

GLOWING EMBERS

SUMMER 2025 NEWSLETTER

WESTERN MOUNTAINS DISTRICT - MOUNTAIN SKY CONFERENCE



United
Women
in Faith

The Presidents' Corner

God has blessed us with beautiful weather as we enter the summer season. We hope you are taking time to get out and enjoy it! Misson U will be held July 25-26, 2025 in Helena at St Paul's United Methodist Church. The topic this year is "Practicing Hope Together". It's exciting to see that we are returning to an in-person gathering for this event.

Mark your calendar! Our District Fall meeting is scheduled for September 20th at Christ United Methodist Church in Great Falls. The theme is "Where In The World is United Women in Faith?" It will be a fun day of fellowship, learning and food. Look for the registration form in this newsletter.

Plans are also underway for the Spiritual Retreat to be held at Fairmont Hot Springs on May 1st & 2nd 2026.

Watch for more information about this opportunity to gather for a special weekend of fellowship and relaxation.

Micah 6:8: What does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

Arlis & Cathy

Photos from our Spring District Meeting (Read full report on Page 3)



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Fairmont Retreat
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Assembly in
Indianapolis

Photos by Janet Zimmerman

faith

action

sisterhood



United
Women
in Faith

Western Mountains District UWF Leadership Team:

Many thanks to those fabulous United Women in Faith who will continue in their positions for the coming year. This has been a truly fantastic team. You can see that we have a few vacant positions, so if you have a heart for mission or like visiting with and supporting your sisters in UWF, please do let me know. You'll be glad you did!

Co-Presidents:

Arlis Vannett - 406-925-2209 - Arlis_v@hotmail.com

Cathy Speich Ferguson - 406-925-1994 - cathysf@bresnan.net

Vice President:

Adina Fox - 406-253-1774 - adinafox49@gmail.com

Treasurer:

Claudia Davis - 406-461-9618 - Westernmountainsdistrictuwf@gmail.com

Secretary:

Roxanne Roehl - 406-239-1452 - roxroeste@gmail.com

Spiritual Growth & Membership Coordinator &

Program Resources Coordinator:

Elaine Williams - 406-529-1325 - eewilliams31705@outlook.net

Communications Coordinator:

Janna Lauver - 406-698-0910 - Janna@bozemanumc.org

Missions Education & Social Action Coordinator: VACANT

Committees on Nominations:

Chair: Tish Herries - 406-370-6572 - tishsaffron@gmail.com

Janet Ulrich - 907-230-5881 - bluejaytree5881@gmail.com

Janet Zimmerman - 406-451-3859 - janetkayzee@gmail.com

2 VACANCIES - Contact Tish if you are interested.

Event Planning Advisor:

Debra Redburn - 406-581-8463 - dredburn53@gmail.com

Treasurer's Report for the Western Mountains District

Hello, Western Mountains District United Women in Faith. We are halfway through the year, but not halfway with our pledge to mission. If your unit can send in donations monthly or quarterly that would be great. Please don't wait until the end of the year. I hate it when I panic!!! Thank you to all that have kept up their pledge giving.

I answered the call from UWFaith to be an equalizing voter at our Mountain Sky Annual Conference. This was my first church conference and I'm so glad I attended. You get to celebrate with clergy and laity from all over our conference. And we voted on strategic and important legislation for our denomination. I was proud to be a part of the process. Please consider being an equalizing voter next year. You won't be sorry!

And last but not least, please consider attending Mission u in July. This is our first time back with in-person study. I volunteered to be the study leader, and I would love to have all of you in Helena with me. The registration form is in this newsletter. Share with friends, men and women.

Blessings to all, Claudia Davis, WMD Treasurer

Secretary's Report for the Spring District Gathering

Our Spring District Gathering was held April 26, 2025 in Missoula and 29 ladies from 9 units answered at Roll-Call.

Jana Jones, was our keynote speaker. She covered a variety of topics and was very informative. Topics ranged from Soul Care (the #1 need in a survey of 24k women – UWFaith and non) to action items. Faith Talks are a good source for on-line inspiration. You become an All-Access member just by signing on to the global UWFaith site (<https://uwfaith.org/get-involved/become-a-member/>). She mentioned the current initiatives: Climate Justice/Just Energy 4 All, Interrupt the School to Prison Pipeline (see grant opportunity on page 4). She stressed the need to increase membership and giving... and ideas on how to accomplish this.

The afternoon program was a panel of "Love in Action": three volunteers from local non-profits: Carole Addis from Poverello Center, Pam Melchert from Missoula Food Bank, and Jane Darnell from United We Eat – an partnership with Soft Landings. Homeless needs are increasing, as are food needs. The Food Bank has served 1 in every 5 Missoulians this year. ... some weekly, some only once or twice when they had an emergency. United We Eat is a way to help legal refugees who have been sent here to earn a living by selling their talents as chefs.

The gathering continued according to the agenda with a closing Communion service with Rev Kathy Young.

Respectfully submitted by Roxanne Roehl, Secretary.

By the time you receive this newsletter, someone (usually the president and secretary) should have received an electronic copy of the UWF directory. We still don't have information for all churches but this is the most current information we have. If you know of another unit (active or semi-active) please let me know a contact person. Roxanne Roehl - roxroeste@gmail.com - 406-239-1452

Small-Scale Grant Opportunity for Districts and Units Working to Interrupt the School-to-Prison Pipeline

Deadline to Apply: September 1, 2025

The Office of Racial Justice invites United Women in Faith Districts and Units to apply for funding to support their local work to interrupt the school-to-prison pipeline and/or end mass incarceration.

Goal of Funding Support

To advance United Women in Faith's efforts to interrupt the school-to-prison pipeline and end mass incarceration by providing small-scale seed funding to support district and local unit projects.

Available Funding Support

Consideration will be given to funding requests of \$100 - \$1,500. Funding is limited. Please budget responsibly and request only the amount needed. Requests for funding support in excess of \$1,500 will not be considered.

Criteria for Evaluating Applications for Funding Support

Your project should have a clear goal connected to interrupting the school-to-prison pipeline and/or ending mass incarceration. Goals may be at any level, from changing the practice of an individual school to shifting federal juvenile justice policy. Project goals should demonstrate a healthy mix of ambition and realism.

Your project should include the voices of directly-impacted people in the leadership and/or decision-making process. Depending on your specific context, this may include students at risk of pushout, currently- or formerly-incarcerated people, or others.

We believe we do our best and most sustainable work when we work together. With that in mind, United Women in Faith groups are welcome to apply for funding to support collaborative work in coalition/partnership with other local organizations, as long as the work involves substantial and active participation from the United Women in Faith Unit or District, as well.

Groups that receive funding will be asked to report on their results, including:

What was done;
Who was involved;
How the community was impacted;
How funds were spent;
What next steps are planned; and
What was learned.

Timeline

Application deadline – September 1, 2025
Groups notified of funding support decisions – By October 15, 2025
Groups confirm plan to move forward (or not) – By November 1, 2025
Selected group(s) receive funding – By December 15, 2025
Implementation of project – Calendar Year 2026
Report on results due – By February 1, 2027

[Click Here for Application Directions and Link](#)

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Summer 2025 Mission u Practicing Hope Together Helena, Montana

Sponsored by Mountain Sky United Women in Faith,
Mountain Sky Mission Team and the Western
Mountains District United Women in Faith
Open to all adults, youth, clergy and lay persons.

2025 Summer Mission u Study: Practicing Hope Together

Dates: July 25 & 26, 2025 Friday: 5:30-8:30 pm Saturday: 8:30 am–3 pm

Study Leaders: Claudia Davis, Pastor Janeen Hill and Sandy Barton

Study Book: Practicing Hope Together

Study Description: **Practicing Hope Together** is a timely study reflective of the spiritual and political moment we are experiencing. It is a time when many of our churches are discerning where Christ is calling us to be morally courageous when our world leaders fail us and our communities work to “come back” together after being on the brink of collapse. This curriculum will explore how we can hope differently. We will study scripture, look at some timely podcasts and practice how we can take care of ourselves.

Many of our virtual Mountain Sky United Women in Faith Mission u studies are available on the Mountain Sky United Women in Faith [Youtube Channel](#).

An offering will be taken and proceeds will be split between Mountain Sky United Women in Faith and the Mountain Sky Conference Mission Team.

Name: _____ Request CE certificate, sent upon completion of course.

Street Address, City, State, ZIP Code: _____

Best phone number: _____

Email: _____

District: ☐ Big Horn ☐ Mile High Metro
☐ Utah/Western Colorado ☐ Western Mountains

☐ Northern Colorado ☐ Southern Colorado
☐ Wyoming+1 ☐ Other _____

First-time Attendee to Mission u? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Home church and city or town: _____

Food Allergies: _____

Check all that apply: ☐ Clergy ☐ Lay Member ☐ UWFaith ☐ Male ☐ Female ☐ Non-binary

☐ Both Days ☐ Saturday Only ☐ (Y or N) Willing to share hotel room?

Registration fee: \$60 includes Friday dinner, Saturday breakfast and lunch, program materials

\$45 for Saturday only. (CE credits not available)

Make checks payable to: Western Mountains District UWFaith

Mail form to: Cathy Speich-Ferguson, 319 S. Argenta, Dillon MT 59725 by July 15.

In-Person only: St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 512 Logan St., Helena, MT 59601

Questions? Contact: Cathy at 406-925-1994 or cathysf@bresnan.net

Room Block: Double Tree by Hilton “Mission u” 406-443-2200. \$179 + fees. [Click Here](#) for online registration.

Hotel Reservations



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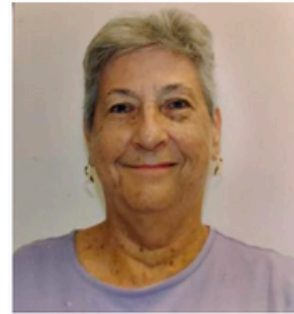
Study Leaders



Claudia Davis



Pastor Janeen Hill



Sandy Barton

Claudia Davis is a member of St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Helena, Montana. She serves as the treasurer of the local UWFaith unit and the Western Mountains District. She volunteers as the church secretary on Mondays. She also volunteers with the A/V team for Sunday worship streaming. She loves to sew, camp, and boat on the beautiful lakes around Helena. She has been a member of UWFaith since 1986 or so. Claudia has a daughter and a son. Two grandchildren which bring her joy everyday! She has two fur babies, Charley and Mickey. She just celebrated her 50th wedding anniversary to Jerry. Her retirement from non-profit administration doesn't seem to stick. She still does small jobs for Prickly Pear Land Trust. Although she has attended several Mission u events, this is her first time to be a study leader.

Janeen Hill is a member of the Broomfield United Methodist Church in Broomfield, Colorado, where she sings in the Grace Notes choir and volunteers teaching English as a Second Language. Janeen served as a UM Licensed Local Pastor from 2013-2022, serving Colorado churches in Keenesburg, Fowler, Manzanola, and Olney Springs. Her other teaching experience comes from time as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Tetuan, Morocco, working with children ages 3-7; as a youth group leader at Louisville, Colorado, UMC; and leading Bible studies during her time as a pastor. She was an attorney for more than 30 years, focused on helping clients make simple wills and guiding families through the probate process after a death in the family. Janeen recently led the virtual Mission u study, Welcome Home. She is a third-generation Methodist, and is excited about leading another Mission u study.

Sandy Barton is a member of First United Methodist Church in Grand Junction, Colorado, where she is also a member of United Women in Faith and is a Certified Lay Servant. Sandra moved to Colorado in July 2020 from Florida and recently relocated from Denver to Grand Junction with her cats, Marley & Harley.

For more than 40 years, Sandra taught high school. She taught in Pennsylvania, Morocco (as a Peace Corps Volunteer), the U.S. Virgin Islands, Denver and IMG Academy in Bradenton, Florida. Sandra is a long-time member of United Women in Faith and was a district spiritual growth coordinator in the Florida Conference and has done many Spiritual Day Apart programs. Her experience includes teaching several Mission u spiritual growth studies, most recently co-leading Living the Kin-dom: The Lord's Prayer.



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Going Live

After nearly five years of primarily virtual Mission u offerings, we are **going live!** If the Helena event doesn't work for you, there are upcoming studies in Centennial, Colorado (June 21); and Delta, Colorado (August 15-16). Be watching for more information on those offerings.

The study book can be purchased on the Mission u website for \$14.99 plus shipping at:

<https://uwfaithresources.org/prodDetail.cfm?productID=11781&catid=2175>



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**United Women in Faith
Western Mountains
District Fall Meeting**

Saturday, September 20, 2025

8:00 am – 3:00 pm

Cost \$20 in-person

Zoom is free

Christ United Methodist Church,

2900 9th Ave. S.

Great Falls, MT

Come and See:

*“Where in the World is
United Women in Faith?”*

Join your sisters and friends of United Woman in Faith as we gather to explore UWFaith’s Mission Outreach! We are planning a day of fun, fellowship, learning and food. Come and See! Visit with old friends and make new friends. Partake of the light breakfast and lunch that will be provided.

Register by Wednesday, September 17. Online at <https://form.jotform.com/251685284967171>

Or mail this registration form to Claudia Davis, District Treasurer, 725 Middlemas Rd, Helena, MT 59602 or email form to Claudia at westernmountainsdistrictUWF@gmail.com.

Hotels in vicinity of meeting: Great Falls Inn, 1400 28th St. S. (406) 453-6000

Holiday Inn, 400 10th Ave. S. (406) 727-7200 Ski’s Western Motel, 2420 10th Ave. S. (406) 453-3281

Ubuntu service project: *Great Falls Children’s Receiving Home* whose mission is to provide a safe haven for children age birth to eighteen by providing temporary and emergency foster care for abused and neglected children. **Please bring school supplies to donate to this Children’s Home.**

Optional Event: Tour the Brother Van House Museum, which is the only Montana home of William Wesley Van Orsdel, otherwise known as the circuit riding preacher Brother Van. The museum is located at 113 Sixth Street North, Great Falls, MT. Tour will be available ½ hour after our meeting closes at approximately 3:30pm

Western Mountains UWF District Meeting –Sept. 20, 2025. Great Falls

Name: _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Church or Unit _____

List any dietary restrictions: _____

☐

In-person - mail \$20 payment

☐

Online – Zoom link will be sent 2 days prior

Faith Not Fear

Acting Fearlessly

2025 Mountain Sky Conference United Women in Faith
Spiritual Retreat and Annual Gathering

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

Registration cost for both events \$60/In Person

Registration cost for both events \$10/Zoom

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Host Home options.
Contact:
Beth McCorkle
beth.e.mccorkle@gmail.com

Register online <https://forms.gle/SbduX1oVSMbXVbDH9>

Event will be held
at Montrose United
Methodist Church
19 S. Park Ave,
Montrose CO 81401

Hotel:
Best Western
2100 E. Main St., Montrose
(970) 240-8000
\$182/night 2 double beds

Reservations under:
United Women in
Faith

Fly into Montrose
Region Airport using
any of the following
airlines: Delta,
Southwest, United,
American, Breeze &
Denver Air
Connection

**Save the Dates:
Fairmont
Women's
2026 Event
May 1-3, 2026**

**GLOWING EMBERS Western Mountains District
Mountain Sky Conference
2025 Summer Newsletter**

Do you have news articles, events or photos you would like to submit for the newsletter? If so, you may email your information by February 10th to: janna@bozemanumc.org

**Dream it!
Believe it!
Do it!**

**Assembly 2026 is coming...
Will you be ready?**

**We're getting ready to
"Dream it! Believe it! Do it!"
and we want YOU with us.**

Assembly 2026 will take place May 15–17, 2026, in Indianapolis, Indiana bringing together thousands of United Women in Faith members, leaders, and change agents for a powerful, spirit-filled gathering. Picture a weekend that uplifts your soul, strengthens your faith, and brings you together with an unstoppable sisterhood.

Assembly 2026 is our time to dream it, our time to believe it, and our time to do it. Come to this must attend event to feel closer to God, bond in sisterhood, and care for yourself. Come be inspired and equip yourself to change the world.

Whether you've joined us before or this will be your first Assembly — now's the time to "Be Ready."

◆ Sign up now to receive:

Early event announcements
First access to news leading up to registration
Exciting speaker and program reveals

You won't want to miss a single moment. Let's come together in bold faith and purpose — and get ready to do great things.

SCAN ME



👉 [Click here](#) to sign up and Be Ready!

**Together, we'll "Dream it! Believe it! Do it!"
We can't wait to see you in Indianapolis!**