

GLOWING EMBERS

SPRING 2025 NEWSLETTER

WESTERN MOUNTAINS DISTRICT - MOUNTAIN SKY CONFERENCE



United
Women
in Faith

The Presidents' Corner

We are pleased to serve as the current co-presidents of the Western Mountains UWF District. Our home is in Dillon, MT, where we attend Grace United Methodist Church. Cathy is the president of our local UWF group and has been involved at the conference level with Mission U and as a Spiritual Growth Coordinator. Together, we have attended Mission U both in person and virtually, as well as District meetings.

We are fortunate to have a very talented and devoted district team! Our district team is currently planning the Western Mountains District Spring Meeting, which will be held on Saturday, April 26, at the First United Methodist Church in Missoula. Our theme is "A Table For All." The host church will provide breakfast, lunch, and snacks. We are excited to have Jana Jones, the UWF National President from Centennial Colorado (see her bio on Page 3), speaking to us in the morning. After lunch, we will have a panel of representatives from organizations that offer assistance to local people facing food insecurity. Look for the registration form in this newsletter. We hope everyone can join us for this wonderful day of learning and fellowship!

Plans are also underway for the Spiritual Retreat, which will be held at Fairmont Hot Springs in the Spring of 2026. Watch for more information about this opportunity to gather for a special weekend of fellowship and relaxation.

Winter is definitely upon us, and we are looking forward to Spring. Stay safe and warm!

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

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sisterhood



United
Women
in Faith

Western Mountains District UWF Leadership Team:

Below is your list of counterparts. Each is ready to be helpful however you may need them. You'll note that the Coordinator for Mission Education and Social Action is vacant. If you have a heart for MISSION, want to share it with others, the leadership team would welcome you to promote mission education opportunities, such as Mission u, and promote issues requiring social action. Please contact any member of the Committee on Nominations if God is calling you to the team.

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 - eeewilliams31705@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

Carol Perry - 406-452-6296 - c2s2p@yahoo.com

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

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

UWF Biographies

Jana Jones, National President

Jana currently serves as the National President of United Women in Faith, representing the Western Jurisdiction and the Mountain Sky Conference. As President of the Board of Directors and Program Advisory Group, she has the privilege of being an ex officio member of all the national committees, which means she gets to go to a lot of meetings. On the other hand, she gets to meet a LOT of amazing women who are the backbone of this organization, and who make mission happen. Jana recently served as the chair for the Mountain Sky Conference Abundant Health Team, part of Mission Engagement.



She is an active member at Smoky Hill United Methodist Church in Centennial Colorado, serving on the Missions team, Abundant Health team, Worship team and Choir as well as being the communications coordinator for her local UWFaith unit at Smoky Hill. She is a retired pediatric nurse who has worked in hospital in-patient settings and as a school nurse consultant.

Western Mountains District Team Biographies

Arlis Vannett was a special ed teacher all over Montana for 40 years, retiring to Dillon in 2022 where she is still a sub in that field. As a member of Grace UMC she has been involved in many areas of UMW. Arlis participated in the Walk to Emmaus for 5 years. She is a life-time Girl Scout who continues to lead a troop. She is also active with many local organizations. On the Western Mountains District team, Arlis has previously served on the Nom Com.

Cathy Speich-Ferguson, with a BS in elementary ed and library science, is currently a librarian at the Dillon Public Library. She has been president of her local unit at Grace UMC in Dillon, been Communications Coordinator, served as Spiritual Growth Coordinator for our conference and as Dean of Mission u for 6 years. All of this has opened interesting and challenging opportunities. Cathy is a life-long Girl Scout, loves doll collecting and flower arranging, and is a certified National Flower Club show judge. Her favorite Bible verse is Micah 6:8.

Adina Fox has an educational background in Family Relations & Child Development and Human Resources. She and her husband have been youth leaders in Oklahoma and Montana for 12 years, moving to Montana in 1990. She's held leadership positions in the Polson UMC for 30 years and been Conference Lay Leader for 10 years. She previously served as VP on the Western Mountains District team and is currently program chair for Polson UMW/UWF.

Claudia Davis has been a part of UMW since 1986, serving in multiple leadership positions on the unit, district and conference levels, believing this is her calling. She currently serves on committee of conference communications. Her career has been in non-profit bookkeeping, and although retired takes care of the Montana Bowhunters Association membership and finances. She is our district treasurer, Helena St. Paul's unit treasurer and circle leader. She loves to quilt.

Western Mountains District Team Bios (Continued)

Roxanne Roehl (rail) as the child of a career Army aviator has moved and traveled often. She holds a degree in Mathematics from the University of Nebraska and had a career in banking, retiring from the Missoula Federal Credit Union in 2013. Her native Montana husband bought her to his home state where she belongs to Missoula Grace UMC, serving as their UWF leader. Roxanne chaired the U of M Wesley House Board for many years and was conference treasurer from 2013 to 2019.

Elaine Williams is a retired elementary librarian. She has fond memories of attending WSCS as a child with her mother and anxiously awaiting the refreshments. In UMW she served as treasurer in Dillon, and later as chairman of fellowships, vice president and president of UWF at Missoula First UMC. She once was chairman of Christian Personhood for the district ("longer ago than I care to think about.") For the church Elaine has served on SPRC and has taught several classes of Disciple.

Janna (Huhtala) Lauver became a Methodist through confirmation at age 13 in Chester, MT. She earned a Communications degree from Montana State University-Billings. Janna has served in various roles within the Yellowstone Conference (now Mountain Sky Conference), including Flathead Lake and Luccock Park UM summer camp program staff and leading the conference Youth Council. Janna is an active member and staff member at Bozeman United Methodist Church, where she and her family (husband Bobby, daughter Peyton, and son Andrew) attend and serve. They live in Three Forks.

Tish Herries began her teaching career as a Peace Corps volunteer in West Africa and has taught English and Art K-12. She has worked as a Sunday school teacher, youth leader and local pastor. With UMW/UWF Tish has served at local, district, conference and regional levels and was the first national Program Advisory Group member for Yellowstone Conference. Her passions are family, peace, Climate Justice, the Reading Program and Mission u, which she taught four times for Yellowstone Conference. She's a member of Missoula First UMC.

Carol Perry has been a devoted member of First United Methodist Church in Great Falls for 59 years. She taught school for 10 years. After her two children were born, she became active in UMW/UWF serving as a local, district and conference officer. UWF is a very important part of her life.

Janet Ulrich graduated from Flathead HS and from MSU with a degree in accounting. Living in Alaska and working for the Federal Aviation Administration for 45 years, she retired to Kalispell in 2016. Her mother and grandmother were UMW, and as soon as she was established in Alaska, she was asked to be treasurer. She has since served in many local, conference, regional school and jurisdiction positions from committee on nominations to president of our district. Alaska doesn't have districts, so she is establishing tenure in district positions.

Janet Kay Zimmerman is a fifth generation Montanan, fun-loving, creative, musical, deep thinker and mother of Amanda, Frieda and Levi. She is a member of St. Paul's UMC in Helena and recently led music with her guitar at the 2024 Fairmont Women's Event. She is a baker of breads, maker of soups, a traveler and lover of life – God is love.



Treasurer's Report for the Western Mountains District Year 2024

Financial Summary for the Year

The United Women in Faith Western Mountains District has had a productive and financially sound year. This report highlights the key financial activities and status of our district for the past fiscal year.

Income

- Mission Giving: \$29,837.09
- Designated Giving: \$1423.00
- Registrations: \$6453.94
- A & MD Funds: \$1440.00

Expenses

- Mission Giving: \$29,837.09
- Designated Giving: \$1423.00
- Events & Meetings: \$6131.96
- Administrative Expenses: \$228.84

Net Income

- Net Income: \$2567.14 Total in bank with carryover from 2023 is \$2609.28.

Key Financial Highlights

Over the past year, we received money from 10 units. We received money from two additional units in late December so they are counted in 2025. We have a total of 12 units giving to mission.

- We held a Fall meeting and a Soul Care Retreat in 2024.
- We held several Zoom leader meetings
- We had a few members attend Mountain Sky UWF Conference meeting.
- We have 4 members who serve on the conference team or committees.

Thank you to all our members, units, and supporters for your unwavering dedication and contributions. Your support enables us to continue our mission and make a positive impact in your communities and around the world.

For any questions or further details regarding this report, please feel free to contact:

Claudia Davis

Treasurer

Western Mountains District

Awards List: 1 Star to 5 Star Awards 2024 Giving

1 STAR AWARDS: Great Falls First Missoula Grace	2 STAR AWARDS: Salmon Boulder
3 STAR AWARDS: Great Falls Christ	4 STAR AWARDS: Kalispell Epworth
5 STAR AWARDS: Bozeman, Helena St. Pauls, Mission Valley, Missoula First	

Unit Updates From Around The District



Woven Paper Heart Valentine Baskets

Treat your Valentine with a heart basket! Easy to weave with free patterns and clear instructions. Fil...

 Aunt Annie's Crafts

www.auntannie.com/Valentines/HeartBasket

Photo Left: Denalie Bruins of Missoula First UMC shows off some of the Danish woven paper baskets made by the UWF Crafters Circle. The baskets were filled with Valentine treats and given to UWF "friends we like to remember."

Important: Annual Unit Survey - Due March 31st

Our annual Unit Survey is sent out every year by national so they know how many members we have and how they can plan accordingly. To complete the online survey for your unit, please have someone from your unit fill it out. If your unit cannot complete it, I can assist. Call me at 970-219-0898, and provide the necessary information, and I'll enter it for you. If needed, I can email a sample survey for your unit to gather information before entering it. If there's no internet access, I can mail a sample form, but please act quickly since I will be leaving the country on March 11.

Steps to Complete the Survey:

1. Create an account at <https://uwfaith.org>.
 - Click **MEMBER LOGIN > Create an Account**.
 - Fill in the requested info, create a password, and submit.
2. Once logged in, go to the Unit Survey at <https://uwfaith.org/unit-survey/>.
3. Select **WESTERN** and choose **MOUNTAIN SKY**.
4. Fill out the survey. The person completing the survey should be an elected leader (e.g., President).
5. Unit Name should be your church name + "UWFaith" (e.g., Fort Collins First UWFaith).
6. Enter your 2023 District name and provide any missing information, such as mailing address.

Survey responses are due by March 31, 2025, but please complete it as soon as possible. If you need assistance, contact me or your district leaders. You can also reach me at keakw@comcast.net or 970-219-0898.

Thank you for your cooperation!

Karen Waldron, Outreach Officer, Mountain Sky Conference UWF



Hope & Healing

intermountain
Caring Solutions • Strong Families • Healthy Communities

Yarn Drive for Intermountain

Intermountain in Helena, Montana has started a new ministry giving Weaving Kits to children in their care! These include a small ball of yarn and a crafting kit that kids can use for play, creativity, strengthening fine motor skills, and calming anxiety. They have even created a "Yarn Barn" with a "Color Corral" so that children can enjoy choosing their own colors of yarn.

If you or your church would like to donate yarn to Intermountain, you can roll the yarn into smaller balls about 1/2 the size of your fist, or you can send in full skeins of yarn and they will roll them into smaller sections there.

Mailing yarn can go to:
Dana Holzer
Intermountain
500 S. Lamborn
Helena, MT 59601



Supporting Those Impacted by California's Wildfires

Are you looking for ways to channel grief into action in your ministry setting? MSC Disaster Response Coordinator, Jean Schwien, recently shared that prayers, financial support, and hygiene kits are the best way to offer support at this time, as we continue to pray for those impacted by California's Wildfires.

For items to include in Hygiene & Menstrual Hygiene kits, visit the UMCOR webpage www.umcmission.org/relief-supplies

(If available, folks are also encouraged to include N95 or KN95 masks in the kits to help protect folks from poor air quality due to the fires.)

Completed Kits can be shipped to:

443 S. Raymond Ave
Pasadena, CA 91105

You can also help relief and recovery by contributing to

UMCOR's U.S. Disaster Response and Recovery (Advance #901670) at
umcmission.org/advance-project/901670.

United Women in Faith members can also give through their local treasurer, referencing UMCOR #901670.



From the District Secretary:

It's a pleasure to serve the Western Mountains District of Mountain Sky UWF. Your district team is working to better connect with the local units—but first, we need to know who you are. The District Directory has not been updated in some time, and NOW is the time to do it! Please don't just assume someone else is doing it!

Please send your officer list (Unit Office, Name, Address, Phone, and Email) to me at: roxroeste@gmail.com

You can mail the information to:

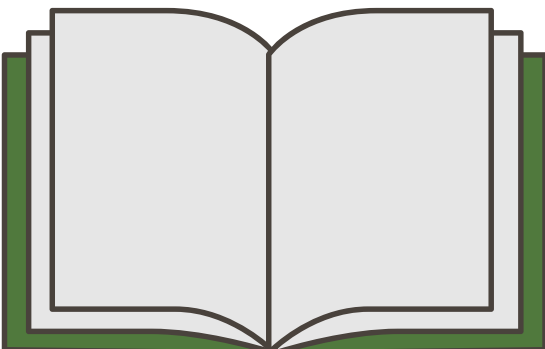
Roxanne Roehl
8205 Double Tree Ln,
Missoula, MT 59804

Thank you for assisting with this! It is crucial that we communicate, and the first step in that is knowing who to send what to.

Also, be thinking about sharing what your unit is doing. **A Mission Today form is attached on page 9.** This is a Conference form, not a National one. It is not meant to "grade" a unit but rather to share ideas with other units. You aren't required to report on every section, and you may report several activities under one heading (continue on the back or on a separate piece of paper if needed), especially if you are focusing on a particular area. They don't have to be grand events—simple things matter. Again, the goal is to share ideas.

The Coordinator for Education and Interpretation (or the President if there is no E&I person) should complete the form with the help of the unit. The form is due to the Conference by July 2025, so if you could send it to me by June 30, 2025, I would be grateful. If you have a scanner, you can email the completed form to me.

Book
Review



"A Little Piece of Light" by Donna Hylton and Kristine Gasbarre

One of our national advocacies is The Criminalization of Communities of Color. A remarkable book on our Reading Program, "A Little Piece of Light: A Memoir of Hope, Prison and Life Unbound" by Dona Hylton, is a true story of a woman incarcerated at age 19 for 27 years. She sheds great light on the failures of our prison system while also offering a glimpse into how women can blossom within that system. She writes, "...we all have that little piece of God inside us."

Review by Tish Herries

Mountain Sky UW in Faith MISSION TODAY Report for 2024

Due on or before July 31, 2025 (To District June 30, 2025)

Spiritual Growth: Devotions. Prayer Calendar. Participated in Spiritual Growth Day.
Call to Prayer and Self-Denial Dats, etc.

Leadership Development: Used programs from the Program Book. Had at least 2 members complete a Reading Program plan. Had members attend a District or Conference meeting, etc.

Education and Interpretation: Had at least 2 members subscribe to Response Magazine. Did you meet your Pledge to Mission? Did you donate to the 5 Channels of Giving? Have members attend Mission U?

Social Action: Participated in Social Action Issues such as Human Trafficking, Global Migration, Domestic Violence, Climate Justice, Racial Injustice, Health Care, Economic Injustice, Food Justice, etc.

Membership, Nurture & Outlook: Added at least 1 new member. Encouraged young women to learn about and be active in UWF. Helped sponsor a church or community program related to children and youth. Honored someone with a Special Mission Recognition.

Other Areas of Activity:

Local Unit Name: _____ **Contact:** _____

Please forward this form to your Coordinator for Education and Interpretation or District Secty President. If you are unsure of those names currently, please contact the Mountain Sky E & I Coordinator for assistance. To Roxanne Roehl
8205 Double Tree Ln
Missoula, MT 59804
Email to: roxroeste@gmail.com



**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**



**United
Women
in Faith**

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! Potheolders (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

When women are told they shouldn't lead, they lead with God's anointing, with grace and dignity, like Old Testament Prophetess, Deborah, mighty in battle.

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When women are told they can't pray because their prayers are second-rate in God's eyes, they become prayer warriors who find favor with the Lord, like Samuel's mother, Hannah, whose prayers moved heaven.

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When women are told they aren't spiritually influential, they provide a powerful spiritual influence to everyone who encounters them, like New Testament Prophetess, Anna, who proclaimed Christ's birth.

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When women are told they shouldn't, they can't, they aren't, they prove that they should, they can, they are.  
And God blesses them!

*Dr. Debra White Smith  
The Wesleyan Woman*

Posted on Facebook by Rev. Su DeBree 1/24/2025



**Watch for more info in our next newsletter!**

MISSION U 2025



PRACTICING  
HOPE  
TOGETHER

**Summer Mission U "Practicing Hope"**  
**Our 2025 Mission u offers the following**  
**curriculum available on our e-store**  
**[www.uwfaith.org/events/mission-u](http://www.uwfaith.org/events/mission-u)**

**GLOWING EMBERS Western Mountains District Mountain Sky Conference**  
**2025 Spring 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 June 15th to:**  
***[janna@bozemanumc.org](mailto:janna@bozemanumc.org)***