
THE ANCHOR

News from the Midwest District United Women in Faith



A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

I am writing this article just after returning from Mission U. I had the honor of having my daughter and two of my grandchildren attend with me. My almost 10-year-old grandson is not sure he wants to attend next year. He is at the age where he's beginning to find his path in life, though he loved having Ronda as his teacher. Please consider attending Mission U next year; and bring your children and grandchildren. Scholarships are always available. Details will be available next Spring. We are lucky to have the Mission U Deans in our District. Mission U Dean is Connie Swinger with Sara Wolfsen serving as Assistant Dean.

We have been talking a lot about change in United Women in Faith (UWF). Now we have change in the Michigan Conference. The church districts changed as of July 1, 2023, but the United Women in Faith calendar year begins January 1 when the Midwest District will become Western Waters UWF. We will be bidding farewell to our friends in Ionia, Mecosta, Montcalm and Osceola Counties, then waving hello to our new friends in Leelanau, Benzie, Manistee, Wexford and Mason Counties.

Our **District Annual Celebration** of old and new will take place Saturday, **September 16, 2023 at Hart UMC**. Shannon Priddy, United Women in Faith Executive for Interpretation and Mission Giving, will be our keynote speaker. Shannon's keynote is entitled "Sing to the Lord a New Song." We will enjoy brunch together, instead of lunch. We hope you all will attend. You may be surprised to see friends from our current district and new faces from other districts. Find the registration form on page 3.

The business meeting at our annual district celebration will be different this year. Our 2024 budget and officers will be voted on at the **Conference Annual Celebration in Holt on October 28**. Bishop Bard will be the keynote speaker

[continued from page 1...]

at the Conference Annual. The installation of Conference and District officers will all take place at the Conference Annual meeting. We hope to see you at this event too!

Lastly, we are looking for a few more to join our district leadership team. If you feel you have a few hours you could share with the district please let me or any member of the district team know. We are especially looking for a Vice President or co-vice presidents. Any of the positions could be two ladies working together. Please consider joining us on the leadership team.



Jean Sherman
Midwest District UWF President
sherdairy1@gmail.com
(231) 519-2542

MEMORIALS AND NEW MEMBERS
Submit names to Sara Wolfson by email
(saraw1104@gmail.com) before **September 1st**.

MIDWEST DISTRICT ANNUAL CELEBRATION & BRUNCH

Saturday, September 16, 2023, 9:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Hart UMC | Cost: \$15

Registration form is on Page 3.

NORTHERN WATERS DISTRICT ANNUAL CELEBRATION & LUNCHEON

Saturday, October 7, 2023, 9:15 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Mancelona UMC or via Zoom | Cost: \$15

Contact Cola Hill to register (northernwatersdistrictumw@gmail.com)

MICHIGAN CONFERENCE 5th ANNUAL CELEBRATION

Saturday, October 27, 2022 at Holt UMC

Registration information is on page 9.



WELCOME NEW GENERAL SECRETARY/CEO

National United Women in Faith has announced that Sally Vonner will be our new General Secretary/CEO. She assumed office June 1, following the retirement of Harriett Jane Olson. Sally has a long history with UMW/UWF and will be a wonderful leader for us.



Midwest District United Women in Faith Presents...

District Annual Celebration Brunch

Saturday, September 16, 2023 | 9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Hart United Methodist Church | 308 S. State St.

“Sing to the Lord a New Song”



KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Shannon Priddy, UWF Executive for Financial Interpretation and Mission Giving. Shannon writes:
“Growing up in the United Methodist Church, my faith grew as I learned to work for justice in the world. It was at my mother’s invitation that I became involved in United Women in Faith through the transformative education now called Mission u. The opportunities I have been afforded through United Women in Faith have opened my eyes to injustice everywhere and opened my heart to love in action.”

Shannon grew up in Northern, Illinois and went to college at Truman State University in Kirksville, Missouri. After living ten years in Boston, Massachusetts she is now a homeowner in a neighborhood of Indianapolis called Little Flower on the east side of the city. Shannon attends both an online and an in-person circle of United Women in Faith to participate in building a local community of women. Shannon is active with the Indiana Conference of the United Methodist Church. And she explains *“Growth and possibilities are in the church and United Women in Faith. This is a great time to be a member. God is working here and now as we define Christian women, open our organization, and do the impossible—just as our foremothers did 153 years ago!”* Join us for an inspiring and informative morning as we share how we are singing to the Lord a new song in 2023 and beyond.

INGATHERING: Items for the **Bread of Life Food Pantry in Hart**. The pantry is in need of **small** servings of kid-friendly food: 16 oz. cans of pasta (SpaghettiOs, Ravioli), 1-pound boxes of elbow macaroni, small jars of peanut butter and small boxes of instant potatoes. *An offering will support pledge to missions and Grand Rapids Community House.*

2023 MIDWEST DISTRICT ANNUAL CELEBRATION REGISTRATION FORM

COST: \$15 by September 9th. Use one form per person. Please print.

Name: _____ Church: _____

Address: _____ Phone: (_____) _____

_____ Email: _____

Amount Enclosed: _____ Special Dietary Needs: _____

Daycare needed? (advanced notice required. Pack a sack lunch for each child)

Number of children and ages: _____

Make checks payable to: *Midwest District UMW* and mail with this registration form to:
 Jody Pratt, Registrar, 2984 5th Street, Shelbyville, MI 49344

NEWS FROM OUR DISTRICT TREASURER

Hello friends. As your treasurer, I think of time in quarters as in quarterly reports, and quarterly income goals. I am happy to report that at the end of the second quarter (June 30, 2023) our District has received \$10,000.00 for missions, which is 40% of our \$25,000 Budget goal. We should be at 50% at the end of June. Summer is always a busy time but let's do our best to catch up and even surpass our goal. We are UWF. We can do it!

Just a reminder about monies for United Methodist Community House and Legacy Fund. You may send money for UMCH to them or to me. Our District does get credit for Supplemental Giving if UMCH dollars are sent through the district treasurer. Legacy Fund money should go to the National office in New York. The payment may be made in several ways: By phone: 800-278-7771, by mail: United Women in Faith, Attn: Legacy, 475 Riverside DR, STE 1500, New York, NY 10115, or Online: uwfaith.org/Legacy. I'm here to help if you need it.

It is important that you send a Remittance Form for All Treasurers along with all checks you send to me. This ensures that I apply your money according to your wishes. uwfaith.org is the place to go to find all the resources and forms you need. For the Remittance Form for all Treasurers, go to uwfaith.org, click on Resources, click on Downloads, click on Shop All, keep scrolling down until you find the form. As you scroll down, you will see the wealth of other information available to everyone. The forms are free to download. If you need help getting the form, I am always happy to mail a few to you so you can copy them as needed. We are the Midwest District in the Michigan Conference until January 1, 2024, when we merge with part of Northern Waters to become the new Western Waters district.

If you have not updated your checking account to include the DBA United Women in Faith, you are encouraged to do so. I've been a local unit treasurer for many years, and I did not know that all local units in our District are under the jurisdiction of Michigan Conference United Methodist Women and included in the United Methodist Church Group Tax Exemption Ruling. We should be using the Michigan Conference UMW's Employer Identification Number. I learned that I needed to use the Conference EIN to add the "doing business as UWF" to our checking account. If you have any questions, please contact me.

It's time to think about your unit's 2024 Pledge to Missions. You may bring them to the District Annual Meeting at Hart UMC on September 16, 2023, or mail them to me at the address below. A 2024 Pledge form is found on the next page in this issue of the Anchor. I look forward to seeing you there.



Penny Brubaker, Midwest District UWF Treasurer
432 N. York Rd., Hart, MI 49420
Call: (231) 873-3124 or Text: (231) 233-5515
pennybrubaker99@gmail.com (note new email)

*"The LORD bless you and keep you.
The LORD make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you.
The LORD lift up his face to you
and give you peace."
- Numbers 6:24-26*



United
Women
in Faith

▼ Clip and return this pledge card to Penny before September 9th ▼

2024 LOCAL UNIT PLEDGE CARD

We have prayerfully considered the purpose of the
United Women in Faith and would like to commit \$ _____
as our annual pledge for 2024.

Unit Name: _____

Signature of Unit Treasurer/President: _____

Return this unit pledge card before September 9th to:
Penny Brubaker, UWF Treasurer
432 N. York Rd.
Hart, MI 49420

FALL LAY SERVANT RETREAT ANNOUNCED

September 22-23, 2023 at Lake Michigan Camp, Pentwater

Friday 5 p.m. through Saturday 5 p.m.

Cost: \$45 includes registration, lodging and three meals

(Friday dinner, Saturday breakfast and lunch)

Materials must be purchased on your own;

a link will be provided upon registration.

TO REGISTER: email Sara Wolfsen at saraw1104@gmail.com

Registration deadline is September 9th.

Class size is limited.



Introduction to Lay Ministry: The Basic Course

This course is foundational for all courses in Lay Servant Ministries. Participants are encouraged to discover and employ personal spiritual gifts as God intended and to consider the importance of exercising servant leadership, developing future leaders, remaining rooted in consistent spiritual practices, and being part of a group that holds members accountable in their discipleship.

Instructor: Sarah Zachow, Certified Lay Speaker, East Nelson UMC, Cedar Springs

Advanced Course: Dancing with Words (Storytelling I)

Participants in this course will learn what constitutes a good story, discover storytelling styles, learn the techniques of effective storytelling, and practice creating stories from their experiences.

Instructor: Jody Pratt, Certified Lay Speaker, Middleville UMC

Advanced Course: Loving People and Planet in God's Name

Immerse yourself in God's creation at camp as we engage in creation care and environmental justice as the appropriate response of disciples of Jesus Christ to the realities of climate change. This course helps individuals and communities grow deeper in their faith through the caring creation of practical and context-specific spiritual practices that mitigate the effects of reckless human consumption.

Instructor: Sara Wolfsen, Certified Lay Speaker and Lay Leader, Fremont UMC

To subscribe to the Midwest District Lay Servant Ministries newsletter or register for a class, email District Coordinator Sara Wolfsen at saraw1104@gmail.com.



United Women of Faith is too “Out of my Comfort Zone” as Jesus is to the Samaritans/Women

At the Northern Waters District Officers meeting in Mancelona on June 10th we commented on how few people attend the Day of Bold social action events and how hard it is to convince some units to include mission giving on the district, conference and worldwide level as opposed to “I prefer to keep our giving local”. And that’s when the title of this article popped into my head.

Staying where we are “comfortable” is nothing new or endemic to the times in which we now live. Some avoid the UWF Reading Program because they choose books that present us with hard truths with which we don’t want to wrestle. We stop listening to a broad range of news sources because we don’t agree with what some of them tell us and don’t like feeling angry. We refuse responsibility for things that happened “before our time” thereby denying they still happen. We deny we have any effect on climate, or we complain about words and phrases we have used all our lives being called racist, and sneer at “politically correct speech.”

Did not Jesus present such hard truths to his disciples and the crowds that listened to him? Were they shocked to hear his “jaw dropping” declaration that the Good Samaritan was their neighbor whom they should love? (Politically correct speech; Neighbor rather than Samaritan?) We know the disciple’s reaction when they return to the well to find Jesus having a theological discussion with a “gasp” Samaritan woman! And Jesus commends Mary for listening to him rather than being in her place “in the kitchen”. (A hard truth; women are equal to men?). Healing the Phoenician woman’s daughter (definitely not local).

It is precisely by stretching our comfort zones; wrestling with hard truths, having difficult, grace-filled discussions with those with whom we really disagree, considering why our words might be received harshly by someone different from us, that we grow spiritually beginning to gain new insights into Jesus’ teaching and the Way he showed us how to live.

Let us take up the hard work Jesus asks us to do by feeding the hungry, housing the homeless, listening to our friends AND opponents, opening our hearts to uncomfortable information, loving all our neighbors, welcoming the stranger, pursuing justice, and gathering together to learn, stretch, accept, and grow.Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven...”.

A-men.



Jean Peterson
Social Action Coordinator
2023 Northern Waters Social Action Coordinator
Proposed 2024 Western Waters Social Action Coordinator
(231) 334-4091
tomjean45@yahoo.com

MIDWEST DISTRICT "SUPPORTS" WOMEN IN PERU

United Women of Faith have contributed over one thousand bras since 2012 to women of many shapes and sizes in Peru. As I prepared for the Amazon 2012 mission journey Diana Bowie (DB Peru Director) asked for donations of bras for nursing mothers or mature females in need of extra support. The request went out in a variety of forms and one evening I received a call from a retired female pastor from Florida. Her perception was we should not be telling people what to wear as it was culturally inappropriate and reminded me of our actions in Hawaiian and Native American communities. I shared the context of the request as it came directly from Peru - not the United Methodist Women. We ended the phone call on a positive note and I did receive some donations from her. We distribute bras and reading glasses for these reasons:

- Teams have been invited by a local community or church to partner
- Financial resources to purchase clothing and glasses is limited - food comes first!
- Location, location, location - limited proximity to stores that have clothing and glasses
- Limited ability to wash clothes, and the glasses break,
- and the list goes on depending on the area the team serves.

So, as you consider collecting items, keep in mind the list it is not just for Peru, it may also be for Haiti, Newberry GCCP, Cass Community, Midwest Distribution Center or anywhere there is a lack of resources. If you are donating items or food to a group, first ask what is needed, consider the destination and costs involved and whether there is a time frame for the project or it is an ongoing plan. Be thoughtful, organized, and realistic!

In March 2023, the Peruvian team included nine U.S. team members including Denise Schuitema, Cheryl Cravero and Jody Pratt from Michigan, and five Peruvian team members. During the trip, they held six days of clinics that served 439 people ages newborn through their 70's.

And! Inglesia Methodista of Satipo has invited the team back. Under the capable direction of co-leaders Steve Blake (WI) and Jody Pratt (MI), a team is forming to serve **August 30-September 10, 2024**. Donations of bras (sports bras preferred as they can multisize), low level reading glasses, and sunglasses are being collected for the trip. Contact Jody Pratt for more information or to schedule a program to learn about this important global ministry.



Jody Pratt, Middleville UMC
Midwest District UWF Acting Social Action Coordinator
Michigan Volunteers In Mission Coordinator
Michigan Conference Co-Director of Lay Servant Ministries
(616) 292-4908, prattgji@gmail.com



Michigan UWF Conference

5th Annual Celebration

Saturday, October 28, 2023 | Holt UMC
2321 N Aurelius Road, Holt, Michigan
Registration starts at 8:30 a.m.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Bishop Bard

"TURN ON – TUNE IN"

TO REGISTER: contact Audrey Putnam
E-mail: putnam_family@yahoo.com

HOTEL: Causeway Bay
6820 S. Cedar St., Lansing, MI 48911
Phone: (517) 694-8123 • Use Code: UWF-27

INGATHERING: Gift Cards from Walmart,
Meijer, Fast Food, Amazon, Gas Stations.

**MIDWEST DISTRICT UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH
2024 Proposed Budget**

INCOME

Pledge to Mission Income	\$ 30,000.00
Administration & Member Development (A&MD) Income	<u>\$ 9,700.00</u>
TOTAL INCOME:	\$ 39,700.00

EXPENSE**ADMINISTRATION & MEMBER DEVELOPMENT (A&MD)****CONFERENCE EVENTS:**

Annual Meeting	\$ 300.00
Mission u	<u>\$ 1,600.00</u>
Total Conference Events	<u>\$1,900.00</u>

DISTRICT EVENTS

Annual Meeting	\$ 1,000.00
Spiritual Growth Retreat	\$ 1,500.00
Other:	\$ 2,500.00
Spring Fling	\$ 1,500.00
Scholarships	\$ 500.00
Day Apart	\$ 500.00
Total District Events	<u>\$ 5,000.00</u>

(travel, meals, supplies, printing, child care, honoraria, scholarships - local women)

OFFICER EXPENSES

Audit	\$ 150.00
Bank Expense	\$ 20.00
Dependent Care (not at events)	\$ 50.00
Mileage (meetings)	\$ 340.00
Resources, Subscriptions	\$ 40.00
Postage, Shipping (not for events)	\$ 100.00
Supplies, Printing (not for events)	<u>\$ 100.00</u>
Total Officer Expenses	<u>\$ 800.00</u>

OTHER EXPENSES

Anchor, Meeting Programs	\$ 1,800.00
Books, Program Resources	\$ 100.00
District SMR, Gift in Memory, etc.	\$ 80.00
Miscellaneous	<u>\$ 20.00</u>
Total Other Expenses	<u>\$ 2,000.00</u>

TOTAL A&MD EXPENSES	\$ 9,700.00
TOTAL PLEDGES SENT TO CONFERENCE	\$ 30,000.00
OVER/UNDER BUDGET	<u>\$ -</u>

MIDWEST DISTRICT UNITED METHODIST WOMEN 2024 PROPOSED LEADERSHIP TEAM

PRESIDENT:

Jean Sherman [2021]
Fremont UMC
8465 W. 16th Street
Fremont, MI 49412
(231) 519-2542
sherdairy1@gmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT:

Open

SECRETARY:

Ann Scott [2018]
Cedar Springs UMC
4014 Russell Road
Cedar Springs, MI 49319
(616) 696-1567
momice4014@gmail.com

TREASURER:

Penny Brubaker [2022]
Hart UMC
432 N. York Rd.
Hart, MI 49420
(231) 873-3124
pennybrubaker@hotmail.com

REGISTRARS:

Sue Reitman and
Jody Pratt
Middleville UMC
2984 Fifth Street
Shelbyville, MI 49344
(616) 292-4908
prattgji09@gmail.com

**SECRETARY OF
PROGRAM RESOURCES
(Reading Program):**

Open

**MEMBERSHIP NURTURE
& OUTREACH:**

Open

SOCIAL ACTION:

Jean Petersen
Empire UMC
9095 Liberty St.
Maple City, MI 49664
(231) 334-4091
tomjean45@yahoo.com

COMMUNICATIONS:

Sara Wolfsen [2018]
Fremont UMC
7476 W. Orchard Circle
Fremont, MI 49412
(231) 830-4092
saraw1104@gmail.com

**EDUCATION &
INTERPRETATION:**

Open

SPIRITUAL GROWTH:

Robyn Daane [2024]
Church of the Dunes
805 Slayton Avenue
Grand Haven, MI 49417
(616) 510-9742
robyn.daane19@yahoo.com

**COMMITTEE ON
NOMINATIONS**

Jean Sherman, Chair
Fremont UMC
8465 W. 16th Street
Fremont, MI 49412
(231) 519-2542
sherdairy1@gmail.com

Sue Rietman
Middleville UMC [2017]
15 Market Street
Middleville, MI 49333
(269) 795-7644
susan.rietman45@gmail.net

Jody Pratt [2013]
Middleville UMC
2984 Fifth Street
Shelbyville, MI 49344
(616) 292-4908
prattgji09@gmail.com

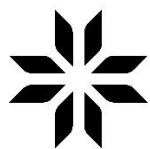
HELP WANTED:

Would you like to serve on our district team? We are looking for several members. If you would like to learn more about a role, or would like to nominate a friend, please contact a board member. Board meets 2-3 times per year. Benefits include paid event registrations and mileage reimbursement.

The ANCHOR, Midwest District United Women in Faith newsletter is published up to four times a year. Email newsletter submissions to saraw1104@gmail.com before these copy deadlines: 1/10, 5/10, 8/10.

**Midwest District United Women in Faith
(Formerly United Methodist Women)
7476 W. Orchard Circle
Fremont, MI 49412**

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Grand Rapids, MI
Permit No 1131



**United
Women
in Faith**

United Methodist Women is now United Women in Faith

We've taken a new name to better reflect how we answer our calling today. It's an exhilarating time, as we commit to even greater inclusivity, action, and impact. We remain women of passion and power, united by God's love in our mission to support women, children, and youth.

The PURPOSE of United Women in Faith:

United Women in Faith seeks to connect and nurture women through Christian spiritual formation, leadership development, creative fellowship and education so that they can inspire, influence and impact local and global communities.



**United
Women
in Faith**

SAVE THESE DATES – DETAILS INSIDE THIS NEWSLETTER

- ➔ **September 1:** deadline to submit new members and memorials
- ➔ **Saturday, September 16:** (*registration deadline September 9*)
 - Midwest District Annual Celebration and Brunch, Hart UMC
- ➔ **Saturday, October 7:**
 - Northern Waters District Annual Celebration, Mancelona UMC and Zoom
- ➔ **Friday, October 27:**
 - Officer Training and Leadership Development, Holt UMC
- ➔ **Saturday, October 28:**
 - Michigan Conference Annual Celebration, Holt UMC
- ➔ **January 10, 2024:** Deadline to submit newsletters articles to saraw1104@gmail.com