



United
Women
in Faith

NORTHERN SKIES DISTRICT MICHIGAN CONFERENCE

Spring—Summer 2023

PRESIDENT



Greetings Beloved Women in Faith,

Our Northern Skies District is EXPANDING! No worries! We are STILL about MISSION for Women, Children, and Youth! I know you are reaching out to your local communities as well as God’s Country Cooperative Parish to give as God has richly given to you. Your Pledge to Mission goes to the vulnerable in our state, country, world.

WE NEED WOMEN FOR OUR DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TEAM: If you have a passion for Social Action or planning events (Vice-President), Nominations (calling and talking to people to fill positions), Membership and Outreach or Treasurer, **YOUR DISTRICT NEEDS YOU!** Please call me!! (906) 367-2128.

I hope to see all of you in Crystal Falls on May 2. Our UWF is working hard at making it a fun and inspirational day for you to celebrate our work for Jesus! It’s a **CAMP MICHIGAMME THEME!!**

As always, if you have questions about ANYTHING give me a call or text or email. I’ll get back to you!!

Have a good and Godly Spring,

Patti Steinberg

pattisteinberg@gmail.com

(906) 367-2128



VICE PRESIDENT

Happy New Year 2023

As you know, in a weak moment last year, I agreed to continue as Vice President for one more year with Patti’s help. I think I got a nudge from God and Patti! Well, I am truly excited about our celebration at Crystal Falls this spring, May 2, 2023. Our speaker is

Janeve Helmbold and her topic is “From Buddhist to Christian, A Personal Experience.” Put the date on your calendar now! The registration form for May 2nd is included in this newsletter. **Please return the registration and payment to me by April 3, 2023.**

Our church, UMC of St. Ignace had a busy and rewarding fall and Advent season. For the first time in 2 years we had our Turkey Dinner. It is put on by our United Women In Faith and is a community event. We had an excellent turnout this year. We were also able to have our musicale back this year and that was also well attended by our community. On December 11th we had a Blue Christmas service, in memory of those loved ones lost. Christmas Eve was our candle light service, and the kids presented their play of the Christmas Story. Each Sunday in Advent we had vignettes during the children’s sermon with characters from “The Christmas Carol.” Pastor Mark made a very convincing Ebenezer Scrooge.

We certainly were blessed with many meaningful and moving programs. I look forward to seeing everyone on May 2nd!!

Judy Misner

auxchenes2@gmail.com

906-643-7191



SECRETARY

It is truly inspirational to recognize that despite dwindling numbers and the advancing age of our membership, we continue to accomplish so much for our local churches and for women, children and youth the world over through the missions we support.

Unfortunately, the L’Anse Unit of UWF made the difficult decision to become inactive because of the challenges they face. They have reorganized as Women in Mission, however, so that they can continue the vital work they do in their church and

larger community. We wish them every success and look forward to a continued relationship with them.

Thank you to those of you who returned the 2023 Local Unit Officers Forms to me. I will assume if you did not return one, it is because the officer list remains unchanged. If that form somehow got lost, please contact me so we can update any information that has changed. We want to be sure all the information regarding our Annual celebration held this May in Crystal Falls gets to you.

Looking forward to seeing you in Crystal Falls,

Bobbi Sundquist
bobbiannolsen@aol.com
906-864-9337



TREASURER

Blessings to everyone in this new year! I am happy to report that as a district we made our pledge of mission giving for 2022. Our pledge was \$10,000 for total giving

in the 5 categories (Pledge, Special Mission Recognition, Gift in Memory, Gift to Mission, and World Thank Offering), and our total for the year was \$11,983. In addition, we had Supplemental giving of \$2803.77. Well done, women of Northern Skies District!

I have a couple of reminders for you as we begin this year. First of all, please remember to use the remittance forms with every contribution you send in. If you want cards for Gift to Mission or Gift in Memory, you must request them. You are entitled to one card for each \$5 gift. If you are submitting a 5-star woman form, remember that your unit then automatically becomes a 5-star unit.

The final reminder is about the end of the year: We have to close out our books by Dec 5th so that all of our monies can be sent to the Conference Treasurer in time for her to finish her bookkeeping by the end of the year. So if you want your remittance to count for 2023, please send it in time for me to receive it before December 5th.

As always, I am available for help if you need it, whether you have questions or you need forms. Feel free to contact me either by phone (906-863-7387) or by email (vlnpno@gmail.com).

I wish you continued success as you embark on yet another year of ministry to women, children and youth!

Barb Akins
vlnpno@gmail.com
906-863-7387



SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Spiritual growth is a key part of any Christian's life. When we accept the Good News, we commit to growing more and more like our creator God. The amazing truth of our faith is that our God wants to transform us. He wants to liberate us from all that hurts and ails us. The goal of spiritual growth is to grow closer to God in a meaningful, lasting way. It's also part of our mission as a Christian to spread the Gospel, to understand the scriptures and God better by reading and studying your Bible, and by living a Christ-like lifestyle – one that would be pleasing in the sight of God.

Growing spiritually also helps us experience more compassion and gratitude, resulting in better stress-coping (and who doesn't need that?!). Additionally, it allows us to make and grow in positive relationships and social connections. Spirituality is a way of life that enables us to find joy and inspiration around us.

For the new year, did you make a resolution? Maybe to grow spiritually? I didn't do a resolution but I always need to be working on doing more to grow spiritually. In addition to reading God's word, we have such a vast opportunity for growing our spiritual life. I like to read, and there are great books in the United Women in Faith reading program. If you don't like to read or your eyesight is failing, there are books on CD or podcasts or Faith Talks on the UWF "Mighty Network" at uwfaith.org/digital. Maybe you would like to journal your feelings or questions and dig deeper into those in the coming months.

Let us pray God will not allow us to become complacent but let us have an insatiable desire to grow in His love and grace. Let us pray God will fill our lives with the joy of His Spirit and let us grow tall and strong in Him, through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

“Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.”

James 4:8

Jane Yaeger

jyaeger210@sbcglobal.net

906-290-1884



SOCIAL ACTION/EDUCATION & INTERPRETATION

Greetings to all.

United Women in Faith, we know we are still making an adjustment to our new name. However, not everything changes!!! We continue to move forward serving our Lord and working to make the lives of children and women better.

Every four years we identify a specific focus for our advocacy in addition to our ongoing work for gender and racial justice and for oppressed and dispossessed communities, with special attention to the needs of women, children and youth. Our current justice campaigns are Just Energy for All and ending mass incarceration and Criminalization of Communities of Color. You can find many resources at our website: www.womenunitedinfaith.org. We encourage you to sign up to receive opportunities through listening to podcasts on the website and sharing with your group. You can also access our magazine online. There are many great articles on what we as United Women in Faith do around our country.

Please remember to fill out your Mission Objectives for 2022. These can be sent or emailed to us.

We look forward to seeing you at our Celebration in Crystal Falls this spring.

Beth Clark
clarkbb616@gmail.com
715-696-3773

Moira Cowling
moira5130@hotmail.com
906-774-5130



MEMBERSHIP, NURTURE, & OUTREACH

I will honor deceased members at a ceremony as part of our Celebration on Tuesday, May 2nd, at Christ United Methodist Church in Crystal Falls.

Please send me the form for the deceased members from your units as well as new member lists by April 15. The form is located in this newsletter.

We together can give the sunlight to live and grow and light the way to encourage each other. Please keep track of the women in your unit who pass away during 2023 as well as any new members. We will need this info for the 2024 Celebration.

Wendy Mulka

picup8@gmail.com

906-774-8387



NEWSLETTER COORDINATOR

What a great message Connie Tresseder had at our Spiritual Growth Retreat last October. I purchased her book, but haven't read it yet. It's been a rough winter!

If your church or UWF unit is doing anything unusual and/or noteworthy, please submit pictures with a short caption so they can be included in future newsletters. Fall/Winter 2023 Newsletter deadline is July 15.

As always, if you're receiving this newsletter by snail-mail and you now have an e-mail address, please contact me with your info so I can start sending the newsletters by e-mail. This will help save District postage costs. Thank you!

Judy Rost

jrost@alphacomm.net

906-788-4771

NORTHERN SKIES DISTRICT UWF 2022 MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Please return the names of new and deceased members no later than April 15, 2023 to:

Wendy Mulka, Membership/Nurture and Outreach Coordinator
580 N Riverhills Rd
Kingsford, MI 49802
906-774-8387

Name of Local Unit: _____

City: _____

Person Submitting Information: _____

Members deceased between January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022

Name	
Name	
Name	
Name	
Name	
Name	

New members acquired between January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022

Name	
Name	
Name	
Name	
Name	
Name	

ACTIVITIES AT LOCAL CHURCHES

The St. Ignace congregation had a busy Christmas season!



Church Musicale



Blue Christmas Service



Scrooge & Marley



Kids Christmas Eve Play

The Menominee Unit hosted a Trunk or Treat in October!



Shar, Tinley, Mary Lou & Lorie Dressed in Their Finest!



Jane Yaeger being a BIG Baby!



Pastor John & Linn Murray



Bobbi & Judy's Brother John with His Ghost Tree

The Menominee Unit had Free Clothing and PB&J Sandwich Fixings Give-Away



The Crystal Falls Unit Held a Pulled Pork Sandwich Fundraiser for Camp Michigamme



Terri Maki, Ann Blum, & Donna Tuider

Patti Steinberg & Jane Yaeger Attended the Conference Celebration in Kalamazoo



Patti & Jane



Patti & Taylorie Bailey



District Superintendent Scott Harmon Spoke



Patti & Julia Paradine-Rice at Mission U in Gaylord



During Advent the Crystal Falls UMC Delivered "Pies & Pop for Prisoners" to the Iron County Sheriff. Pictured is Patti Steinberg, Sheriff Ryan Boehmke, & Pastor Vicky Prewitt.

2022 SPIRITUAL GROWTH RETREAT



Patti Played the Piano



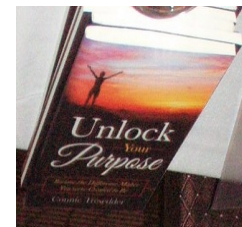
Jane Yaeger & Connie Tresedder



Jane Yaeger



Communion



Connie's Book



United
Women
in Faith

2022 Mission Today Unit Objectives

United Women in Faith - Michigan Conference

Please print clearly!

Name of Unit _____	District _____
_____	() _____
Name _____	Telephone _____
City _____	State _____ Zip _____
Email _____	

A unit will receive a Certificate of Achievement upon completion of one of the following categories between January 1 through December 31, to be presented at their District Annual Meeting the following October. Check the numbers completed.

- Units completing any **8** or more objectives will be a “FAITH” unit.
- Units completing **9** or more objectives, with 8 asterisks (*) will be a “FAITH” “HOPE” unit.
- Units completing **17** or more objectives, with 10 asterisks (*) will be a “FAITH” “HOPE” “JOY” unit.
- Units completing **25** or more objectives, with 12 asterisks (*) will be a “FAITH” “HOPE” “JOY” “LOVE” unit.

Mission Giving

1. _____ *Made and met its Pledge to Mission.
2. _____ *Became a 5-Star Unit by contributing to all 5 channels of undesignated giving.
3. _____ Donated to local women’s shelter or children’s/youth program.
4. _____ Offered scholarships to *Mission u* and/or other United Women in Faith activities.

Spiritual Growth

5. _____ Observed a Call to Prayer and Self Denial.
6. _____ Participated locally in a retreat, prayer vigil or Bible study.
7. _____ Attended a District Retreat, Spiritual Day Apart, or Prayer Breakfast/Brunch.

Membership

8. _____ *Added one new member from women who have joined the church in the current year.
9. _____ *Added one new member not included in above.

Attendance

10. _____ Invited a District or Conference officer (other than a member of the unit) to one meeting.
11. _____ Had a combined meeting with another United Women in Faith unit.
12. _____ Attended Church Women United or other ecumenical group activity.
13. _____ *At least one member (other than conference or district officer) attended a conference *Mission u*.
14. _____ *At least two members (other than conference or district officer) attended the conference or district annual meeting/celebration.
15. _____ *At least one member (other than conference or district officer) attended the *District Elected Leadership Training*.

Mission Education

16. ____ *Unit or circle conducted at least one *Mission Study*.
17. ____ *Two members completed a *Reading Program Plan* and reported on one of the books.
18. ____ Participated in but did not complete the *Reading Program*.
19. ____ *Used two programs from the *Program Book*.
20. ____ *Used the *Prayer Calendar* regularly in the unit meetings.
21. ____ Communicated with five persons listed in the *Prayer Calendar*, one from Michigan Conference.
22. ____ *Unit had two members reading **response** each month.
23. ____ *Unit included a *response Moment* during its meeting using an article to tell our mission story.
24. ____ Unit had one *Social Action* program.

Mission Action

25. ____ *Participated in a District or Conference ingathering project.
26. ____ Had a member of United Women in Faith present a mission program for youth or children in the church.
27. ____ Had at least one member visit a United Women in Faith Project and report to the unit.
28. ____ *Had at least one person receive and respond to legislative information from the United Women in Faith's Action Network.
29. ____ Unit or member participated in a workshop, seminar, or book study related to social concerns that stimulated and enriched the total community.
30. ____ *Unit participated in the *Campaign for Children* in at least two ways. Possibilities are:
 - a. ____ Co-sponsored with the local church, a Children's Sabbath.
 - b. ____ Involved with mentoring, tutoring or "big sisters" programs.
 - c. ____ Communicated with representatives advocating for children's issues.
 - d. ____ Attended a school board meeting.
31. ____ Made a pledge to care for God's creation and worked to become a "green" United Women in Faith Unit.
32. ____ *Implemented the Charter for Racial Justice policies in at least one way during the year. Possibilities include:
 - a. ____ Read books and articles about another race or culture.
 - b. ____ Sponsor an inter-ethnic event between two or more units.
 - Recruit women of color to be members or officers of the unit.
 - Correspond with elected representatives to support legislation affecting issues such as immigration, affirmative action, civil rights, and programs for low-income persons, etc.
33. ____ Send this completed form to your **District Mission Coordinator** for Education and Interpretation by **deadline date:**
April 1, 2023. (Beth Clark, 446 Lake Anna Rd., Florence, WI 54121 or Moira Cowling, W8321 Spring Lake Lane, Iron Mountain, MI 49801)

This year our Unit qualified as a Mission Today FAITH HOPE JOY LOVE unit. (Circle all that apply)

NORTHERN SKIES DISTRICT UWF ANNUAL CELEBRATION

“FROM BUDDHIST TO CHRISTIAN, A PERSONAL EXPERIENCE”

Tuesday, May 2, 2023

Christ United Methodist Church, 20 S. 5th Street, Crystal Falls, MI

Guest Speaker: Janeve Helmbold

The cost of this UWF District Celebration is \$15 per person including lunch. Reservations are required in order to have an accurate count for lunch. Registration deadline is April 3rd. Please send one registration form for each person attending along with payment to Judy Misner at W2573 Association Rd., St. Ignace, MI 49781 and make check payable to Northern Skies District UWF. Suggestion for those who want overnight accommodations: Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp, 906-214-2267 ask for Charlotte. Single rooms \$75, Double rooms \$90 (\$45 each) If you would like to stay in a UWF member's home in Crystal Falls, contact Pastor Vicky Prewitt at 906-362-0460.

Registration and refreshments: 9:30 to 10:15 a.m.

Morning session: 10:30 Lunch: 12 noon

Afternoon Program, Memorial Service and Communion: 1 p.m.

**** All times are Eastern Daylight Savings Time****

Suggested Ingathering Items for Camp Michigamme are included in this newsletter.

-----Return Bottom Portion With Payment-----

****REGISTRATION FORM (ONE PER PERSON PLEASE)****

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

MY CHURCH: _____

REQUEST DAYCARE: Yes _____ No _____ E-MAIL: _____

****DISTRICT LEADERSHIP MEETING****

MONDAY, May 1, 2023 at 6 p.m.

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

DINNER: Number Attending: _____ LODGING: Yes/No: _____

ROOMMATE(S) _____

Camp Michigamme Wish List

AA Batteries
AAA Batteries
Craft Paint (Red, Yellow, Blue, Green, White, Black)
Tie Dye
Popsicle Sticks
Key Rings
Small glass or clear plastic jars
Medium glass or clear plastic jars
Playing Cards
Notebooks
Coloring Books
Pens
Pencils
Dish Soap
Bug Spray
Sunscreen
Water Bottles
Bright Colorful Printer Paper
Dryer Sheets
Arm and Hammer Hypoallergenic Laundry Detergent
Rubber Bands
Kids Story Books
Lamination Pouches
Color Pencils
Crayons
Markers
Sharpies
Paper Towel
Microfiber Cloths
Dish Cloths
Fans
Extension Cords
Brooms
Dust Pans
Band-Aids
Cough Drops
Beach Towels
Shower Towels
Pipe Cleaners
School Glue
Glue Sticks
Hot Glue Sticks



Obituary

Mary Eileen Schoen Balfour, died on Saturday, January 7, 2023, at the age of 74, after a courageous battle with cancer. She was born in West Branch, Michigan and lived in many communities across the state. She graduated from Brighton High School, earned a bachelor's degree from Albion College, her teaching/library credentials from Central Michigan University, and a master's degree from Michigan State University. Her teaching career included service in Whittemore-Prescott, Iron River, Hale, and Alanson-Littlefield public schools. Beloved wife of Reverend James R. Balfour II for 53 years, Mary is also survived by her grandchildren of the heart, Daniel and Luke Etter, sister-in-law Nancy (James) Schacht, nephews Stephen (Siri Garnaas) and Jonathan (Kelly MacAvaney) and nieces Kelley (John) Daugherty and Elizabeth (Alex Zbarazkyi) Schacht, great nieces Eleanor and Madelyn Schacht, great nephew Soren Schacht, and great niece Louise Daugherty, as well as many cousins and extended family members.

Mary was preceded in death by her parents, Eileen (nee Miller) Schoen and John Thomas Schoen.

Mary was an avid reader and an amazing teacher, not just in the classroom but everywhere she touched people's lives. She was also an advocate for people who felt left behind or marginalized, especially her students in need of a mentor. Mary was a committed educator--the teaching role she loved most was as a school librarian who used the library as an educational resource for all members of the school community and to create a safe place for all who needed one. Active in supporting extra-curricular activities, she was the faculty advisor for the junior class, yearbook, Honor Society, and Key Club, as well as supporting other school organizations. She was instrumental in starting and supporting community organizations such as the Hope Chest in St. Ignace, which has helped thousands of people over the years. She provided leadership for United Methodist women's groups in local and regional church organizations, as well as many camping and backpacking experiences for youth.

Mary loved the many pets that shared her life. She and her husband, Jim, made their retirement home in Ingallston Township near Stephenson, Michigan at her family's centennial farm.

Mary's family would like to thank the doctors and staff of the Aurora Bay Area Cancer Center and the incredibly supportive friends who walked with her through her treatment journey.

The celebration of Mary's life will take place at the First United Methodist Church, 601 10th Avenue, Menominee, Michigan on Saturday, February 4, 2023. There will be an hour of gathering with friends and family at 1:00 p.m., followed by the celebration at 2:00 p.m. A reception will be held at the church immediately following the service. Anderson Diehm Funeral Home is assisting the family.

In lieu of flowers, donations in memory of Mary may be made to the Aurora Health Care Foundation, Aurora Medical Center – Bay Area's Cancer Center fund: (aahgiving.org) 3003 University Drive, Marinette, WI 54143; St. Ignace Area Hope, P.O. Box 170, St. Ignace, MI 49781; or the charity of your choice.

RIP MARY—YOU ARE MISSED!

2023 UWF NORTHERN SKIES DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TEAM

Honorary President: Bron Harmon, cell 906-420-2943, dfebron@gmail.com

Past President: Bobbie Clift, 225 W. Michigan St. #1, Marquette, MI 49855, 906-361-2234, bblouclift@gmail.com

President: Patti Steinberg, 142 Indian Lake Dr, Crystal Falls, MI 49920, 906-367-2128, pattisteinberg@gmail.com

Vice President: Judy Misner, W2573 Association Rd, St Ignace, MI 49781, 906-643-7191, cell 906-630-0303, auxchenes2@gmail.com

Secretary: Bobbi Sundquist, N2708 State Highway M-35, Menominee, MI 49858, 906-864-9337, cell 906-290-0114, bobbiansen@aol.com

Treasurer: Barb Akins, 717 - 14th Ave, Menominee, MI 49858, 906-863-7387, vlnpno@gmail.com

Spiritual growth: Jane Yaeger, 1610 - 36th Ave, Apt #6, Menominee, MI 49858, cell 906-290-1884, jyaeger210@gmail.com

Social Action/Education & Interpretation: Beth Clark, 446 Lake Anna Rd., Florence, WI 54121 715-696-3773, clarkbb616@gmail.com

Moira Cowling, W8321 Spring Lake Lane, Iron Mountain, MI 49801, 906-774-5130
cell 906-221-9311, moira5130@hotmail.com

Membership, Nurture & Outreach: Wendy Mulka, 580 N Riverhills Rd, Kingsford, MI 49802, 906-774-8387, cell 906-396-0405, picup8@gmail.com

Program Resources: OPEN

Newsletter: Judy Rost, W4768 No. 14.5 Lane, Wallace, MI 49893, 906-788-4771, cell 906-290-9831, jrost@alphacomm.net

Nominations Chairperson: OPEN

Nominations Committee:

Bonnie Picotte, 36870 Stroud Rd, Ontonagon, MI 49953, 906-884-4523, yogibo@spectrum.net
Linda Chappa, 739 Klomen Ave, Republic, MI 49875, 906-371-9051, sircuddlycakes@gmail.com

Conference Nominating Committee: Jane Yaeger, Chairman, & Patti Steinberg (see info above)





United
Women
in Faith

Northern Skies District

c/o Judy Rost
W4768 14.5 Lane
Wallace, MI 49893

2023 NORTHERN SKIES DISTRICT UWF CALENDAR

April 1	2022 Unit Objectives due to Beth Clark or Moira Cowling
April 3	Deadline to register for District Celebration in Crystal Falls
April 7	Good Friday
April 9	Easter Sunday
April 15	Deadline to send new & deceased member list to Wendy Mulka
April 22	Earth Day
May 1	District Leadership Meeting at 6 p.m.
May 2	Northern Skies District UWF Annual Celebration in Crystal Falls
July 15	Newsletter Deadline to Judy Rost