



The Compass

Newsletter of the Greater Southwest District United Women in Faith

A note from your Presidents...

WELCOME HOME

What does home mean to you? Is welcome a verb (something you do) or an adjective (how your home is described)?

I recently attended Mission U 2024 in Mt. Pleasant and Welcome Home was the name of our adult curriculum for the weekend. One of the primary purposes of the curriculum was to develop practices for building and existing in healthier communities because of being anchored in the sovereignty of God.

As I ponder over the weekend, I keep coming back to what my local church family can do to make our community feel welcome and what does that look like/feel like? Our church is filled with good mission work, but I feel like our physical surroundings are not up to snuff to support these missions. We need more space! Many churches in our district feel just the opposite: they have space that is not being used. How do we meet the needs of our congregation and community? How do we Welcome Home those around us? I would love to hear what works in your church!

Another way to connect with Welcome Home is to attend our District Annual Celebration on September 28th. Washington Heights UMC of Battle Creek will be hosting our celebration and will be sharing their mission work about creating housing for community members around their church. Please check out the registration form in this newsletter and plan to join us as we Welcome Home current and new members of the Greater Southwest District!

Looking forward to seeing you in September!

Laura Marlowe

Greater Southwest District President

Mission U has come and gone, and I was pleased and fortunate to have been there. The focus was on enhancing God's kin-dom here on earth. We had a wonderful class leader, Rev. Dr. B. Kevin Smalls. The discussions that occurred during the sessions among the women (and men) were very thought provoking. For me, it reminded me of my uncle's frequent saying, "there are those who know, those who don't know and those who don't know they don't know". I came away from Mission U feeling like all three of these "people". I am even more aware of my own personal bias and racism and will strive to learn more about how to enlarge my perspective and change my attitude/responses/opinions about these important issues. On a lighter note, I was able to bring Ellie, my 8-year-old granddaughter, to Mission U. When I asked her if she wanted to go, her first question to me was "are there kids there?" When I assured her there would be other kids there, her reply was "I love to make new friends and learn about God". Have a blessed and refreshing summer. Hope to see many of you at our District Annual Meeting on Saturday, September 28. Amen! Cheryl Proctor

Greater Southwest District Co-President

Greetings from the Secretary of Program Resources...

Hello everyone, I hope some of you have been reading books. If anyone needs the Reading Program Plan sheet and the Reporting sheets, let me know and I will send them to you. You can also get those on-line. These books can be purchased directly from the retailer of your choice. From bookshop.org/shop/uwfaith or borrowed from your local public library. For books on previous reading list. Go to uwfaith.org/resources/reading-program

Here is a children's book that is very good. "All Will Be Well: Learning to Trust God's Love" by Lacy Finn Borgo.

Here are other books that are very good. "Worth It: Overcome Your Fears and Embrace the Life You Were Made For" by Britt Baron

"Daughter of Cana" (Jerusalem Road, Book 1) By Hunt

"Who Can We Be Together? A Biblical Exploration of Luke 13" by Simpson

Enjoy Reading,

Jan Hedgcock

hsspedteach@yahoo.com

269-251-5169

303 Calhoun St.

Union City, MI

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From the District Treasurer...

First let me welcome all the new units who are now a part of the Greater Southwest Michigan District of United Women in Faith. I sent out emails to all church secretaries in our district a few weeks ago, asking for information about local units of UWF. I appreciate the responses I have received so far. I recently sent out a follow up letter and form to each unit (old and new) asking for information about your local unit, officers and contact information. I only received about 12 responses to the initial email so am trying again and hope to hear from more of you. Thanks for taking the time to fill it out and return it to me so that I can update mailing lists, etc.

What I am really hoping to find out is how many active units we have and whether units that might currently be inactive are interested in a visit from someone on the leadership team to talk about rebuilding or maybe just rejuvenating your unit. You can contact me or any of the district officers at any time and we would be happy to help.

We are in the 3rd quarter of our fiscal year so *please* send in your pledges as soon as you can do so. I would also encourage all of you to consider becoming a 5 Channel Giving unit. The areas for giving are Pledge to Mission, Special Mission Recognition, Gift to Mission, Gift in Memory and World Thank Offering. I have a good supply of cards for Gift to Mission, In Service of Christ, birthdays, and new baby and recently got a new supply of Gift in Memory cards. To receive any card, a pledge of \$5 is needed in one of 4 channels (Special Mission Recognition is a \$40 pledge and a pin is sent). Any single member of your unit can also give personally to all 5 areas and be recognized as a 5 Star Person. This is considered part of your unit pledge, and the unit is then automatically a 5 Channel Unit. There is a specific form for 5 Star Person so please contact me if you would like one.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need anything from me, including forms. I am happy to help.

Mary Howard, Treasurer
 GSW District Michigan UWF
 269-757-3011
maryhowa@att.net

mailing address:
 PO Box 114
 Hopkins, MI 49328

Standing Rules update recommendation:

It is recommended that the mileage reimbursement rate for travel be changed to \$0.21 per mile. This will bring our standing rules in line with the Michigan Conference travel rate and will further help us contain costs in order to meet our mission goals.



We Believe Faith in Action Can Change the World

What if there was no United Women in Faith organization? What would change.....in our churches, our communities, our nation and the world?

I came late to UWF, my excuses for not being involved were familiar. "I'm working, I have other commitments, I can't meet on those nights, you are all doing a great job without me" Then I got involved and my world changed. I have been inspired and awed by the dedication and faith of the women I have met. Their desire to "put their faith into action" and support their own churches, communities and missions around the world cannot even be measured. If your unit is struggling or no longer active, reach out. Your leadership team is here to help and would love to visit and share ideas. And remember what we do.....

Service and Advocacy

United Women in Faith has been challenging social injustice for almost 150 years, working to improve the lives of women, children and youth nationally and internationally. We work for justice through compassionate service and advocacy to change unfair policies and systems.

Equipping leaders

United Women in Faith provides and supports leadership development of its members to give women of all racial, ethnic, language and economic groups the opportunity to realize their full potential and to participate in the life of the church and society.

Mission Resources

Mission needs to be carried out with education, preparation, action and advocacy, and mutual learning and partnerships. Find a wide variety of resources ranging from web content, to print materials, to learning experiences and opportunities to serve.

We're a sisterhood acting in faith to tackle the hard work of the world without hesitation. Driven by God's love and united in sisterhood, we work to improve the lives of women, children and youth. Every day, we show up. ***We take action.***



United
Women
in Faith



2024 – Mission U

Look what goes on at **Mission U** ! There are lots more pictures on Facebook---Greater Southwest District United Women in Faith.



From Membership, Nurture and Outreach

Charge Conference Report on Women's' Ministry

Did you know there is a form for UWF to fill out for your church Charge Conference? Ask your secretary to print the form for you. The conference wants to know you are out there and what you are engaged in!

Boys' Outfits for the Mission Challenge

Pack up those boy outfits for the Mission Challenge. Midwest Mission would like you to box up the outfits in sets of a pair of shorts and a shirt together. Bring your boxes and the total number of outfits to the Annual Celebration at Washington Heights Church in Battle Creek on September 28th. (See the flier in this newsletter)



PRAYERS FOR BETH MITCHELL

On July 6th Beth Mitchell and her husband Bob were in a "horrific" car accident while visiting their granddaughter in Colorado. They were both seriously injured, Beth has multiple broken bones, ribs, left hand, left femur and in her back. Her husband, Bob, had internal injuries from the seat belt. I know they would love to hear from us, especially Beth's sisters in Christ. Enclosed is the address of their granddaughter she will deliver the cards to them. Keep them both in your prayers for a complete recovery and so they can return home soon. Beth is the communications coordinator for the Greater Southwest District United Women in Faith.

Beth & Bob Mitchell
c/o Allysa Mitchell
East Foothills Pkwy
Fort Collins Colorado 80525

*6th Annual Greater Southwest District
United Women in Faith Celebration*

Saturday, September 28, 2024

10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Washington Heights United Methodist Church

153 N. Wood · Battle Creek, MI 49037

269-968-8773

Registration and refreshments at 9:15 a.m.

“Finding Your Home”

Our Keynote Speaker is Pastor Monique French of WHUMC.

Learn how the Church is helping this transitioning neighborhood create affordable housing in the Washington Heights.

Meet our new District Superintendent, Dean Prentiss!

Cost is \$15 per person and includes lunch

Child care is available, please bring a sack lunch for your child

IN-GATHERING OF NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS FOR THEIR FOOD PANTRY: CANED GREENS BEANS/PEAS, INSTANT MASHED POTATOES, BAGGED PASTAS/NOODLES, RICE, SUGAR, OR OTHER DRY ITEMS.

A time for Singing – Celebrating – Welcoming



Memorials for United Women in Faith

Church name _____ City _____

Names:

2025 UWF Unit Pledge to Missions

Pledge Amount \$ _____

Unit Name _____

Registration for Annual Meeting Celebration

Name _____ Church _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

Free childcare provided, please bring a sack lunch. Child(ren) must be pre-registered.

Name(s):

Age(s): _____

Register with Linda Burton-Collier:

Phone: 269-793-7340 (Please call with any questions)

Email: lindaburtoncollier@gmail.com (enter "District Annual" in subject line)

Snail mail: 2574 127th Avenue, Allegan, MI 49010

Pay at the registration table upon arrival by cash or checks payable to GSW UWF.

SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR 2025
Greater Southwest District United Women in Faith

PRESIDENT (To be filled)

VICE PRESIDENT

Cheryl Proctor (Union City UMC) 2024
seldominn_1@juno.com

104 Tuttle Park Dr., Sherwood 49089
517-741-3125

SECRETARY

Linda Luce (Coldwater UMC) 2024
lindaluce@msn.com

104 N. Fiske Rd., Coldwater 49036
517-278-8443

TREASURER

Mary Howard (Hopkins UMC) 2021
maryhowa@att.net

PO Box 114, Hopkins 49328
269-757-3011

MISSION COORDINATORS

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Simmie Proctor (South Haven UMC) 2025
simmiepr@hotmail.com

73468 8th Ave., South Haven 49090
269-637-6053

EDUCATION & INTERPRETATION (To be Filled)

MEMBERSHIP NUTURE & OUTREACH

Cindy Thiele (Allegan UMC) 2024
cindahthiele@ gmail.com

319 River St., Allegan, 49010
269-673-4514

PROGRAM RESOURCES

Jan Hedgcock (Union City UMC) 2024
Hsspedteach@yahoo.com

303 Calhoun St., Union City 49094
517-741-3245

COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

Beth Mitchell (2021)
barmitch55@ gmail.com

3813 Rockwood Dr., Kalamazoo 49004
269-343-6806

NOMINATIONS CHAIR

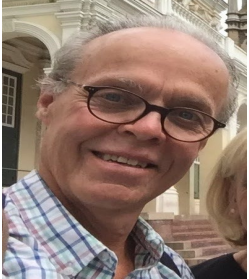
Linda Burton-Collier (Hopkins UMC) 2024
lindaburtoncollier@gmail.com

2574 127th Ave., Allegan, 49010
269 793-7340

Please contact me if you feel the Holy Spirit nudging you to join our district team, this experience could change your life. Linda Burton-Collier, nominating chair.

Michigan Conference United Women in Faith 6th Annual Celebration

*October 25, 26, 2024 \$7 Friday, 4 pm Registration \$18 Saturday, 9 am
Registration*



St. Luke's UMC
206 Scheurmann Street
Essexville, MI 48732

BOLDLY Moving Forward

Reverend Dr. John E. Harnish, retired United Methodist pastor and the author of "30 Days with E. Stanley Jones", will be our keynote speaker. This book is on the 2024 Reading List and will be available for purchase.

Hotel rooms are available at a special rate of \$99 per room, single or double occupancy. Comfort Inn Bay City-Riverfront, 501 Saginaw St, Bay City. Complimentary Breakfast.



**(989) 892-3501 or (989) 892-934
and mention "United Women in Faith" .**

Mission Focus will benefit Foster Families Navigation and Resource Center. Women's hygiene products for both straight and curly/ethnic hair. (NO VO5 or White Rain will be accepted.) Learn more at: <https://www.fosterfamiliesnrc.org/>



Register online by October 18th at:
<https://my-site-102740-102533.square.site/> or scan the QR Code



United
Women
in Faith

Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? ~ Isaiah 43:18-19 [ESV]

Conference Annual Registration Form
Registration Deadline is October 18, 2024

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Please Check one: Local Officer District Officer Conference Officer

District _____ Office held _____

Home Church and City _____

Please check events attending:

\$7.00 - Friday Officer Training/Leadership Development

\$18.00 - Saturday Celebration

_____ TOTAL DUE (Make checks payable to: Michigan Conference UWF)

Dietary Restrictions: _____

Childcare needed? Yes No

Names and ages of children: _____

Lodging is on your own. Hotel rooms are available at:

Comfort Inn and Suites Bay City-Riverfront, 501 Saginaw Street, Bay City \$99.00,
single or double occupancy. Complimentary breakfast.

Reservation under "United Women in Faith" (989) 892-3501 or (989) 892-9342

Be sure to allow extra travel time due to construction as well as time to cross the Veterans Bridge into Bay City; there are two other bridge options that charge a toll. Driving in from North, West and South, use the DOWNTOWN exit off I-75 or travel US-10 that becomes M-25 toward the Veterans Bridge with no toll.

**Mail by October 18th with check payable to: Michigan Conference UWF to:
Sally Messner 1072 Stonehill Drive, Charlotte MI 48813 sallymessner@yahoo.com
269-783-6334**

Greater Southwest District United Women in Faith
3813 Rockwood Drive
Kalamazoo, MI 49004

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The PURPOSE of United Women in Faith:

United Women in Faith shall 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.

IMPORTANT 2024 DATES

- **Greater Southwest District UWF Annual Meeting
September 28 * Washington Heights UMC, Battle Creek**
- **Conference Leadership Training for District Officers
October 25 * St. Luke's UMC in Essexville**
- **Conference UWF Annual Celebration
October 26 * St. Luke's UMC in Essexville**