



The Compass

Newsletter of the Greater Southwest District United Women in Faith

A note from your President...

May 2024 Edition

All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small, All things wise and wonderful: the Lord God made them all.

As I sit here in our four-season porch, recuperating from hip replacement surgery, I am once again astounded by God's great creations! The leaves have buds on them, there are baby goslings swimming in the pond, birds are singing and it's warm enough to have the window open for part of the day. What a great opportunity to appreciate and enjoy the new beginnings happening right now!

So what new beginnings are you ready to experience? Would you like to find an existing United Women in Faith unit to join? Would you like to create a United Women in Faith unit at your church? Does your existing unit need to find a new mission to focus on? Does your unit want more information about something pertaining to UWF? Would you like help with any of these ideas? Members of our district UWF team would be glad to help you with your new beginning! United Women in Faith can be so many different things to each and every local unit. Just let us know what support we can give you!

Happy spring and thank you, God, for your beautiful creations!

Laura Marlowe

Greater Southwest District UWF President



United
Women
in Faith



2024 Advocacy Day

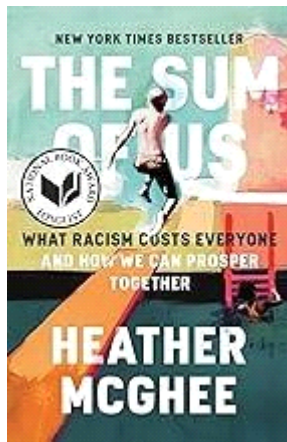
Lansing March 13, 2024

Nearly 250 people attended **Advocacy Day** held at the State Capitol. We gathered at the United Methodist Church across the street from the Capitol. The theme was believing that health care is a basic human right, advocacy for increased access to care, and eradicate stigma around treatment of **mental health** and **substance use disorder** treatment. This was a well-planned event with appointment times to meet with one's Senator or Representative, a press conference, box lunch, worship, and tours of the Capitol building.

Greetings from the Secretary of Program Resources...

If you or your unit have reading logs for the 2023 Reading Program, please be sure to send them to me, Jan Hedgcock, the new Program Resources person. As of April, I have only received logs from 2 people. Apologies are extended if you sent them to someone else, but please take this opportunity to send them to me. My contact information is as follows:

Jan Hedgcock
hsspedteach@yahoo.com
(269) 251-5169
303 Calhoun St. Union City 49094



The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Can Prosper Together by Heather McGhee

Thursday, June 20, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom

Join Michigan United Women in Faith for a Read Together book discussion. This book appears on United Women in Faith's 2024 Reading Program as a Social Action selection.

Pre-reading is highly recommended. This will be a fully interactive small group discussion.

You can borrow the book from your public library or purchase it at your favorite bookstore.

This book talk will be hosted by Ruth Sutton, Coordinator of Program Resources for the Michigan Conference United Women in Faith.

All are welcome to participate!

Please send an e-mail to Ruth Sutton (suttonr1@charter.net) to get the participant link.

From the District Treasurer...

Happy spring! I'm sitting in my kitchen watching the birds on my feeders and breathing in that wonderful spring air. I hope everyone has been able to get out and enjoy the beautiful weather we have had as we end April and enter May.

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 and plan on following up with letters to those I have not heard from yet. 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 almost at the halfway point of our fiscal year so please consider sending in your pledges as soon as you are able to do so. I would encourage all of you to consider becoming a 5 Channel Giving unit. The areas for giving are Pledge to Mission, Special Mission Recognition (\$40 for pin), 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 but unfortunately sympathy cards have been on back order for some time. I hope to have some soon but if part of your pledge is in memory of someone, I will make sure to find something appropriate to send you. To receive any card a pledge of \$5 is needed in one of the 5 channels. 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.

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:
Mary Howard
PO Box 114
Hopkins, MI 49328



Mount Pleasant First United Methodist Church
 400 South Main Street Mount Pleasant, MI 48858


July 18-20 (Thursday-Saturday)
 1:00 pm Registration (EST)

Early Registration \$80 by June 15th
 Late Registration \$90 June 16 - July 10

Optional group tour Thursday 11 am of the Ziiibwing Center,
 6650 E. Broadway, Mt. Pleasant, a Native American Museum \$4.00.
 You can check out their website at: <http://www.sagchip.org/ziiibwing/>

Lodging is on your own. **We have a block of rooms until July 1st** at the Hampton Inn, 5205 E. Pickard, Mount Pleasant, (989) 772-5500. Mention Mission u or UWF for the special rate of \$119 per room per night: includes breakfast. This price is good for 1-4 people in a room. There is a pool!

The Mission Focus will benefit Community Compassion Network in Mt Peasant. You may bring infant (not toddler) formula, baby food, baby care items, diapers sizes 4 & 5, personal hygiene items.



ADULT STUDY: Led by Rev. Dr. B Kevin Smalls *Welcome Home by Naomi Fletcher*

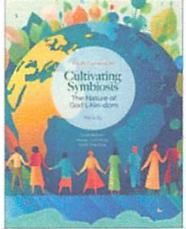
Welcome Home explores how we can know God as an intimate friend who welcomes us. Abiding in God's safety and dwelling in God's provision, allows us to open our hearts to a fuller embrace of the power and presence of God. Dig deeper into what it means to live in the kin-dom of God and how this helps us develop practices for healthier communities.


Naomi Fletcher is pastor of Haven Chapel UMC in Denison, Texas, and an early childhood policy advocate for Children at Risk.

YOUTH STUDY: Led by Rev. Paul Reissmann and Rev. Kim Bos

Cultivating Symbiosis: The Nature of God's Kin-dom
 Explore what it means to live into the kin-dom of God through the lens of symbiosis. Youth will explore what symbiosis means and that it exists on a continuum. They will examine their personal relationships and how they mirror or contrast what God desires, understand that to love God is to love your neighbor and to love your neighbor is to love God. Youth will then move outward in their understanding of relationships and God's kin-dom by looking at economic injustice and how they can collectively work toward social justice.

Nica Sy is a third-generation United Women in Faith and works within The UMC and in her local area to envision and create life-giving community.






CHILDRENS STUDY: Led by Alyx Kuyers and Jennie Holmes

Me in the Kin-dom! helps children explore the kin-dom of God through the lens of the Lord's Prayer. Children will experience how they are unique members of God's kin-dom and learn they are also part of a larger community that welcomes all of God's children. Children will learn to see, hear, and love as Christ teaches through Scripture study, discussion, music, artistic expression, and even some opportunities to participate in outreach to others.

Kathy Cook is an active United Methodist who has served with UMWIM and UMCOR as well United Women in Faith. She pours her wealth of experience and enthusiasm for sharing Christ's love into this curriculum to draw children into the knowledge that they are unique and cherished members of God's kin-dom.



- This form can be found on the Michigan UMW Website, registration can be paid by check payable to: Mission u, or online at: <https://michiganconferencemissionu.square.site/>
- This link is also found on the website.
- The study books are available at: <https://uwfaith.org/events/mission-u/>
- If you prefer, you can order them to be picked up at Mission u . Please indicate this on the order form above.
- You can register for Mission u online at: <https://michiganconferencemissionu.square.site/> or scan the QR Code



This form MUST be filled out for Mission u NO OTHER FORMS WILL BE ACCEPTED

Name: _____
 Address: _____ Phone: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 E-mail: _____
 Home Church: _____
 District: _____
 Youth/Children Name: _____ Age: _____

<input type="checkbox"/> Adult Study Book Welcome Home	\$17
<input type="checkbox"/> Youth Study Book: Cultivating Symbiosis: The Nature of God's Kin-dom	\$17
<input type="checkbox"/> Children's Study Book: Me in the Kin-dom!	\$17
ALL BOOKS MUST BE PAID IN ADVANCE AND CAN BE ORDERED HERE	
<input type="checkbox"/> Early Registration (by June 15)	\$80
<input type="checkbox"/> Late Registration (after June 15)	\$90
<input type="checkbox"/> Admittance to Ziibiwing Center	\$4
<input type="checkbox"/> Youth (6th grade or older)	FREE
<input type="checkbox"/> Child (1st grade - 5th grade)	FREE
<input type="checkbox"/> Childcare (Kindergarten or younger)	FREE
<input type="checkbox"/> Donation Community Compassion Network (the recipient of our Mission Focus)	_____
TOTAL DUE: _____	
Late registration due by July 10	

If sending a check, please make it payable to: **MISSION U**

Check all that apply:

Information:

- First time attending
- Conference Officer
- District Officer

- Study Leader
- Paid online
- Financial Assistance Applicant
- Laity
- Missionary

Special needs:

- Sign language interpreters
- Dietary requirements (specify) _____



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- You can register for Mission u online at: <https://michiganconferencemissionu.square.site/> or scan the QR Code



Send registrations BEFORE JUNE 18th to: Sally Messner, 8543 7 Mile Road, Ewart MI 49631, AFTER JUNE 18th to: 1072 Stonehill Drive, Charlotte, MI 48813 mimissionu@gmail.com

**MICHIGAN CONFERENCE UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH SCHOLARSHIP
APPLICATION
MISSION u July 18-20, 2024**

Name _____ Phone _____

Street Address _____

City _____ Zip Code _____

E-mail _____

Age: 1 8-25 26-40 41-60 61+

Are you a member of United Women in Faith? Yes _____ No _____

If yes, where? _____

Will you attend Mission u full time? Yes No

Will children/youth be attending with you? Yes No

If yes, please indicate names & ages below

What do you hope to learn from attending Mission u?

Scholarship Request:

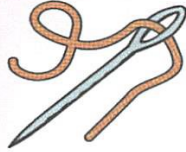
Lodging _____ Registration _____

Please note that you will need to purchase your own study guide, as it will not be available at the Mission u event.

Please submit this form by June 1 to: Judy Huynh at judyhuynh@gmail.com

or mail it to: 2101 Clarksville Road, Portland, MI 48875

Call or email with any questions: (269) 838-1804 or judyhuynh@gmail.com



“We Make It – We Share It”

Wednesday, June 19, 2024

6:00 p.m. — 7:30 p.m.

Simpson United Methodist Church

507 Joy Street, Bangor, MI 49013



Presenters / Speakers: Sewing Sisters

The Sewing Sisters will regale us with the sewing projects they are involved with that benefit their community.

Offering / Ingathering: Donations of non-perishable food items for the Blessing Box. Also, Personal care items are also appreciated. ***No glass items.***

Registration: \$5.00 by June 9, 2024

Light snacks will be provided. Childcare available if needed. Church is barrier free.

Name: _____

E-mail address: _____

Contact No.: _____

How many will attend? _____

Dietary Restrictions: Yes No
If yes, what are the restrictions: _____

Childcare needed: Yes No

Send registration form to:
Linda Burton-Collier, Registrar
2574 127th Ave., Allegan, MI 49010



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

- **North Central Jurisdiction Meeting, May 30 — June 2 * Indianapolis**
 - **Mission Night, June 19 * Simpson UMC, Bangor**
 - **Mission u, July 18 — 20 * Mt. Pleasant First UMC**
 - **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**