# SKY LIGHTS

News for the Mountain Sky United Women in Faith

## *A Message from Our President*

March — the month much like life. One day beautiful sunny and the next dark and stormy. God walks through each day with us. Some days smiling at our joy and some days lighting our path in the darkness. Whichever kind of day it is, God loves us and supports us. Always remember that you are a beloved child of God. And as that beloved child, you are invited to participate in United Women in Faith activities in whatever way suits you. As my daughter says, "You do you."

Please join us for the Mountain Sky UMC Annual Conference in June. We love to see you in person and on the screen. There are two reasons to participate in the church conference this year.

One — United Women in Faith will host a breakfast on **Saturday, June 14th at 7:00 AM at St. Luke's UMC** (8817 S Broadway, Highlands Ranch, CO). Yes, it is early. We can have a nice breakfast and listen to our speaker and get to the meeting on time. Our guest speaker is **Deaconess Kim Lewis**. The title of her presentation is **"Pick Me! From Childhood Games to Embracing God's Call."** Please register online at www.mtnskyumw.org. The cost is $10 which includes

*Robin's report is continued on page 2*

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United Women in Faith

faith
action
sisterhood

Sky Light Sky Bright

**Event Dates**

- Annual Conference Breakfast -- June 14—Highlands Ranch, CO
- Conference Spiritual Retreat & Annual Gathering—October 17-18—Montrose, CO

**Highlights**


- President's Message Pg. 1
- National President's Message Pg. 3
- Spiritual Retreat/Annual Gathering Flyer Pg. 6
- Mission u Pg. 9
- Annual Conference Breakfast Flyer Pg. 12
- Winter Mission u Pg. 11
- District News Pgs. 13-17
- General Conference Amendments Pg. 18-19


*Lots of other good stuff throughout the newsletter!*

This issue can be printed in whole or just print the pages you want to share. Use for bulletin boards, inserts, reminders. Any comments or questions please email **Linda Cockett** at **mountainskyumw@gmail.com**

United Women in Faith

## Robin's President's Message cont.

Breakfast and a donation to our Pledge to Mission. If you attend virtually, the link will be emailed to you.

Two — There are important votes to be taken regarding the future of our Church. This is a time to stand up and be counted — literally. Those gathered at General Conference 2020/2024 passed four pieces of legislation that would change the constitution of the United Methodist Church. Now it is time to do our part at Annual Conference 2025. These four legislative items must be approved and ratified by the collective votes of members of annual conferences within The United Methodist Church to become a part of our constitution. A 2/3 majority vote is required by counting the votes of every voting member. An explanation of the four items is found later in the newsletter.

United Women in Faith, now is a time to make your voice and vote heard. Please read about these decisions. To have a vote at the Annual Conference, you need to be a delegate. That may be representing your church, or it may be as an "equalization member." Remember, there should be one lay person for each clergy in the conference. Therefore, your District Lay Leader will be looking for members to volunteer to be an "equalization member." Please say "Yes!"

In the newsletter will be information about our Spiritual Retreat/Annual Gathering. We are trying a new thing. We hope that by combining these two conference events more women will be able to attend. This cuts down on the number of miles driven and rooms rented. Hopefully, asking for attendance at one event is more doable than asking for attendance at two. Let us know what you think.

Go in Peace and Joy,

Robin Ball, President

## READ ANY GOOD BOOKS LATELY?

Our United Women in Faith Reading Program suggests many good books that include novels and children's stories. I am amazed at the number of books from our reading program that are available at my local public library. The reading list is available on the UWFaith website or ask your local Program Resources Coordinator for a list. I'll bet she has it. Check the list at your public library, and you may be delightfully surprised to discover how many of the books can simply be borrowed from your local library.

Some units decide to buy a book from each of the five categories of interest, and then they share all the books among their members. The five categories are Education for Mission, Leadership Development, Nurturing for Community, Social Action, and Spiritual Growth. Books may be purchased from any outlet.

*Program Resource report continued on page 3*

## Program Resource Report cont.

If you are interested in reading the books for Reading Program credit, you may read books from the past five years and include them in your count.

If you haven't considered our Reading Program books for a while, I think you will be pleasantly surprised at the selection. Expand your mind and your heart by reading books from our Reading Program!

Mary Ann Tabor

Program Resources Coordinator

## Jana Jones, National President

I recently returned from Director and PAG meetings in Nashville, TN. It was SO good to be in person. This group has not met in person since March 2020, and I was so excited to have the energy and sisterhood in one room, together. Virtual meetings have their place, but it is just NOT the same. UMNews just put out a report about the meeting and the many things we discussed. See it at Women's group plans assembly, calls for justice | UMNews.org

Sisters, it is already time to start planning to come to Assembly 2026! You will find a link to promotional tools in this newsletter. Remember, I told you that you are all coming. Bring 5 friends with you! You can start putting money aside now. Fun things will be happening there besides amazing speakers and workshops, including a fair-trade market and opt-ins for a Legacy Banquet, an Ubuntu day of service, and a Soul Care Event. Assembly is an event you do not want to miss!

Legacy news: Did you know that the Legacy Endowment Fund now stands at $46 Million! We are less than $14 million away from our goal of $60M. Isn't that amazing? Our 2025 Day of Giving was March 23rd, at which time we celebrated our 156th birthday. How can you be part of this Legacy? Be a Legacy Builder at $18.69 a month, or consider becoming an 1869 Society member by leaving a planned gift. It's easy! I became one by leaving the Legacy Foundation in my will. Learn more at Legacy Fund | United Women in Faith What if we could close this campaign by Assembly 2026?!

Do you know about the Ratification votes needed at our 2025 Annual Conference? The Ratification of the Regionalization plan, along with 3 other constitutional amendments, is up for a vote. It is an aggregate vote, so we need every single person who is eligible to vote, to vote. Make sure your pastor(s) and lay leader(s) from your church know the issues and what is at stake. If you are not a designated voting delegate, please consider contacting your District Superintendents' office to see if you can be an equalization voter. The MSC AC will happen June 11-14 at St. Andrew UMC in Highlands Ranch, CO. Even if you cannot attend in person, you could attend and vote online. We will not be told the result of our annual conference vote, and it will be added to all the other conference votes. The final tally will not be announced until the end of the calendar year. You will find more information about the amendments in this newsletter. Vote "yes"!

Sisters, how are we inviting women to join us? In this day of uncertainty and chaos, it can be hard to know how to make a difference. It is tempting to sit back and hide our heads. But inertia is not an option. Know that you have a voice through this organization and invite others to join

*Jana Jones' report continued on page 4*

## Report from Jana Jones continued . . .

you. United Women in Faith has been educating, advocating, and speaking up for 156 years. How did you become involved in United Women if Faith? Tell your story to at least 5 women who may be feeling like they don't know what to do. This is our time to join our voices with those of our sisters, putting hope, love, and faith into action.

Thank you for being members of United Women in Faith. Our foremothers have rooted this organization well and prepared us to act in faith for love and justice. God called YOU for such a time as this. Will you answer? Let's dream it! Believe it! Do it!

Your Sister in Christ,

Jana Jones
President, United Women in Faith Board of Directors, Program Advisory Committee
uwfaithnationalpresident@gmail.com

## News from Conference Treasurer

Just as in 2024, the Mountain Sky Conference Pledge to Missions is off to a slow but steady pace in 2025. At the end of February, $7,963 has been submitted toward our total Pledge to Mission of $170,000 for 2025.

I hope that all of you read the e-blast which came out at the end of January with all of the fantastic 2024 giving numbers which more than exceeded our 2024 pledge of $170,000. We have been recognized from the National Office that we gave 110% of our Pledge. We did not get the bonus star because I was hesitant in increasing our pledge for 2025.

Your Conference Finance Committee will be working on the proposed 2026 budget and 2026 Pledge to Mission in the next few weeks. We have to have our finalized proposed budget and Pledge to Mission to the Conference Leadership team by mid-July. That is before many of the local Units even begin thinking about their 2026 budgets and Pledge to Mission giving.

Now that I have gone through a year, I can feel more confident in asking the Conference Finance Committee to increase our 2026 Pledge to Mission which brings me back to my opening statement. We need to keep up the steady pace of sending in the funds for our 5 Channels of Giving which are the Pledge to Mission, Special Mission Recognition, Gift to Mission (cards), Gift in Memory, and World Thank Offering.

While we are in the Season of Lent and focusing on the Call to Prayer & Self-Denial, we can still be thinking about giving Special Mission Recognition Pins. These pins are great for many occasions. Sending the Gift to Mission Cards, especially the Encouragement Cards, is a very meaningful way to stay in touch with friends. So while you are focusing on your Call to Prayer and Self-Denial offering/giving, keep in mind the 5 Channels of Giving.

*Treasurer's Report continued on page 5*

## Treasurer's Report cont.

Please make sure that you read Linda Lloyd's article explaining all the details about the Call to Prayer & Self-Denial and a reminder about the Day of Giving for the Legacy Fund.

Connie Pittenger
Mountain Sky Conference Treasurer

## Spiritual Growth Report

*"I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." ~Joshua 1:9*

I hope this finds everyone well and enjoying spring break or the beginning of the spring season. I know that it is spring break here because it is stormy. Last week, when the kids were still in school, the weather was warm, and it was actually almost nice. This week, when everyone is out and about, the wind is blowing, it is cold, and in some areas, they are having winter. But it is Colorado, wait a few minutes, and it might change.

The Conference United Women in Faith is busy with our preparations for the Annual Gathering, which will take place in October in Montrose, CO. This year, we are going to try something new and will have a spiritual retreat on Friday of the Annual Gathering. You will find more information in this newsletter, and I hope that you will plan to attend. The themes for the weekend will be "Faith Not Fear" and "Acting Fearlessly."

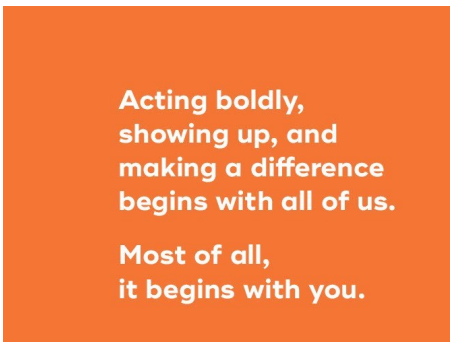
As part of the Annual Gathering, we will have a Memorial Service to remember members who have passed away since our last gathering in 2024. Please submit the names of those ladies to Denise Logan at grumpybear59@hotmail.com. Perhaps you have some information or a photo of your deceased member(s) you could share for use at the memorial service.

You are all in my thoughts and prayers every day!

Blessings,

Denise Logan

*"Live in such a way that those who know you but don't know God will come to know God because they know you." ~Author unknown*



United Women in Faith
Faith
Not Fear
Acting Fearlessly
2025 Mountain Sky Conference United Women in Faith
Spiritual Retreat and Annual Gathering
Event will be held at Montrose United Methodist Church 19 S. Park Ave, Montrose CO, 81401
17
October 2025
9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Registration cost $25/In Person
Registration cost $10/Zoom
Dinner cost $20
6:00 p.m. F U N!!
18
October 2025
8:30 am. to 3:00 p.m.
Registration cost $25/In Person
Registration cost $10/Zoom
Hotel: TBD
Registration cost for both events $60/In Person
Registration cost for both events $10/Zoom
Host Home options: Contact: Beth McCorkle beth.e.mccorkle@gmail.com
Fly into Montrose Region Airport using any of the following airlines: Delta, Southwest, United, American, Breeze & Denver Air Connection
Register online
https://forms.gle/SbduX1oVSMbXVbDH9

# Education & Interpretation

Dear United Women in Faith Sisters,

Happy March. As new Education and Interpretation Coordinator, I am overwhelmed to see the amount of activities that are happening within our Conference, Districts, and local units. The fellowship, ministry, support and love between the unit members and leaders is inspirational. You are all so amazing and supportive.

As we begin our Lenten season, my first thought is, "How can it be Lent already?" . . . and already a few weeks into it. One of the traditional programs that United Women in Faith has is the Prayer and Self-Denial. The Call to Prayer and Self-Denial began more than 125 years ago as a prayerful way to study, pray, and then give sacrificially to better the lives of others. The Call to Prayer and Self-Denial observance focuses on a different theme every year and the projects that are funded relate to that theme. This year the theme is **"Bold Women Transforming Communities."**

There are many ways that you can give to the Call to Prayer and Self-Denial. It can be done during a local unit meeting, circle activity, or an individual devotional moment. My local unit puts out a daily calendar designed to ponder things as you go about your day. It's an opportunity to pray and be thankful and give awareness to women in other parts of the world. We donate a coin for each day, and at the end of Lent we gather our coins and turn them in to our treasurer who in turn sends it into our Conference treasurer. It's very easy and meaningful.

I highly encourage you to use, or at least read, this year's Program Book that has a Lenten program and Bible study in it. There is a wealth of information about Prayer and Self-Denial and a story about the "Bold" women in Peru who will receive some of our funding.

**Bold Women Transforming Communities by Mary Beth Coudal, adapted by Audrey Stanton-Smith**

In 2025, the Call to Prayer and Self-Denial offering will support economic development and microenterprise projects, vocational training, life skills, and livelihood training internationally. Specifically, funds will support the work of United Methodist conference women's teams that design and lead projects that make a direct impact on improving the lives of their families and community members. Funds raised will also support the work of the conference women's desk coordinators and regional missionaries who partner in this work.

The Bible study has been adapted from the Call to Prayer and Self-Denial 2025 worship service, which is available for download at www.uwfaithresources.org. **One hundred percent of the offering goes to the focus projects.** In 2023, 16 economic development grants were awarded totaling $188,100.

**Don't forget that March is Women's History Month**

March 23rd was United Women in Faith's Day of Giving. The theme this year is **"For Generations to Come,"** which is exactly what the Legacy Endowment Fund is all about — making sure that future generations of United Women in Faith members are financially equipped to continue to take on the issues of the world by putting their faith into action. It is not too late to give to the Legacy Fund. Gifts can be made all year long.

*Education and Interpretation Report cont. on page 8*

## Education & Interpretation Report cont.

**United Women in Faith has issued the following statement:**

Throughout history, women have driven the charge for justice and equality. From Sojourner Truth and Reverend Anna Howard Shaw fighting for the right to vote, to Mary McLeod Bethune fighting for equality in education, to Fanny Crosby composing over 8,000 hymns and songs as a blind woman, Methodist women have set the foundations for a fairer and more just world.

**Sally Vonner, General Secretary and CEO of United Women in Faith,** said that *"We are inspired by the women who came before us and pushed the boundaries of what women were allowed to do. Our history informs our work today, and we build on the principles that they championed. Today, leaders follow in the footsteps of our foremothers. They continue to strengthen our communities and create justice through educating, organizing, advocating, and programming. Programs such as Mission u, a transformative educational program encompassing Bible-based curricula and events, and Soul Care Retreats that rejuvenate the spirit and nurture the whole person, bring us together and remind us of our mission. Starting with eight women in 1869 and growing to nearly half a million members today, United Women in Faith continues to fight for a more equitable, connected, and inclusive world."*

Look for more information in newsletters and emails that I will be sending out with upcoming events and other ways that we can support and learn about what is happening not only locally but nationally and world-wide with United Women in Faith to support women, children, and youth.

Have a blessed Easter season,

## Membership Nurture and Outreach

Hopefully, you have all responded to the National Unit Survey. The deadline of March 31 is fast approaching. We hope you have all shared your numbers and activities!

Thanks to the work of the Utah Western Colorado District, I have access to the PowerPoint presentation and worksheet they developed for their training using the Welcome Event Toolkit, which is provided by National Office and can be located on the resource page of the website. In addition to the workshop offered at the Conference Annual Gathering, I have been able to provide the workshop to the Metro Mile High and Northern Colorado districts. Contact me if you would like more information.

One of the great ideas I've received is from my own unit, Fort Collins First. They have developed a new Golden Circle for the ladies who are no longer able to attend meetings. At Leadership Team meetings, the members write personal notes to the Golden Circle members on cards to let them know they are in our thoughts and prayers. Every other month, small gifts are assembled and volunteers, alone or in teams, deliver them to the Golden Circle members. The ladies are so pleased to receive visits and chat about their lives and all that UMW (since these are long-time members, we don't push the new name on them) has meant to them. In the directory, we allow these ladies to continue to be listed with their old Circle, if they wish, in addition to listing them in the Golden Circle.

Please continue to send me your ideas to help our units nurture their current members and reach out to invite more women to join us in using love in action to change the world.

Karen Waldron

# Summer Mission u Coming Soon

## Practicing Hope Together

Mission u is a transformative educational program that encompasses both Bible-based curricula and events. All are welcome to engage with either or both components of Mission u.

Each year, United Women in Faith develops three justice-focused Biblical curricula for adults, youth, and children, all on a common theme. In 2025, our theme is *Practicing Hope Together.* In 2026, our theme will be *Experiencing Emmanuel.* Our focus on developing three curricula around one common theme means that Mission u offers a unique opportunity for faith communities to create powerful intergenerational learning experiences.

### Mountain Sky Mission u Update

Coming off a successful Winter Mission u focusing on climate urgency and justice, we turn to our summer program. In case you missed the Winter Mission u study: Creation Justice — A Call to Hope and Action, you can review them on YouTube at the links below:

LINKS TO SESSIONS (Please note that music sections may be edited out because of rights issues.)

Week I--Theology of Climate Change
Climate Justice Week I-January 19, 2025

Week II--Water is Life
Climate Justice Week II-January 26, 2025

Week IV
Climate Justice Week IV-February 9, 2025

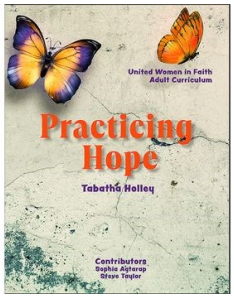
Week III
Climate Justice Week III-February 2, 2025

### Practicing Hope Together — Be Watching for Study Dates

Six study leaders have been recruited to fulfill our goals of 4-5 live study locations through this summer into fall. Study leaders will be trained virtually over the next three weeks by our national United Women in Faith Mission u leaders. Study leaders include: Sandy Barton, Rev. JR Atkins, Deaconess Stacey Atkins, Pastor Araceli Berdugo, Claudia Davis, and Janeen Hill. We are excited that Pastor Berdugo will be training to teach the Spanish version of the study. Our plans include offering both English and Spanish at selected live events, along with both Spanish-only and English-only locations. The study will also be offered during the 2026 Winter Mission u.

*Practicing Hope* is an adult curriculum exploring hope, particularly when hope seems hard to find. This study's purpose is to enable all of our communities to cultivate hope that is honest about our current conditions, hope that is restorative when everything feels urgent, and hope that is possible even when we transgress.

More study information can be found, plus book purchase can be made on the United Women in Faith Mission u website: https://uwfaith.org/events/mission-u/




Kathryn Witte, Dean
Sandy Barton, Assistant Dean

# Missionary News from Deaconess Kim Lewis

It is with heartfelt excitement and the spirit of the Lord that we announce our Global Missionary appointment. My husband, Pastor Pat (Billings First UMC) and I will be serving with Give Ye Them to Eat (GYTTE) in Puebla, Mexico (https://gytte.org/). Founded as a social outreach project of the Methodist Church of Mexico to combat hunger and poverty in the rural sector, GYTTE uses people-centered approaches to increase the understanding of impoverished families. We are very excited to see how God will us to help with this mission and change lives!

While the administrative part of our work will take place in Puebla, a lot of our time will be spent about 2 1/2 hours south in a village called Tiancualpican. The 70-acre experiential teaching farm is maintained for agricultural and livestock production to improve family nutrition and increase family income. Another priority is equipping village women as volunteer workers for community-based, primary health care focused on preventative health measures. This immersive, eco-sustainable learning center accommodates 11 full-time employees, and has dormitories for up to 60 people to live while training and/or completing a mission project.

We will be the liaisons and hosts to mission teams, and hope you will add us to your calendar! We are excited, honored, and a little trepidations as we follow God's call to connect with others through shared experiences and learning. We are requesting your sincere prayers, support, and even possible future mission trips to serve with us.

You are invited to join us to learn more either in person on Sunday, April 27 at Billings First UMC at 9:15 am or virtually at 7:00 pm. (https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86813574238?pwd=29tty8yib6momA7gW95QSGsYOIRAvO.1). We are also available to make a presentation to your group before we move in early June. Please reach out to get something scheduled! Contact Kim at 406-927-2487 or klewis@umcmission.org.

*Good luck, friends!*
*We will keep you and your ministry in our prayers!*

# Charter for Racial Justice Committee Update

The Racial Justice Committee, a diverse group of women across the Mountain Sky Conference, met in early March to shape our goals for 2025. Committee members include Robin Ball, Glenna Brayton, Marcia Canter, Su Debree, Maryann Hall, Tish Herries, Araceli Melo, Teresa Rivera, Cheryl Runyon, Judy Scrimshire, and Olympia Tukutau.

Our focus over this next year is to communicate about the issues we face, encourage education on the various issues (and there is a lot to understand) through the United Women in Faith Reading Program and book discussions, and encourage the women in our conference to attend a cultural event in our conference.

We will be highlighting various books that our committee members believe you should read, and announcing the discussions and events that you can attend through the newsletter.

Stay tuned and please let Teresa know if there are discussions or events in your area that we should highlight!

# The RJMM Task Force Hosts *Solito* Book Group

The Racial Justice Movement and Ministries Task Force (RJMM) of the Mountain Sky Conference of the United Methodist Church will continue to host a conference-wide Book Group.

The RJMM would like to encourage you to join this Book Group as we journey, read, listen to different voices, learn, work towards dismantling racism together, and with God, imagine and practice Beloved Community. *Note: Several UWFaith members already participate, but it would GREAT if you could join us!*

When you register, you will receive a suggested reading schedule and a Zoom link to join a monthly one-hour check-in and discussion.

For April, May, and June we will be reading *Solito: A Memoir* by Javier Zamora. The monthly meetings are on the last Sunday of each month at 5:00 pm (MST).

**Please register at:** https://mtnskyumc-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/aTxbL2mrTj-Wem9UV3PkaA#/registration

# Pick Me!

## From Childhood Games to Embracing God's Call

### Presented by: Deaconess Kim Lewis

## June 14, 2025 - 7:00 AM

**St. Luke's United Methodist Church**

**8817 S. Broadway**

**Highlands Ranch, CO**

**Cost: $10**

**Register online at www.mtnskyumw.org**

**or contact Anna Ball at Annaball7499@gmail.com**

**Sponsored by Mountain Sky Conference of United Women in Faith**

## Mile High Metro Report

On a wintery January day, Mile High Metro United Women in Faith gathered to join in their mission and mentoring day. The highlight of the event was having our National President, Jana Jones, speak. Her speech was entitled "WE CAN DO THIS — Reaching Our Goals Together." Breakout sessions included officer training as well as decorating bags for Project Angel Heart (a Denver food delivery for shut-ins).

Another breakout session was held to gauge the interest in a summer trip (August 22-23) to Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site and Camp Amache, a Japanese internment camp. The response was positive so Brenda Bronson is organizing this adventure and we would welcome others to attend. Tentative plans are to leave Friday, August 22 in the morning and go to Sand Creek. Then visit Camp Amache on Saturday. Federal closures may change this so if you're interested in joining the group, contact Brenda at brendabronsonfpe@gmail.com.

Looking ahead, our spiritual day together is June 7 at Smoky Hills Methodist Church. The theme is "Make a Joyful Noise" and preliminary plans include different ways to express joy as well as dealing with mental stress during hard times.

We also want to make you aware of a Zoom Book Discussion of **The Bigger Picture**. Vanessa Nakate strives to bring to our attention some of the numerous roadblocks she and other activists are encountering in educating the people of her country, Uganda, as well as all of Africa, about how the Climate Crisis is affecting their everyday lives. **The Bigger Picture** reminds us that the Global South is not much beyond its infancy in being aware of the looming dangers of Climate Change. To quote Greta Thunberg, Vanessa "reminds us that while we may all be in the same storms we are not all in the same boat." You are encouraged to join the Arvada United Women in Faith Bookworms for a zoom discussion of this informative read even if you haven't read the book. The zoom discussion is on April 24, 2025 from 7:00-8:00 pm. Contact Marcia Canter by April 23 at bomaanka@yahoo.com if you want to be part of this important discussion.

Did you know you can Give to
Mountain Sky Conference United Women in Faith online
Left menu bar on the homepage
https://www.mtnskyumw.org/donate-pay-it-forward/

**UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH**
**Western Mountains District**

# SPRING GATHERING
# SATURDAY, APRIL 26, 2025
## 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Missoula First United Methodist Church**
**300 East Main Street, Missoula**

Gather with United Women in Faith to welcome ALL to the table for food, fellowship and fun! Greet old friends and make new ones. All women of any faith are welcome to join us in support of mission.

### JANA JONES, National UWF President

Our keynote speaker "United Women in Faith: Reaching Our Goals Together" plus a workshop on "Making Room at the UWFaith Table." Enjoy a panel of women: making kids lunches for the Missoula Food Bank, making lunches for Poverello homeless shelter, and United We Eat, a program supporting immigrant women.

### MISSION PROJECTS (Please bring any of the following:)

Individual fruit cups of applesauce or peaches, or individual packs of Goldfish crackers for children's lunches. Sandwich bags for sack lunches at the Poverello Center. Come and see our volunteers at work! Potholders (preferably handmade) to sell at $5.00 each to help meet the goal of the Legacy Fund.

Nearby hotels or motels
The Wren 201 E Main 406-233-0225
Campus Inn 744 E. Broadway 406-549-5134
Comfort Inn 1021 E Broadway 406-213-4137

Register Online by April 20 at https://form.jotform.com/250493897464169 for in-person or April 24 for Zoom. Or mail this form to Claudia Davis, District Treasurer, 725 Middlemas Rd, Helena, MT 59602 or email form to: westernmountainsdistrictuwf@gmail.com

_____
Name

_____
Address City State Zip

_____
Phone Email

_____
Church or Unit List any dietary restrictions

☐ In-person - $20 In-person-mail payment prior ☐ Online - Zoom link will be sent 2 days

"Taste and see that the Lord is good." Psalm 34:8

## Southern Colorado District Report

Our new district has been busy planning our 2025 agenda:

* Our first business meeting to establish our standing rules, budget, and leadership team, etc. was held via Zoom on January 4th.

* Our first newsletter, SoCo Journal, went out March 6th, and our directory went out February 26th. And both went out on our new email SoCoDistUWFaith@gmail.com.

* We had a leadership development day on March 22.

* Our first book discussion is scheduled for March 27. We will be discussing "I Rise" by Marie Arnold, which is the book the conference leadership team gave to the district at the annual gathering in October. This is the beginning of our monthly book discussion which will be on the 4th Thursday of every month from 7:00-8:00 pm.

* Annual gathering will be September 27th and details will be discussed at our next leadership team meeting.

The United Women in Faith unit at the First UMC of Colorado Springs held a soul care retreat on March 1st from 9-2 with about 35 ladies attending. Marianne Chenoweth was the keynote speaker on the theme "The Growth of My Soul." I might add there were five district officers attending.

On February 1st, the United Women in Faith unit at Good Shepherd UMC in Colorado Springs held their installation of officers with about 15 ladies attending. There were three district officers and one conference officer attending.

Elaine Allison

So Co Dist UWFaith President

The Mountain View UWFaith unit celebrated United Women in Faith's 156th birthday with a special cake for the congregation on Sunday, March 23. They raised $1,200 for the Legacy 150 fund and annual pledges. They had a Mission minute during the service and all UW Faith members wore red necklaces and stood during the Mission Minute.

# Fellowship of the Traveling Necklace

## Submitted by Glenna Kyker

A young woman in Pine Bluffs, Wyoming purchased a United Methodist Cross & Flame necklace to share with church friends who "owned" it for a month.

Then a woman in Lamar, Colorado bought one to share with friends in United Methodist Women, now United Women in Faith.

A UMW member in Illinois rented hers out with rental fees going directly to their mission fund.

The necklace purchased by Rifle, Colorado Methodist Presbyterian Church became a world traveler, going on vacation, to conferences, on cruises, and to other interesting places and events. Each traveler sent back pictures of her wearing the necklace.

A long-time California Methodist and supporter of our Native American Ministries took pictures of her necklace and a miniature Jesus last year while touring Alaska. "Everyone needs a little Jesus," she said.

Every United Methodist Church and every unit of United Women in Faith can enjoy the fun of a Traveling Necklace. Everyone in the connection can have one these beautiful, handcrafted works of art and spirituality! Well, nearly everyone; they are handmade in Utah so it might take a while for everyone to have one. In the meantime, each church . . .

To start a Fellowship of Traveling Necklaces, go to the website for Love in Action Native American Ministries based in Grand Junction, Colorado:

http://loveinactionnativeamericanministires.com.

## Home Start Up Kits for Foster Teens

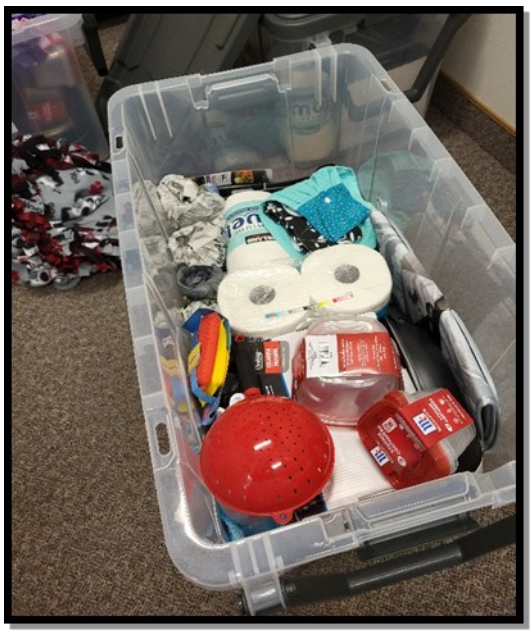
By Dillon Grace UWFaith

Our community of Dillon, MT has many wonderful service organizations and agencies providing help to those in need. Sometimes it seems that anything we think of as a service project is already being done by another group. I learned at a workshop at the Mtn Sky UWFaith Annual Conference in Billings, MT that one should approach helping another group by first asking what it is they need instead of assuming what you think they need is what they truly need.

We invited a representative of CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) to speak to our group. We asked what is needed. We found out that CASA already receives donations of stuff bags that are given to foster children when they are removed from a home. But these stuff bags are made with little kids design fabrics. The CASA representative said they could use adult size backpacks with toiletries and a small blanket that teenage boys would appreciate. We asked how many. The response was for three, which we happily donated to CASA. We will donate more as the need arises. We also found out that there were three foster teens in our area who are aging out of the foster care system during 2025 when they turn 18. We offered to donate three kits for setting up an apartment. We also are ready to do the same next year, happy to have found a need in our community that we may help with. You can see from the photo that we provided a variety of items for kitchen and apartment. Some items were donated by our ladies and some purchased with unit funds.

**Items in the Tubs:**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Tub on wheels | Paring knife | Blanket |
| Cutting board | Bath towels | Spatula |
| Cutting utensils | Kitchen towels | 4 mugs |
| Dish cloths | Long fork | Strainer |
| Dish drying pad | Large spoon | Pizza Pan |
| Potholders | Dishes for 4 | 4 Glasses |
| Silverware for 4 | 2 Frying pans | 9x13 Pan |
| 2 Sauce pans | Can opener | |
| Measuring spoons | Measuring cups | |
| Food storage containers | Toilet paper | |
| Cookie sheet | Pizza cutter | |



# General Conference Amendment Information

## Ratification: Your Vote Counts

These are the four legislative items that will be voted on:

**Article IV — Protecting membership rights for individuals.**

At the Postponed 200 General Conference, the legislative gathering voted to add the words "gender" and "ability" to Paragraph 4, Article IV of The United Methodist Church's Constitution. Now what? This historic vote now needs to be ratified by all the annual conferences across the worldwide connection.

GCSRW (General Conference on the Status and Role of Women) is hosting webinars for United Methodists across the world to better understand why ratifying the United Methodist Constitution to amend Paragraph 4, Article IV to include the words "gender" and "ability" protects membership for all people.

When it comes time to vote at your annual conference, vote "yes" on Ballot #2 to make sure nobody is excluded from membership in The United Methodist for any reason.

**Article V — The UMC's Stance Against Racism**

Article V of the Book of Discipline serves as a pivotal framework for the United Methodist Church's commitment to addressing and eliminating racism in all its forms. Recent proposed changes to Article V, at the postponed 2020/2024 General Conference in April/May 2024, have strengthened this commitment by explicitly recognizing the church's role in combating racism, racial inequity, colonialism, white privilege, and white supremacy both within the denomination and in broader society. These changes reflect a critical shift within the church's acknowledgment of and response to deeply entrenched racial injustice.

*"The United Methodist Church proclaims that from God's goodness and love, God created all persons as God's unique and beloved children. Racism opposes God's law, goodness and love and diminishes the image of God in each person. Fueled by white privilege, white supremacy and colonialism, the sin of racism has been a destructive scourge on global society and throughout the history of The United Methodist Church. It continues to destroy our communities, harm persons, obstruct unity and undermine God's work in this world. Racism must be eradicated. Therefore, The United Methodist Church commits to confronting and eliminating all forms of racism, racial inequity, colonialism, white privilege and white supremacy, in every facet of its life and in society at large.* *~Text as approved at General Conference held in 2024*

**Paragraph 35 — Education requirements for Licensed Local Pastors Voting Eligibility**

The postponed 2020 General Conference voted to amend Section VI, Article IV of the United Methodist Constitution. This paragraph outlines the educational requirements for clergy members of annual or provisional conferences who are eligible to vote for clergy delegates to the General Conference.

*General Conference amendments cont. on page 19*

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# General Conference Amendment Information cont.

**Paragraph 35 — Education requirements for Licensed Local Pastors Voting Eligibility**

Previously, the paragraph required a clergy delegate to have completed a "course of study or an M.Div. degree . . ." It now states: "course of study or Master of Divinity from a University Senate approved theological school or its equivalent as recognized in a Central Conference . . ."

**Regionalization**

As described on the ResourceUMC website , "Worldwide Regionalization represents an organizational vision designed to enhance adaptive evangelism, emphasize our denomination's global nature, and strengthen our connection by prioritizing our mission and ministry. This strategic plan was overwhelmingly endorsed by delegates from around the world at General Conference 2024 and now awaits ratification by our Annual Conferences."

The Mountain Sky Conference is holding information sessions. You can learn more at these websites:

www.mtnskyumc.org to AC 2025 (top of the page) to Ratification

www.resourceumc.org - Churchwide to Connectional Table to regionalization

**Consider becoming an equalization member and make your voice heard!**

## Make Plans to Attend Assembly 2026

This year's Assembly, themed **"Dream it! Believe it! Do it!"** will take place in Indianapolis, Indiana, May 15-17, 2026. Registration for the event will open on September 1, 2025.

What awaits you at this empowering event? Opportunities to:

Be nurtured by deep soul care experiences

Be equipped through cutting-edge workshops

Be inspired by top women experts in their field

Become influencers through networking connections

Make an impact through action for justice

**Come be transformed at Assembly 2026!**

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## Virtual Meeting with Missionary Jennifer Moore

## Thursday, April 10 at 7:00

Join the Mountain Sky United Women in Faith in welcoming Jennifer Moore to the Mountain Sky Conference. Moore is a General Board of Global Mission missionary serving in Macedonia. She is currently itinerating in various locations throughout the U.S. to meet her supporting congregations and to tell about the work that is supported by United Methodists throughout the world.

Jennifer serves a Christian educator with The United Methodist Church in the Republic of North Macedonia. She was commissioned in May 2016. The United Methodist Church in Macedonia officially began in 1922. Their community of eleven congregations is a testament to perseverance through harsh economic times, wars, and religious oppression.

After the fall of socialism in the 1990's and Macedonia gaining its independence from Yugoslavia in 1991 came increased religious freedom and a desire to expand the church. As a missionary of Global Ministries, Jennifer's main task is to walk alongside these congregations to help them develop ministry resources, train up new leaders, and reach their surrounding communities for Christ. Jennifer grew up in the Church of the Nazarene and was always active in her church. "I accepted Jesus into my heart as my Savior at a very young age," she recounts, "and I did my best to obey him. When I was 15, I went to a youth conference called the Festival of Life. As a result of the messages I heard there, I decided to dedicate my life to God and give him full control over my present and my future.

Drawn by God to mission work after participating in a short-term mission trip in college, Jennifer has prepared for a life of cross-cultural Christian service through her educational, volunteer, and vocational endeavors. She earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia, a Master of Arts in Intercultural Studies from the Nazarene Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Missouri, and a Master's degree in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages from Azusa Pacific University in Azusa, California. She taught English classes to recent immigrants in the U.S. for two years, worked as an elementary school teacher in Virginia and Missouri for four years, spent four years teaching university students in Phnom Penh, Cambodia with English Language Institute/China, and partnered with a church-planting team in Cambodia for two years before moving to North Macedonia in 2016. Jennifer mainly works with the Commission for Working with Children and Youth on the Macedonian district.

The commission aims to bring the gospel to every child, teenager, and young adult on the Macedonian district by providing training, resources and spiritual support for the leaders of children's, teen and young adult groups, as well as organizing district-wide events. Jennifer works to model and establish good practices for the running of the commission and invest in the other members as they all work to invest in the children, teens and young adults on their district. Jennifer shares, "While serving in Cambodia, I became conscious of the ways cultural beliefs and societal systems play a role in societal ills, and that the church is the main way God has for combating these systems to bring his kingdom on earth. I decided I wanted to invest the rest of my life building up the church and empowering leaders to bring God's kingdom to their communities."

**Watch for a Zoom link to be sent out on an e-blast Tuesday, April 8 so that you can join this mission talk.**

**If you don't receive the e-blasts, email Linda Cockett at linliec@hotmail.com for the link**

United Women in Faith

# Find United Women in Faith Online

## United Women in Faith Website:
## uwfaith.org

This is our primary website. Here you will find the latest news and information about United Women in Faith programs, initiatives, and events. It's where you connect with other members and get involved. You'll also find links to our many resources and the e-store.

**Downloads:** umwmissionresources.org

Find new brand elements, member materials, programs, and catalogs here.

## Online Community:
## uwfaith.mn.co

Connect with United Women in Faith members on Mighty Networks, a safe and secure online space to deepen our community and engage digital resources for local programming and transformative education. The platform features the digital Program Resource, Prayer Guide, Mission u curricula, online groups around specific interests, and more.

## Facebook:
## facebook.com/uwomenfaith

If you're on Facebook, be sure to "like" United Women in Faith. Follow the link and sign up so that our regular posts will appear on your home page.

## Twitter:
## twitter.com/uwomenfaith

Do you tweet? So does United Women in Faith! Use the link to find our Twitter account @uwomenfaith. Follow us, tweet with us, and become a part of the continuing conversation around faith, hope, and love in action.

## YouTube:
## youtube.com/uwomenfaith

Need a video for a presentation? You'll find it on YouTube. Check out the video resources available by following the link. New videos are posted often!

## Flicker
## uwfaith.org/flickr

Need a photo for your newsletter or PowerPoint? Follow this link and you'll find terrific images illustrating the work of United Women in Faith members.

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***SKY LIGHTS  November 2024***
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