



United Women in Faith

Northern Colorado District

NoCo Connection – March 2025

A Message from Our President

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Greetings

I am so pleased to be a part of United Women in Faith because by coming together as a supportive community of women we are able to pool our resources and effect change in many parts of the world. I certainly can't do this as an individual nor can we make such a big impact as one church unit. But working together district by district and conference by conference we help change the lives of many women across the world. Every one of you is needed for this work.

My heart was warmed as I read about UWFaith working in partnership with Pasumai Ulagam in India. Seeing the faces of our Indian sisters makes me proud that we have been able to support them in becoming more independent in caring for their families. (See January/February "response"). Then I hear stories of some local units in our conference giving support to migrant women here in Colorado and supporting women

moving out of abusive situations in our hometowns. This is an amazing, caring organization for which I thank God. If you feel the same way, how about inviting another woman in your community to come join us?

Jana Jones, our national president, reminded us at our District Leadership Day that one of our national goals is to increase our membership. I certainly want to do that in my local unit and I bet you do too. Let's help each other by sharing how you have added new member(s). Write a brief blurb about your attempts and send to Mary Ann Kerttula, our Communications Coordinator, at makerttula@gmail.com. Your ideas will be presented in future newsletters. What you did just might spark ideas for other units. After all, our purpose is to be a community of women who develop a creative, supportive fellowship. I look forward to hearing your ideas.

Upcoming Events

Saturday, May 31, 2025: A Day Together Apart



Please save Saturday, May 31 for our first Northern Colorado District SOUL Care/A Day Together Apart event at Boulder First UMC (1421 Spruce St., Boulder, CO 80302). We plan to 'build' on the recent Soul Care Deck from United Women in Faith and the Spiritual Practices for SOUL CARE: 40 Ways to Deepen Your Faith, and rely on the expertise of Jana Jones, our UW Faith national president and member of the Smoky Hill UW Faith unit, to develop the day's activities. If you have ideas and suggestions about

what we should include, please contact Cheryl Runyon (cheryl.runyon@comcast.net); we would love your input. We will send out additional information in the coming weeks, but please share this event with your friends who are seeking another way to deepen their spiritual growth.

During the day, we will hear about and then have the opportunity to tour the public areas of TGTHR, a non-profit that is literally across the parking lot from Boulder First. TGTHR (former Attention Homes). TGTHR grew out of a juvenile judge's concerns that too many young people were abandoned by their families, living on the streets, and falling prey to human traffickers. TGTHR provides foster care, emergency overnight housing, and now apartments in Boulder and Denver for young people (18-24) as they continue to grow and develop job and financial skills. Please visit their website (www.tgthr.org) to learn more about the organization.

We will have an Ubuntu service project, as part of our SOUL Care time, and gather donated items for TGTHR. Items currently on the wish list include: toiletries (including tampons), cleaning supplies, underwear (men and women's), and games and art supplies. We will provide an updated wish list closer to the event. There was an accidental fire in one of the apartments and damage to several others due to the sprinklers, recently, so some of the residents lost some personal items

The registration form is at the end of the newsletter and included as a separate attachment. Please make sure all members, and prospective members, know about this life-affirming day when we will draw apart from the demands of our day-to-day world to be together with others seeking to deepen their faith and refresh their soul.

Saturday, September 27, 2025

Northern Colorado District Annual Meeting: Faith Carried, Faith Shared: A Journey Forward

October, 2025

Mountain Sky Conference UWFaith Spiritual Life Retreat and Annual Meeting

May 15-17, 2026

Assembly in Indianapolis, IN

National Survey

This yearly data collection tool is designed to capture a snapshot of our growth and the impactful work being done by our members, both locally and virtually. This year, the focus is on membership engagement and growth, leadership development needs, and programs/events awareness, interests, and participation. The deadline for completing the national survey of local units/groups is approaching! The survey is only available through **March 31, 2025**.

14. As a UWFaith leader, what are the biggest challenges you face in your leadership role?

Check all that apply.

- ☐ Time Management and Balancing Responsibilities
- ☐ Engaging and Motivating Volunteers
- ☐ Navigating Conflict and Difficult Conversations
- ☐ Managing Personal Stress and Burnout
- ☐ Adapting to Change and Uncertainty

The survey is intended to be completed by the unit president or All-Access group convener but they can have another leader/officer complete the survey. Please note that the survey is asking about 2023 so you should enter the district name in 2023. There is a Sample Survey that you can look at before you start the survey. If you have questions or issues with the survey, contact our conference Membership Nurture and Outreach Coordinator, Karen Waldron, at keakw@comcast.net. (There may be a delay in her response.)

NOTE: An email with tips for completing the survey was sent recently to presidents. Check your email, including SPAM folder.

Your responses matter! Access the survey at [Unit Survey | United Women in Faith](#) (<https://uwfaith.org/unit-survey/>) or through the Members & Leaders portal. Click "Unit Survey" under the Quick Links.

STORIES OF SISTERHOOD

UNIT SURVEY

From the Leadership Team

Vice President

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Thank you to all who attended the District Training Day in February. We had about 40 people enjoy some really good fellowship and gaining important information. Karen Waldron gave us great ideas to invite others to join us and Jana Jones led us through the way into the national website. A special day!

Please plan to attend our Day Together Apart for Soul Care in May. It will be a day filled with joy and peace.

Secretary

Connie Takamine
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Since March is the anniversary month for United Women in Faith, we are highlighting connections to our legacy.

We are able to know about our formation with the meticulous notes kept by those eight women at Tremont Methodist Episcopal Church in Boston. Some of the notes were even written on butcher paper, for the women used what they had. This does highlight the importance of record keeping. In accordance with the new Handbook, the Secretary is the keeper of the records. It is recommended that records be kept for the previous quadrennium and the current quadrennium. It is also recommended that the records be kept digitally. Among the items to be kept would be minutes, correspondence, and other related materials such as flyers, newsletters, and others.

There is also the question of where records should be kept. This is also important for your church and you may work with your church on establishing a records repository. Of course, upkeep and culling are important. My church, First United Methodist of Boulder, does have a repository, but it is full of old invoices and such and needs to be culled to make room for newer documents. Also, for many units, record keeping became lax during the pandemic. Some recent events have also pointed up the importance of also having an offsite repository. In the recent California fires, two United Methodist Churches were destroyed and also in flooding in Colorado, our own Greeley church had damage to their records.

It is always difficult to know how much to save. Records are not just drab minutes, but are the story of our legacy.

Treasurer

Laurel Kubin
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This is the time of year when we think of filing our income tax forms. Many of us also consider that we need to update our wills and other estate plans while we're in the "thinking of money" mode. Do you find that you have "enough" to take care of yourself? What do you want your legacy to be? That you loved God, were kind, loving toward others, baked great cookies, made beautiful quilts, volunteered at every fundraiser, and gave freely of your time and resources while having fun along the way?

Part of your legacy could be supporting the important and life-changing work of United Women in Faith for the long-term even after you're in eternal rest. Consider the Legacy 150 Fund in your estate planning. You'll know that you shared your resources with people who really need the help to be safe, nourished, trained with job skills, and nurtured with great parenting skills.

The Legacy 150 Fund may have a place in your estate plan. Think about it and make the commitment today.

Spiritual Growth

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I don't know if you are often surprised when a second author cites one of the books that you hold dear, but that is what happened to me recently. Our Women of the Word (WOW) small study group at Mountain View UMC was reading Enchantment, by Katherine May. We were struggling with the book—in part because the author is English, and in part because her writing style was just different from our reading (and discussion) style.

However, in the last section of the book, May cited Braiding Sweetgrass, and focused on Robin Wall Kimmerer making the case for returning to an indigenous understanding of the land employing careful stewardship, deep knowledge, and reciprocity. May writes about a series of gifts shared by the land, if we only look for them. "You only take what you need, transform it into something good, and give away a portion of what you've made. You have, after all, received it as a gift. It would be selfish not to pass it on."

May and Kimmerer value the fruits of the Earth. Kimmerer's new book, The Serviceberry: Abundance and Reciprocity in the Natural World, builds on this theme of receiving a gift, using only what you need, and then sharing the gift with others. These books, read together, make me think of United Women in Faith and our efforts to share the gift of God's love with others. We take what we need, add a little of our own love to it, and then share it with others—in our church, our town, our country, and across the world. To me, that is the essence of Spiritual Growth.

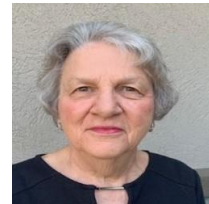
As March 23 grows near and we prepare to celebrate the 'birthday' of United Women in Faith, let's consider how we can receive the gift of leadership, sisterhood, and love. Let's take what we need, but then share that gift with others by making a financial contribution to the Legacy 150 fund to support future endeavors that support women, children, and youth.

Social Justice & Action

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Changing the world: The world feels pretty topsy turvy right now. I think most of us are wondering what's next. Faith certainly helps. Trusting in God, prayer, and recognizing that the world has felt this way before provides some solace.

We're blessed to also have each other through United Women in Faith, too. Whenever we gather, we feel it. There's a sense of common cause & commitment.

As I research what we can do in terms of social and climate justice right now, community comes up again and again as the most critical component to change. I am so grateful for our leaders who are tirelessly providing a place for us to come together so we can make a difference.

There's a quote I heard years ago and it continues to remind me of the importance of community and friendship. "One person can have a profound effect on another. And two people . . . well, two people can work miracles. They can change a whole town. They can change the world."

Indeed.

Membership Nurture & Outreach

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One Bible passage familiar to all of us comes from John 13: 34-35: I give you a new commandment: love each other. Just as I have loved you, so you must love each other. This is how everyone will know that you are my disciples, when you love each other. So, what does this call to love have to do with Membership Nurture and Outreach?

First, let's consider women in your church who are not members of United Women in Faith. What are their needs? Are they new to the community? Are they in new life stages – new moms, kids left home, retired, widowed, college students? Do you have circles, small groups, study groups, knitting groups, or other places where you can welcome them? Are they working moms? What could meet their needs? Is there a group – or could a group be organized – that could fit with their schedules? Or perhaps your unit could plan some special one-time events that could enrich lives of both members and guests: a soul care retreat, special mission work projects, a spring tea. Does your unit have programs that might be attractive for those not already members to come and enjoy? Our new Program Books has some great programs already planned out for us to use.

And then, there are those of us who've been around a while. Our Purpose begins with "The organized unit of United Methodist Women shall be a community of women." Who of us has not been blessed by the fellowship of our United Methodist Women/United Women in Faith sisters? Who has been with us through births and deaths, weddings, serious illnesses? Who can I share my concerns with? Who goes with me through challenging studies? Who stretches me with social action issues? Our circles, our small groups, are so essential to us. Mine have been with me through weddings, funerals, illnesses, life challenges. Our book studies have enlarged my thinking. It's good to have a group to delve into some serious studies – as well as have our times of summer picnics. We need each other!

So, Membership Nurture: how are you nurturing the women already in your Unit?

And, Outreach? How are you reaching out to women not already involved in United Women in Faith?

As United Women in Faith, we have much to share! People may be attracted to the “community of women.” They may be attracted to spiritual growth studies, they may be attracted to mission work, they may just be attracted to the fellowship that we have. May God bless you as you work to be a “Community of women whose PURPOSE is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.”

As President Mary Ann Watson wrote, it would be great to hear from you about some of your special programs and ways of working with membership! Send your ideas and stories to me at margarethotze.umw@gmail.com and/or to Mary Ann Kerttula at makerttula@gmail.com.

Program Resources

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I hope several of you have started reading books from our new 2025 list or from previous years' lists. I wanted to tell you about a book I just finished. It's called Victory. Stand! Raising My Fist For Justice. It's the life story of Tommie Smith. He is the black athlete who won the 200 meter race in the 1968 Olympics in Mexico City. He and his team member rose their fists in the air during the national anthem. It is written as a graphic novel and is in comic book form. It's an easy read but very profound. It makes you realize that racial injustice was and is still prevalent in this country.

I also wanted to let everyone know that I am planning to start a zoom book club once a month. I haven't yet picked a date or book for the first meeting, but I will be sending out that information soon. I got the idea from the Western Colorado/Utah District. They have

been doing this for quite a while and I try to join them every month. I mentioned it at our Leadership Development meeting and had very positive responses.

Check out the article in the January/February Response Magazine entitled "It Tugged at My Heart". It's about the Legacy Endowment Fund. I hope it will encourage many to give to this fund.

Communications

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I am so excited about Mary Ann Watson's and Margaret's requests for you to share stories about what you are doing in your units. I look forward to including your articles in upcoming newsletters. Look below under "Notices" for the deadlines for submissions.

Do you put notices in your church bulletin or on social media to let people know about what United Women in Faith is doing? Maybe you use a newsletter. Make sure you are following the Brand Guidelines that our national organization has developed. You can find those guidelines plus jpg and pdf files of logos and more for both MAC and Windows at <https://uwfaithresources.org/prodDetail.cfm?productID=9925&catid=2196>

You also can find United Women in Faith templates for PowerPoint and Zoom. Go to <https://uwfaith.org/> then click on "MEMBER LOGIN." If

you haven't signed up yet, you will need to do that.

Select that you are already a member. After you sign

in, you can choose "Portal" that will take you to the Members & Leaders Portal. On that page, you will see **Quick Links** Under that, click on "Officer Resource Page." Under "Jump To" click on "United Women in Faith Templates."



GET INVOLVED

MEMBER LOGIN

Nominations

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We have come a long way since the dark and stormy night in Boston in 1869 when a group of ladies formed the Methodist Women's Foreign Missionary Society. Although there have been several organizational name changes through the years, one thing as remained the same and that is our wonderful women members. Our members through the years have courageously found ways to support women and children as well as initiatives such as climate change.

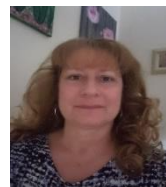
With this in mind, please remember to support the Legacy Endowment Fund. This fund is to assure that the missions of United Women in Faith will continue and prosper in the future.

Other Members of the Nominations Committee:

Betty Edney-Milner
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(970) 381-0290
Betty_milner@msn.com



JoAnne Shengle
Church: First UMC of Lafayette
(720) 936-0910
joanne-75@hotmail.com



Julie Wilson
Church: First UMC of Fort Collins
(970) 226-5925
Jswilson5309@gmail.com



Notices

Deadlines for Submission of Articles for Newsletter

- May 17 for the June newsletter.
- August 16 for the September newsletter
- November 15 for the December newsletter

Heart of Longmont Discontinuing Bra Collection for Free the Girls

The UWFaith unit at Heart of Longmont will no longer collect bras for Free the Girls. With time comes change and Free the Girls is changing the focus of their work in response to the needs in the communities in which they operate and logistical challenges that persist since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. You can read more about Free the Girls' decision on their blog at <https://www.freethegirls.org/blog/what-about-bras>

To all who have donated bras in the past, thank you! Your donations and efforts made a difference! If you have any questions, please contact the Heart of Longmont unit through the church office.

Green Team Lenten Study: Take Up Your Cross and Follow Me



The Mountain Sky Green Team task force has developed a 40 day study for Lent entitled "Take Up Your Cross and Follow Me."

Through the course of this study, the group invites us to explore our role in Creation Justice and to be open to the calling of our Lord towards our own passions.

Beginning on Ash Wednesday March 5, each week includes an abbreviated section of the Social Principles. They relate to our United Methodists' Faith statements about our responsibility to care for God's gift of creation. (Genesis 2:15.)

Each Social Principle will be followed by a meditation/prayer/reading and a Station of the Cross reading and prayer to ground this work in the Lenten journey. Each week also includes suggestions for actions that will help bring our spiritual journey into the world in a concrete way.

The Green Team task force is nested within the Creation Justice initiative within the Community Engagement Ministry team of the Mountain Sky Conference. [Click here to learn more about the Green Teams and how you can start a team at your local church.](https://www.mtnskyumc.org/green-teams) (<https://www.mtnskyumc.org/green-teams>)

[Click here to access and download your own copy of A Lenten Journey: Take Up Your Cross and Follow Me.](#)

A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial

Economic Development: Empowering Women Worldwide



As God's people, **we are called to give generously to help others.** Generosity looks different for everyone, the Apostle Paul reminds us in 2 Corinthians 8:12 that **all gifts are acceptable when given with a willing and eager heart.**

United Women in Faith is committed to empowering women and girls in Africa, Asia, and Latin America to gain competence and skills through leadership development, economic empowerment, and skills building. Our goal is to have young women make up 50 percent of the participation in these programs. You make these programs possible!

For more than 150 years, United Women in Faith members have taken action to turn faith, hope, and love into work on behalf of women, children, and youth in every corner of the world. **As an annual part of our action, United Women in Faith invites women everywhere to gather locally and give through A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial.**

Find resources for promoting this at <https://uwfaith.org/blog/2024/a-call-to-prayer/>



March 23, 2025 join us to celebrate 156 years of faith, hope, and love in action!

Celebrate the 2025 Day of Giving with a gift to the United Women in Faith Legacy Endowment Fund. For generations to come by uniting our hearts and hands, we're building a future filled with hope and support for women, children, and youth. Every gift you make, regardless of size, will make an impact for generations to come

The Legacy Endowment Fund is a permanent investment that supports the work and the future of United Women in Faith.

Learn more and find resources to promote at <https://uwfaith.org/dayofgiving/>

You're Invited

A Call for Courageous Resisters and Moral Leaders

by Rev. Dr. AnneMarie Mingo

Tuesday, March 18th, 5 PM



Join United Women in Faith for an informative and inspiring lesson in history and theology from Rev. Dr. AnneMarie Mingo. Her lecture, “A Call for Courageous Resisters and Moral Leaders,” will present selections from her extensive research on Black Churchwomen’s leadership in the Civil Rights Movement.

Rev. Dr. AnneMarie Mingo is Associate Professor of Ethics, Culture, and Moral Leadership at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and the author of *Have You Got Good Religion?: Black Women’s Faith, Courage & Moral Leadership in the Civil Rights Movement*.

This event is hosted by United Women in Faith. There is no cost to participate. All are welcome!

[Register Here](#)

**If you are unable to open the registration link above, please copy and paste the following text into your browser window:*

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/YRyyFsg3RK21fUj8IxuxTA#/registration>

New Discussion Guide on Never Give Up: Cynthia and Michelle's Faithful Fight Against Mass Incarceration

By Cynthia Holland



[Click Here for the Discussion Guide](#)

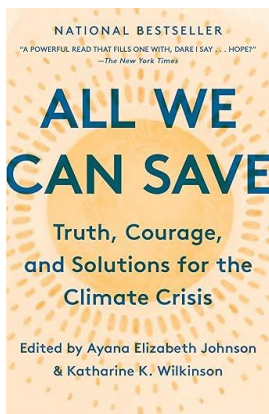
One year ago, United Women in Faith premiered the short film *Never Give Up: Cynthia and Michelle's Faithful Fight Against Mass Incarceration*. **Today, we are proud to release an accompanying discussion guide.** We encourage you to watch and discuss the film with your United Women in Faith group, your church, and your broader community. Cynthia Holland wrote this guide as a roadmap to spark meaningful conversation, open dialogue, and inspire actionable steps towards justice. This is a **free** resource from United Women in Faith, available as a downloadable PDF. You can access the original film [here](#) and the new study guide [here](#).

Brought to you by: Utah/Western Colorado District United Women in Faith Team

Join us for our book discussions – come to one or come to all! We would love to have you! We meet at 7pm, the 2nd Thursday of each month (unless otherwise noted)

Book Discussion on March 13, 2025 at 7:00 pm MST
via Zoom

[Zoom link for Book Discussions](#)



All We Can Save: Truth, Courage, and Solutions for the Climate Crisis

by Ayana Elizabeth Johnson and Katharine Wilkinson (editors)

There is a renaissance blooming in the climate movement: leadership that is more characteristically feminine and more faithfully feminist, rooted in compassion, connection, creativity, and collaboration. While it's clear that women and girls are vital voices and agents of change for this planet,

they are too often missing from the proverbial table. More than a problem of bias, it's a dynamic that sets us up for failure. To change everything, we need everyone.

All We Can Save illuminates the expertise and insights of dozens of diverse women leading on climate in the United States—scientists, journalists, farmers, lawyers, teachers, activists, innovators, wonks, and designers, across generations, geographies, and race—and aims to advance a more representative, nuanced, and solution-oriented public conversation on the climate crisis. These women offer a spectrum of ideas and insights for how we can rapidly, radically reshape society.

Note: Because this is a long book of short articles about a difficult topic, please select some articles from each of the 8 sections. That way, we will all have a chance to talk briefly about the portions we selected.

Leadership Development (2023)

UMC Churches in The Northern Colorado District

In 2024 the Mountain Sky Conference of the United Women in Faith (UWFaith) voted to set district boundaries different than those district boundaries that the general church conference uses. The main reason for this difference was to have smaller districts to enhance the ability of UWFaith units to meet and work together more easily.

The following list is of the churches within the boundaries of our new UWFaith Northern Colorado District. Not all of them have active UWFaith units. The ones with stars do have active units.

The parentheses give the general church district in which that local church resides. There are 2: the Colorado Front Range District (CFR) and the Eastern/Southern Colorado District (ESC).

Akron UMC (ESC)
*First UMC of Berthoud (CFR)
*First UMC of Boulder (CFR)
*Mountain View UMC - Boulder (CFR)
*St Paul's UMC - Boulder (CFR)
*Broomfield UMC (CFR)
Brush UMC (ESC)
*Erie UMC (CFR)
*Estes Park UMC (CFR)
Evans UMC (CFR)
*Christ UMC - Fort Collins (CFR)
*First UMC, Fort Collins (CFR)
*First UMC of Fort Lupton (CFR)
*Fort Morgan UMC (ESC)
*Rinn UMC - Frederick (CFR)
*First UMC, Greeley (CFR)
Hygiene UMC (CFR)
*Johnstown UMC (CFR)

*Julesburg UMC (ESC)
Community UMC - Keenesburg (ESC)
*First UMC of Lafayette (CFR)
*Heart of Longmont UMC (CFR)
*Longs Peak UMC - Longmont (CFR)
Louisville UMC (CFR)
First UMC, Loveland (CFR)
Trinity UMC - Loveland (CFR)
Lyons Community Church (CFR)
Mead UMC (CFR)
Niwot UMC - Longmont (CFR)
*First UMC, Pierce (CFR)
First UMC, Platteville (CFR)
Pleasant Valley UMC - Yuma (ESC)
Christ UMC - Sterling (ESC)
Willard - Merino (ESC)
*First UMC of Windsor (CFR)
*Wray UMC (ESC)

SOUL Care/A Day Together Registration Form

Name:	
Address:	
Phone:	
Email:	
UWFaith Unit:	

Registration fee--\$25 (continental breakfast, lunch, and meeting supplies provided)

First UMC of Boulder is located at 1421 Spruce St., Boulder, CO 80302:

There is limited parking in the surface lot behind the church. There is underground garage parking available to the church under the apartments across the alley from the church. Enter through the alley from either 14th or 15th between Spruce and Pine. The garage across Spruce from the church is not city owned and is not free on weekends.



Please return to Lora Fulton at fultonhaus@comcast.net OR 1710 Dogwood Ct, Broomfield, CO 80020. Questions? Call Lora at (303) 439-2129