoky Hill received \$800 to help purchase dolls. Sewers and crocheters will create clothing for the multi-ethnic dolls, which will then be donated to children through a variety of community organizations. Recipients will receive a doll with two outfits and a bed with bedding. The first doll was gifted to child whose family was living in their car in the parking lot of Applewood Valley Church. The dolls are Black, Hispanic, Asian, and White. Smoky Hill is able to order the dolls at a discount (about \$8 per doll) and has patterns for making the clothing. If you are interested in starting a doll ministry at your unit or in participating with creating clothing and bedding, please contact Jana Jones at jl.jones@outlook.com.



Everyday Ubuntu: Living Better Together, the African Way, by Mungi Ngomane

This UW Faith Reading Program book contains 14 lessons including See Yourself in Other People, Choose Hope over Optimism, Find the Humor in our Humanity. Marcia Canter will be leading a 14-week Zoom class on this book. A preview discussion will be held on Sunday May 31 for an hour; then the 30-45 minute discussions will start on June 7 tentatively at 5 p.m. for the next 14 weeks, ending August 4. You don't have to attend every session to get something out of it. Email Marcia at bomaanka@yahoo.com and she'll send you more information.

Unit Events

Scott United Women in Faith

In April, Scott United Women In Faith held a successful fundraiser for Girls Inc. through a “Stay At Home Tea Fundraiser “ featuring special tea gift bags. Each gift bag included 10 varieties of individual wrapped tea bags, a Girls Inc. ink pen and a Girls Inc. business contact card. Flyers and gift bags were available on the UWF table in the Narthex each Sunday throughout month to help promote the effort.

Scott UWF met its goal of raising \$1,000 for Girls Inc. On May 13, 2026, Scott UWF presented its check to Girls Inc. The same day Scott United Methodist Church also presented a \$1,000 check from the Children and Youth fund to Girls Inc., making this a meaningful show of support for Girls Inc. and its mission.

We appreciate your support for our fundraising efforts, benefiting Girls Inc. of Metro Denver.

United Women In Faith (UWF)
Scott United Methodist Church

girls inc.
of Metro Denver

Inspiring all girls
to be strong, smart,
and bold

Briana Gonzales
Senior Manager of Major Giving
bgonzales@girlsdenver.org

Girls Inc. of Metro Denver
1499 Julian Street
Denver, CO 80204
(303) 850-4363 x115
girlsincdenver.org

Girls Inc. Denver



MHM Communications Coordinator

Nancy Friday

news@uwfaithmhm.org

We want to share what is going on in the units so that we can support and inspire one another. **We now have a Facebook page, search for Mile High Metro United Women in Faith and follow our page. Please send emails and photos so that I can share what is happening!** news@uwfaithmhm.org

[MHM Facebook Page](#)

Mile High Metro District Co-President

Marcia Canter

Email: bomaanka@yahoo.com

Join the Senior Co-President for fun, inspiration and exercise!

UWFaith Mile High Metro Co-President Marcia Canter is up for adventure this summer and has created two events that anyone is invited to participate.

After reading the book **Everyday Ubuntu** (written by Mungi Ngomane), she decided to do more than just lead a discussion on the book. Marcia will spend a week on each lesson in order to experience and grow. Archbishop Desmond Tutu explained the essence of ubuntu as “My humanity is caught, is inextricably bound up, in yours.”

There are 14 lessons including See Yourself in Other People, Choose Hope over Optimism, Find the Humor in our Humanity via Zoom. She will have a preview discussion on Sunday May 31 for an hour; then the 30-45 minute discussions will start on June 7 tentatively at 5 p.m. for the next 14 weeks, ending August 4. (Yes--- she’s intending 14 weeks, but you don’t have to attend every session to get

something out of it.) Email Marcia at bomaanka@yahoo.com and she'll send you more information. The book is on the UWFaith reading list, but she thinks you can get by without purchasing the book. Cost is free for the discussion and is open to all.

Then Marcia has signed up the **Methodists on the Move (MOM)** for the **Pride 5k**, on June 27. The 5k benefits The Center on Colfax. This event serves as a crucial fundraiser, enabling the Center provide free essential services, programs, and activities to LGBTQ+ individuals and our allies year-round.

If you're interested to be on Marcia's team, go to [Sign Up](#). If you have questions, you can again email Marcia at bomaanka@yahoo.com. If you can't do the 5k but believe in the work that The Center does, you can donate as well. And Marcia will not be running but will be walking/sashaying with Pride. And if she feels good enough, she's do the Parade the next day.

Join our Fun Team! MHM District is in need of a treasurer for 2027-2028. Ann will help you learn the ropes. Reach out to Brenda Bronson to apply.
brendabronsonfpe@gmail.com

Thank you, Karen Bueno, for many years of faithful service to United Women in Faith! Karen has retired from our team due to health challenges. You can send her a message at karenbueno@aol.com.



Your 2026 MHM District Leadership Team

Nancy Friday, Hamu Chigwada, Carla Schwartzkopf, Monica Garlin, Sara Harris, Marcia Canter, Kim Myers

Missing from photo: Brenda Bronson, Linda Lloyd, Jana Jones,

Ann Horton, Donna Parisi

Assembly 2026

DREAM IT! BELIEVE IT! DO IT!

This was the theme for UWFaith Assembly 2026 held in Indianapolis, IN, May 15-17. Assembly is held every four years and is a big event. This year we had over 20 members and guests from our district attend, including seven officers. Our own

Jana Jones, our national president, gave a very inspiring speech on Friday to get us all fired up! There was fantastic music with some special songs commissioned just for Assembly, Make Mission Happen moments where they shared information about where our money goes and how we are in service to our country and the world, lots of humor, hugs and smiles.

The Rev Stephanie York Arnold, General Secretary for the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women for the UMC, was our theologian in residence for the weekend. She gave inspiring and challenging addresses on Friday and Saturday and led us in an empowering worship service on Sunday.

UWFaith coordinates the Deaconess and Home Missioner program, a lifetime lay ministry program. On Friday afternoon we were blessed to witness the commissioning and consecration of many new deaconesses and home missioners from across the country. What a joy!

This Assembly was the “official” launch of the Unstoppable campaign, a 4-year campaign to Increase our membership and our mission giving. There was a special song, presentation, and various workshops to get everyone acquainted with the campaign. The “Experience Hall” featured a bookstore, various booths from our many sponsors, a Legacy booth where pictures were taken in old time clothes, a silent auction, and much more.

We enjoyed a Keynote Conversation with Stacey Abrams and Rev Carolyn Abrams, a great ecumenical panel of Women in Leadership that included special guests from various occupations, interesting workshops and town hall gatherings, and so much more. Our district leaders are ready to share what we learned with everyone and to help you Dream It! Believe It! Do It!

Whew! There was a lot happening! The next Assembly will be held in Richmond, VA, in May 2030. Mark your calendars now!



General Secretary Sally Vonner and National President Jana Jones

Below, Attendees from the Mile High Metro District Team and
Mountain Sky Conference





Congratulations!

Welcome to the newest church in our district, Belong UMC. This was a new church plant started nearly 10 years ago. Under the leadership of Rev Jasper Peters, this congregation has grown, moved a couple times, and on Sun, May 24, became an official United Methodist Church. I was excited to be there to witness their charge conference where the congregation voted to move forward as a United Methodist Church, became members, and organized a leadership structure. Bishop Kristin Stoneking was on hand to deliver the sermon and welcome the church. It is a very

blessed thing to birth a new church, and Pentecost Sunday was the perfect day for it. I met Rev. Peters wife, Kimberly, and much to my surprise, and delight, she is a deaconess! I look forward to getting to know her and the women of their church.

Please join me in welcoming this new church. Belong UMC is located in the former site of Bethany UMC, which disbanded last year. The church is at 3501 W 1 st Ave, Denver. Everyone is welcome! ~ Donna Parisi



Living Saint Nomination

Christ Church United Women in Faith is nominating Julie Zerbe as a living saint. Julie has been an integral part of our local UWF for many years. She is 81 years young.

Julie and her husband Gary joined Christ Church in 1969. She was 24 years old. They had a baby daughter and lived in a nearby apartment at that time. Julie stated, "What we now call UWF, back in the 1960s was called Women's Society of Christian Service (WSCS). In the early 1970s the name was changed to United Methodist Women (UMW). I remember some men in the church chuckling about "UMW", which at the time made people think of the United Mine Workers, then a powerful political force."

She stepped up to leadership roles, including Presidency, when she saw that there was a need and that our local unit was floundering. She was especially concerned that some of our older members, who had been active but could no longer take on leadership roles, needed a supportive fellowship. Julie's quiet, compassionate and gracious demeanor draws people to her, and our local unit survived.

President for three years (2000 – 2003)

Treasurer – several years

Social action coordinator – She frequently sent brief, concise summaries and discussions from Response Magazine and the reading lists regarding relevant issues to all members of UMW.

Secretary – for a number of years through 2025

Coordinator for the Sunshine Circle - until recently.

“Tea maker extraordinaire” for our biennial Valentine Teas

Julie hosted our UMW/UWF Christmas party in her home for many years until the group became too large.

“This has been my church for 57 years and I have loved it! I appreciate the long friendships and all the charity work we have accomplished.” Some of Julie’s favorite causes were working with our youth and focusing on women’s and children’s charities.

Some sage advice she shared: “Don’t give up! Nothing is perfect. Meet with as many other sisters as possible. Get involved with causes close to your heart, and don’t give up on them!” “We are here to create community, to respect the perspectives of others and their life choices. “There are always times that certain personalities clash. The trick is to take a step back and give people their space. Ultimately, we are here to support one another.”

To nominate a sister as a Living Saint, complete the questions found by clicking the button below and send them to uwfhistorian@yahoo.com

[Living Saint Questionnaire](#)

MHM Treasurer

Ann Horton

annhortonuwf@gmail.com, mobile 303-885-2066

Here is a brief financial report through May 12th:

Mission Giving

Pledge to Mission \$7,555

Gift to Mission	472
Gift in Memory	60
World Thank Offering	128

Total	\$8,215 of our \$35,000 Pledge for 2026
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Mission Giving Plus

Call to Prayer & Self Denial \$286 (plus \$1317 just rec'vd from Smoky Hill's UWF Sunday)

Spiritual Day Accounting:

Registrations Rec'vd \$861 (\$350 was paid at door)

Expenses (to date)

Mod Market	\$973.91
Honorariums	\$200
Janitor	\$ 60

Total	\$1,233.91
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Cost to Date:	\$ 372
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MHM Vice President

Kim Myers

Email: kimuwfaith@gmail.com

Shalom Sisters in Faith,

Wow! May has been a crazy month full of many exciting and exhausting events and lots of crazy weather. Spiritual Day, graduations, end of the school year events and trying to figure out if it is safe to plant my garden yet. (I have not planted it yet but need to soon my starter plants are getting really big.) I

am looking forward to life slowing down a bit as summer approaches, maybe having some more time to do some things I enjoy. Not that I don't enjoy all the meetings and award ceremonies, but it can be draining.

A huge shout out to Sara Harris and everyone who planned, helped and joined us for Spiritual Day!! What a great day!! Sara Harris our Co- president and Spiritual Coordinator thank you so much for organizing everything. You have had a crazy year. We had 4 great breakout sessions. Lora Cheadle, Life Coach & Women's Advocate (Yoga & Meditation), Marcia Canter MHM Co-president (Everyday Ubuntu), Amy Davis Owner of Senior Placement Colorado (Caring for the Caregiver) and Rev. Mary Beth Taylor Elizabeth UMC (Finding Grace in Difficult Relationships). Rev. Mary Beth also lead us in song, worship and Holy Communion. We are so excited that we had 65 women attend, and 18 first time MHM meeting!! Way to go UWFaith getting the word out, inviting new members!!!

I have already started planning Annual Meeting Saturday Sept 26th from 9a.m. to 1 p.m. at Grace UMC. Our theme is "Love in Action is Unstoppable". I would really like to show case what United Women in Faith are doing locally, nationally and globally. We'd love to have each unit share what they are doing and have planned in the future. We will have tables set up for displays and brochures/fliers. We really enjoyed seeing the display of Smoky Hill's Doll Ministry and several units brought fliers about upcoming events. Many women from Mile High Metro District attended Assembly. We will hear from them about all the exciting guest speakers, workshops, events etc. We will also have Hamu Chigwada share about the Global Ministry Conference in Kenya (attended In April) and Penelope Mukarakate will share about World Federation of Methodist and United Church Women Assembly (World Assembly in New Zealand attending in Aug.) Don't forget to check out our "Mile High Metro United Women in Faith" Facebook page.

As United Women in Faith we are so blessed to have SO MANY unique, amazing, talented, passionate women who really share GOD love for others through their actions. "Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and truth." ` 1 John 3:18. Thank you all for everything you do.

Please feel free to reach out to me if need anything. If you would like to share information about your unit's activities at our Annual Meeting, please let me know.

Blessings,

Kim Myers

UWFaith MHM VP

kimuwfaith@gmail.com or 720-810-2157

MHM Membership, Nurture and Outreach Coordinator

Donna Parisi

Email: donnaparisi@comcast.net

We are Unstoppable!

I just returned from the 2026 Assembly. What an amazing experience! Even though the Unstoppable campaign quietly started last July, Assembly was the "official" launch. As you may know, this is a 4-year campaign to grow our membership and increase our Mission Giving. The disaffiliations that the UMC experienced a couple of years ago had a negative effect on our membership and income. We need to make a conscious effort to grow in both areas.

In this first year we have all been asked to grow our membership by 30,000 members nationwide. It is easy to do.

Large units (50+) – invite 5 new women into membership

Medium units (11-49) – invite 3-4 new women into membership

Small units (10 or less) – invite 2-3 new women into membership

I have been talking about this since last fall. How are you doing so far? Is your unit growing? If not, WHY NOT??? It is up to all of us to invite new women to join us. Look around your congregation. Find someone you know who does not participate

in UWFaith. Talk to her about her interests and her passion. Find a way to include her in your unit's activities. All are welcome.

We are all charged with maintaining the health of this organization that we love. Part of that is financial support. The UMC lost about 25% of its churches with disaffiliation but about 35% of its income. That affects UWFaith too. We have nearly 90 National Mission Institutions that we have historically supported. With all the cuts to government support it is more important than ever to offer financial support. I know that everything is more expensive these days. If you can give a little extra to your Pledge, use a Gift to Mission or Gift in Memory card, add a little more to your World Thank Offering, it would be greatly appreciated.

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”

This was one of the scriptures from Assembly. Our God has plans for the amazing sisterhood that is UWFaith, to support and bring hope to women, children, and youth everywhere. Be a part of the plan.

Be Unstoppable!

Donna Parisi

donnaparisi@comcast.net

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