THE ANCHOR

News from the Western Waters District United Women in Faith



A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Greetings! For those I have not met yet, my name is Jean Sherman. I have been the District President for the last three years. I also serve as the President of the Fremont UMC United Women in Faith unit. I have been married to my husband, Larry, for $50 \frac{1}{2}$ years. We have two adult children: Katie (Marcus) Sabo of Howell, Michigan and Mark (Danielle) Sherman of Milford, Michigan. We have four grandchildren: Travis (10), Allison (5 $\frac{1}{2}$), Breanne (5) and Adeline (3). We have a 77-acre farm in Newaygo County.

I am looking forward to a fun year ahead and I hope that you will venture out to one or all of the Western Waters district events. My projects this year are twofold: One, to personally invite you to our local events: Our **Spiritual Growth Retreat** will be held at Fremont UMC on April 13 (registration form page 3). We are hosting our **District Spring Fling Gathering** at Grand Rapids Community House on May 4 (registration form page 5).

My second project is to generate an up-to-date list of the active United Women in Faith Units in the district. Please help by listing your unit officers and members on the enclosed form (page 7). In addition, I would like to attend a unit meeting. So let me know when your unit meets and I will do my best to visit.

Another goal is to have a full slate of district officers by our **District Annual Meeting** at Ludington UMC on September 21st. Please prayerfully consider sharing your skills by becoming a district officer. Contact myself or another district officer with questions or to discuss opportunities. Training is provided. A listing of officers is on page 11.

Lastly, our Conference Officers have challenged us to start a couple of new units in the district. The new units can be a traditional unit, a Reading Program unit, or a unit made up of women from a group of churches. Do you know of some churches in the Western Waters district that do not have a UWF unit and might be interested in starting one or hearing more about United Women in Faith? Let me know and I will be happy to connect with them.



I pray that you will have a healthy year, and that God is with you and helping you through your daily life. God bless each of you.

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

DON'T MISS THESE 2024 EVENTS!

SPIRITUAL GROWTH RETREAT

Saturday, April 13, 2024, 9:30 a.m.- 1 p.m. Fremont UMC | Cost: \$15 Registration form is on page 3.



SPRING FLING GATHERING

Saturday, May 4, 2024, 9:30 a.m. United Methodist Community House, Grand Rapids | Cost: \$15 Registration form is on page 5.

MISSION u WEEKEND

July 18-20, 2024 Mt. Pleasant First UMC Children and youth attend FREE! Watch for details in the next newsletter.

DISTRICT ANNUAL BRUNCH & CELEBRATION

Saturday, September 21, 2024 Ludington UMC Watch for details.

MICHIGAN CONFERENCE ANNUAL CELEBRATION

Saturday, October 28, 2024 St. Lukes UMC, Essexville, MI Watch for details.

NOTE: THIS IS THE LAST ISSUE OF THE ANCHOR THAT WILL BE MAILED.

DUE TO RISING POSTAGE COSTS, WE HAVE MADE THE DIFFICULT DECISION TO DISTRIBUTE THE ANCHOR ONLY BY EMAIL.

PLEASE DESIGNATE SOMEONE FROM YOUR UNIT TO DISTRIBUTE

NEWS, FORMS AND EVENT REGISTRATIONS FROM OUR EMAIL COMMUNICATIONS.

Western Waters District United Women in Faith Presents...

SPIRITUAL GROWTH RETREAT

Saturday, April 13, 2024 • 9:30 a.m.- 2:30 p.m.

Fremont United Methodist Church • 351 Butterfield

"Leaning In: To God, Ourselves, and One Another"

How is it with your soul? If you are worn-out and weary, struggling to keep the faith, or need a re-igniting of your Spirit, just lean-in to this retreat. Join us for an intentional time of rest and renewal alongside moments of worship, fun and laughter. We will focus on prayer practices, do some meditation, and talk about how we can keep our hearts soft in a world that is often so hard. No matter where you find yourself in your journey of faith, you are welcome here.



MEET YOUR RETREAT LEADER: Rev. Dr. Devon Herrell, a lifelong United Methodist, has been an ordained Elder in the Michigan Conference since 2008. She has served churches in the Traverse City area, South Haven, and Big Rapids. Her favorite, and most life-changing ministry was serving as the Wesley House director at Ferris State for five years. Currently she serves as a Chaplain Supervisor for Tyson Foods, where she offers pastoral care and resources to over 1,100 team members. In addition, Devon is the chairperson for the Conference Leadership Council for the Michigan Conference. Devon and her family reside in Big Rapids.

INGATHERING - SEVERAL GREAT OPTIONS!

- Individually packed snack items (granola bars, Pop tarts, cheese and crackers, microwave popcorn) for United Campus Christian Fellowship college students (learn more, page 8).
- Sports bras, colorful toothbrushes for kids, and low-level reading glasses for the mission trip to Sapito, Peru in September (learn more, page 10).

A love offering will support our pledge to missions and the United Campus Christian Fellowship.

COST: \$15 by April 2 nd . Use one form per person. Please print.		
Name:	Church:	
Address:	Phone: ()	
	Email:	
Amount Enclosed:	Special Dietary Needs:	
Make checks payable to: <i>United Women in Faith</i> and mail with this registration form to:		

MEET OUR SOCIAL ACTION AND SPIRITUAL CARE COORDINATORS



Hello Western Waters District, my name is Jean Petersen and I am a member of the Empire United Women of Faith unit. I am also the Social Action Coordinator for this district, the same position I held in Northern Waters. I was a Navy wife for 24 years, living all over this country, then a civilian for several years in South Dakota when my husband answered a call and I became a pastor's wife. We have three children, two of whom still live in South Dakota and one lives near Minneapolis. We also have five grandchildren. Although I had a teaching degree

it is hard to take a job when you are moving every 2-3 years in the middle of the year. So, I substitute taught and worked for 20 years as a special education paraprofessional in South Dakota. When my husband retired from the ministry in 2015 my gracious siblings (in Missouri) said "Why don't you take Dad's cottage in northern Michigan" and we jumped at the offer. So here we are.

I'm not quite sure just when I became interested in social justice issues, but I do know that all the reading I have done through the UWF Reading Program has informed me, widened my perspectives, convicted me, and thoroughly educated me in a continuing process which has activated me. I hope to meet many of you at Community House, May 4th in Grand Rapids and in the meantime, keep learning about Climate Justice and the School to Prison pipeline.

Jean Peterson, Social Action Coordinator (231) 334-4091, tomjean 45@yahoo.com

Hello everyone! As I'm writing this, we are enjoying a beautiful and unusually sunny warm February day. The sun always brings me cheer and energy. It is my pleasure to be your new Spiritual Growth Coordinator. Everyone's spiritual journey is different, and I look forward to learning together.

I want to share part of my journey today. My home church is Church of the Dunes in Grand Haven. On Epiphany Sunday 2019 we started a new tradition, Star Gifts. We picked a star-shaped paper with a word on it, to ponder during the year. No strings attached, just an opportunity to explore a little out of your comfort zone.

My word was *spirituality*. Well, as a lifelong Methodist, choir member and volunteer, I thought I had that pretty well covered........ and I was wrong. Don't get me wrong, all those things are great, but they weren't enough for me. I had to find other ways, and the first opportunity came during the Lenten season that year. A friend invited me to a Lenten Bible study. I was working as a store manager at that time, and I could always come up with "reasons" to not do things: crazy work hours, family obligations etc... This time was different – I said yes, no hesitation. I'm not sure who was more surprised, my friend or me! I took that class and learned the joy of sharing the Word in a small group. I continue to take small group studies and invite others to join, not just for learning, but also for fellowship and community.



Our lives are always changing, and our spiritual life is fueled by many different factors, I would love to hear what feeds your soul and also hear any ideas you would like to explore in our journey together. Blessings.

Robyn Daane, Spiritual Growth Coordinator, (616) 510-9742, robyn.daane19@yahoo.com

Western Waters District United Women in Faith Presents...

Spring Fling 2024

Saturday, May 4, 2024 | 9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

United Methodist Community House 904 Sheldon Ave. SE | Grand Rapids, Michigan

United Methodist Community House leaders will host us for a special time of listening and learning about their rich history, active programs, and upcoming projects. Enjoy a tour of the facilities and a delicious lunch as we share ideas about how we might help UMCH and they can help us.



Since 1902, United Methodist Community House has been strengthening their community across generations through life-changing programs and services. UMCH is a United Women in Faith National Mission Organization.

INGATHERING FOR UNITED METHODIST COMMUNITY HOUSE:

Ground coffee, creamer, sugar, baby wipes, Kleenex, and disinfectant wipes.

2024 WESTERN WATERS DISTRICT SPRING FLING REGISTRATION FORM COST: \$15 by April 27th. Use one form per person. Please print. Name: _______ Church: _______ Address: _____ Phone: (_____) _____ Email: ______ Amount Enclosed: ______ Special Dietary Needs: ______ Make checks payable to: United Women in Faith and mail with this registration form to:

Jody Pratt, Registrar, 2984 5th Street, Shelbyville, MI 49344

NEWS FROM OUR DISTRICT TREASURER

Are you with me in thinking it's hard to believe we are in the middle of February with temperatures of 40-50 degrees outside? As I watch the evening news and weather reports across the nation, I am thankful that I only have to deal with unseasonably warmer weather compared to the severe weather conditions across the U.S. We are blessed.

I'm happy to report that our Midwest District UWF met and surpassed our 2023 Budget Pledge goal of \$25,000 by \$3,238. Thank you for helping women, children, and youth around the world! Our Pledge to the Conference is truly a team effort. I will keep you updated on our progress in meeting our 2024 Pledge of \$30,000.

Congratulations to the seven (7) Units who gave to all 5 Channels of Giving: Pledge, Special Mission Recognition, Gift to Mission, Gift in Memory, and World Thank Offering. They are Caledonia, Fremont, Church of the Dunes, Hart, Holland, Supportive Sisters, and Trinity. Certificates will be handed out at our District Annual Meeting in September.

As District Treasurer it is important that I know the name, address, email address, and phone number of all the local unit Treasurers in our District. I recently sent a letter to the local unit treasurers in our "new" Western Waters District. I enclosed the current remittance forms with the letter so each unit would have a master set of forms to copy as needed. The forms may also be found on the UWF website: https://www.uwfaith.org. The direct link to the Remittance form is:

https://uwfaithresources.org/prodDetail.cfm?productID=10270&catid=2196.

Please contact me if you need help finding the forms online, if you have any questions, or if you would like to meet with me for training. If you haven't heard from me, I don't have your information yet. Please call me!

Checks sent in for Pledges and other missions should be made payable to: United Women in Faith and mailed to me. The Remittance Form for All Treasurers should be sent to me with EVERY remittance.

I recently received an email that a new Special Mission Recognition pin is available. The new pins follow the same price guidelines as the traditional pin and is ordered the same way.



I look forward to working with you in the coming year.



Blessings,

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



2024 UNIT LEADERSHIP UPDATE

Help us keep our records current by returning this form by **March 20**th to District Communications Coordinator: Sara Wolfsen, 7476 Orchard Circle, Fremont, MI 49412

NOTE: as a cost savings, beginning Spring 2024, <u>newsletters will be sent by email only</u>.

Units are encouraged to provide an email address for a person responsible to print or distribute newsletters and communication.

Church Name:			
President:	E-mail:		
Vice President:	E-mail:		
Secretary:			
Treasurer:			
Other officers and/or women wishing to receive UWF newsletters:			
Name:	E-mail:		
Name:			
☐ We would like to learn more about hosting a UWF event at our church.			
☐ We would like to have a district representative visit our church to discuss UWF.			
☐ We would like to start a UWF unit. Please contact:			
□ We do not have a UWF unit at our church.			
Comments or suggestions for upcoming events/topics:			
22g or onggodient is appointing orone			

An Introduction: United Campus Christian Fellowship (UCCF)

Four Denominations, Three Campuses, One Ministry



UCCF was created four years ago when the Wesley Fellowship at Grand Valley State University combined with the Presbyterian campus ministry. More recently the Lutheran and Episcopal churches have also become part of the group. We are all stronger together and we are

the only open, affirming Christian group on the campuses of Grand Valley, Kendall College of Art and Design, and Grand Rapids Community College.

Rev. Kate Van Valkenburg, an ordained Lutheran pastor, is the Director of Campus Ministries for UCCF. She is known on all three campuses as Pastor Kate, who is available to buy students a coffee, answer their questions about faith or just talk about their day. She leads Bible studies, book talks, gives glitter blessings, shares communion and much more, but the most well attended and needed is the Open Table Meal, held every Wednesday in two locations. Food insecurity is a very real issue for many of the students. St. Mark's Episcopal Church is located next to both Kendall and GRCC and a perfect place for students to meet for a free lunch. Simple food is provided by churches and groups such as local UWFaith units. Between 40 and 50 students show up every week at that location. At Grand Valley, food cannot be brought on campus so the food must be purchased through their dining service which costs about \$200 a week.

There are so many ways to be involved in the ministry of UCCF:

- Sign up to bring food to an Open Table Meal. You can stay and interact with the students. They are delightful!
- Ask Pastor Kate to come speak at your church, UWFaith unit, mission group, etc.
- Give a monthly donation. Even \$5 or \$10 a month will buy coffee for a few students!
- Provide snacks like granola bars, Pop tarts, cheese and crackers, microwave popcorn to be given out during exam week.
- Join the Board of Directors.
- Pray for UCCF and its leadership!

If you have questions or ideas on how your unit or church can be involved, please call me.



Connie Swinger UCCF Board Chair (616) 813-4670



2024 Five Star Person

Michigan Conference United Women in Faith [The 5 Channels of Giving are represented by the 5 points of the "5-Star" Pin.]

Give this form and your donations to your LOCAL UNIT TREASURER. She will send it to the District Treasurer. You will receive a "5 Star" pin and certificate which will be presented to you at your District Annual Meeting in 2024 (usually September or October). Your Name: ______Phone: ______Phone: _____ Your Address: ______ 1. Pledge to Mission - An individual member's pledge to mission is the amount she/he decides is her/his share of the local unit's budget. (A unit Pledge to Mission is the portion of its budget which is set as a goal to send through district and conference treasurers to the National United Methodist Women for support of mission programs beyond its community. The decision about the amount to be pledged is the responsibility of the unit. The remainder of the unit's funds are used for administration and membership development expenses, and for local missions supported by the unit.) Your Pledge amount \$_____ (choose one: □ enclosed □ already given to unit) 2. Special Mission Recognition ("SMR" - minimum \$40) - A gift to mission in honor of any person in amounts of \$40, \$60, \$100, \$200, \$500, \$1000, and \$2000. For each gift an oval gold pin with a cross and a certificate with the name of the honoree and the giver are provided by the National UMW Mission Resource through the District Treasurer. Your local treasurer will fill out a Special Mission Recognition Form with the following information: Amount of Gift \$_____ (\$40 minimum) Name of Honoree: ______ Gifts may also be Send pin to: ______ made in honor of a group or without an honoree's name. 3. Gift to Mission (minimum \$5) - A gift of \$5 or more for mission may be made in honor of any individual, and a card will be provided for you to send to the honoree. Cards available are: Baby, Special Day, Thank You, Thinking of You, Happy Birthday, Christmas, Congratulations, In the Service of Christ, and Peace. You need not provide the name of the individual honored. Amount of Gift \$_____ Type of Card Requested __ 4. Gift in Memory (minimum \$5) - Gifts may be made in memory of any individual, in the amount of \$5 or more. Gift in Memory cards, available free, will be provided to send to the family of the deceased. You need not provide the name of the individual or the family. Amount of Gift \$_____ 5. World Thank Offering - Spontaneous additional gifts can be given in gratitude for God's abundance and in celebration of the joys of life. This is an opportunity to respond to God's grace one time or collect coins throughout the year. Amount of Gift \$_____ (choose one: □ enclosed □ already given to unit)

YOU ARE A FIVE STAR PERSON!

***Local Unit Treasurers – please mail the completed form and donations to:
Penny Brubaker, Western Waters UWF District Treasurer
432 N. York Road, Hart, MI 49420

DISTRICT LAY SERVANT CLASSES ANNOUNCED

Friday and Saturday, April 19-20, Cadillac UMC Friday 4:30 p.m. through Saturday 4:30 p.m.

Cost: \$30 includes registration and two meals

(Friday dinner and Saturday lunch)

Class offerings: Introduction to Lay Servant Ministries, Spiritual

Gifts or UM Heritage, Conflict Resolution, Soul Reset

Materials must be purchased on your own; a link will be provided upon registration.

To subscribe to the Western Waters District Lay Servant Ministries newsletter or register for a class by April 1, email District Co-Coordinator Sara Wolfsen at saraw1104@gmail.com.



FALL LAY SERVANT RETREAT RETURNS! Save the Date

September 27-28, 2024, Lake Michigan Camp, Pentwater Class offerings and registration details to be announced.

WESTERN WATERS DISTRICT "SUPPORTS" WOMEN IN PERU

Donations needed for an upcoming trip to Satipo, Peru

The Wisconsin and Michigan Conference Mission Teams are working with Health Care/Direct Client services, schools and nursing home visits. The team will include Michigan volunteers from Shelby, Middleville and Gladwin along with participants from WI, MO, FL, IA. The team will serve in Peru **September 1- 10, 2024**. Donations of bras (sports bras are preferred as they vary in size), colorful toothbrushes for children, and low-level reading glasses are being collected for the trip (deadline is August 1. Contact Jody Pratt for more information or to schedule a program to learn about this important global ministry.

AN OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE

April 15-17, 2024

UMCOR Early Response Training (Basic) and volunteer with After the Storm (Detroit) Cass Community UMC provides lodging and ERT training space Contact Jody Pratt for details: prattgji09@gmail.com



Jody Pratt, Middleville UMC Michigan Volunteers In Mission Coordinator (616) 292-4908 <u>prattgji09@gmail.com</u>

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 Ach between January 1 through December Check the numbers completed. • Units completing any 8 or more objectives, • Units completing 9 or more objectives, • Units completing 17 or more objectives • Units completing 25 or more objectives "LOVE" unit. Mission Giving	ives will be a "FAITH" un with 8 asterisks (*) will be s, with 10 asterisks (*) will be s, with 12 asterisks (*) will ission.	ir Annual Meeting to hit. be a "FAITH" "HOPI II be a "FAITH" "HO III be a "FAITH" "HO	he following Fall. E" unit. DPE" "JOY" unit. DPE" "JOY"	
Spiritual Growth5. Observed a Call to Prayer and S6. Participated locally in a retreat,7. Attended a District Retreat, Spir Membership	elf Denial. prayer vigil or Bible study	у.		
8. *Added one new member from 9. *Added one new member not in		he church in the curr	ent year.	
Attendance10. Invited a District or Conference11. Had a combined meeting with12. Attended Church Women Uni13. *At least one member (other the district annual meeting/celebrate distri	another United Women in ted or another ecumenical and conference or district than conference or district tion.	Faith's unit. group activity. officer) attends a con officer) attended the	ference Mission u.	

Mission Today Unit Objectives, Page 2

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 Methodist Mission 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: Co-sponsored with the local church, a Children's Sabbath. Involved with mentoring, tutoring or "big sisters" programs. Communicated with representatives advocating for children issues. 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: Read books and articles about another race or culture. 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.

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

33. Sent this completed form to your District President by deadline date: April 1, 2024.



Send to Western Water District President:

Jean Sherman 8465 W. 16th St. Fremont, MI 49412 Phone: (231) 519-2542

Email: sherdairy1@gmail.com

WESTERN WATERS DISTRICT UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH 2024 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've been looking**

for you! To learn more about a role, or 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 three times per year. Email newsletter submissions to saraw1104@gmail.com before these copy deadlines: 2/10, 5/10, 7/10.

Western Waters District United Women in Faith 7476 W. Orchard Circle Fremont, MI 49412

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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.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, April 13:

District Spiritual Growth Retreat, Fremont UMC (registration info inside)

Saturday, May 4:

Spring Fling, Grand Rapids Community House (registration info inside)

July 18-20:

o Mission u, Mt. Pleasant 1st UMC (children and youth attend free!)

Saturday, September 21:

o Western Waters District Annual Celebration, Ludington UMC

Saturday, October 26:

o Michigan Conference Annual Celebration, Essexville, MI