



# The Compass

Newsletter of the Greater Southwest District United Women in Faith

## ***A note from your Co-Presidents***

**February 2024 Edition**

Hymn #221 “In the Bleak Midwinter” speaks of the birth of Christ, but to me it also speaks of the gray, cold weather we often experience this time of year. It is also a song of hope and renewal. For me, I pause and catch my breath after the conclusion of the busy holiday season that ended only a month ago. Instead, I imagine my lawn swathed in a sea of blue from the squill that blooms early, sometimes through the snow on the ground. Next, crocus pop up from the cold ground. My Lenten Roses are blooming as well. These are a promise of longer days and warmer temperatures as we eagerly approach Spring. The cycle of life continues, as intended by our creator God, delighting us with the changing seasons. I hope as the weather continues to improve, you will be out and about attending your unit’s meetings and looking forward to events and programs planned by your District Team. A Spring event is in the works as well as plans for Mission Evening and Mission u. I look forward to the time we will be together again in person!

Blessings from your Co-President, Cheryl Proctor  
Greater Southwest District

\* \* \* \* \*

Happy New Year! I’m writing this while looking outside at the beautiful sunshine! Praise God for small blessings! As I think about the new year I would like to share a few ideas that your UWF units may want to focus on this year:

**Mission Today Unit Objectives:** This form can be used to guide your unit in making choices how you would like to support mission work. You can be an active unit without doing any of these but the list has a lot of great ideas. (I have included the 2023 form with this newsletter and it can be sent to me at 2461 Hunters Pond, Kalamazoo, MI 49048 or [mmarlowe33@att.net](mailto:mmarlowe33@att.net) by the first of March.)

**Daily Prayer Guide:** My local unit purchased a copy that we took turns sharing so everyone had a chance to use it for a month. We now have many members using it daily.

**Attending District/Conference Events:** If your members have not attended a District or Conference event recently, please consider doing so this year. A lot of planning goes into these events and they are energizing, thought-provoking and educational. Plus, the fellowship and food are always great!!

I hope these ideas are helpful and that your local units have a memorable and successful year that is truly blessed by God! As always, if you need any support please feel free to reach out to me or Cheryl Proctor.

Laura Marlowe  
Co-President, Greater Southwest District

## ***Greetings from the Secretary of Program Resources...***

Greetings! I am Jan Hedgcock, the new Secretary of Program Resources person. Let me introduce myself. I have been with the UWF since I was very young. I went to meetings with my mom, June Radabaugh. Some of you might have known her. If so, then you know that my life was always working with and for UWF. I would go with my mom to her meetings all the time and would sit in the kitchen eating cookies. I was known as the cookie girl. I would help bring the cookies and hand them out so we would have something to eat. Then we would tell stories and laugh and have fun. I was the High School Theater Director at Springport High School and Exercise Leader for Eaton Rapid Community Schools. I have held several positions in the UWF at two different churches. I am the president of my local unit in Union City. I like to read, walk, knit, work in my flower garden, and watch movies. I am married to my husband Paul and we have two kids. Our son lives in Los Angeles California and our daughter lives in Chicago. If you have any questions, please give me a call. Home-517-741-3245 or my cell 269-251-5169. My address is 303 Calhoun St. Union City, MI 49094 my email is [hsspedteach@Yahoo.com](mailto:hsspedteach@Yahoo.com)

Here are a couple of books that are very interesting in the 2024 Reading Program. *The Purpose of Power-How We Come Together When We Fall Apart* by Alicia Garza and the other book is *Lead from the Outside: How to Build Your Future and Make Real Change* by Stacey Abrams.

If anyone needs the Reading Program Plan sheet and the reporting sheet, let me know and I will send them to you. You can also get these on-line. These books can be purchased directly from the retailer of your choice, from [bookshop.org/shop/uwfaith](http://bookshop.org/shop/uwfaith) or borrowed from your local public library. For books on previous reading lists, go to [uwfaith.org/resources/reading-program](http://uwfaith.org/resources/reading-program)



***Please go to Greater Southwest District United Women in Faith Facebook page and click “Like”. This will help keep you and your Unit informed on upcoming events and other information. It is also a way to promote your Unit’s activities. I would love to have you send pictures of mission activities, celebrations, recognitions and such.***

***Cindy Thiele, Membership, Nurture & Outreach Coordinator  
cindahthiele@gmail.com***



# 2023 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:  
\* Co-sponsored with the local church, a Children's Sabbath.  
\* Involved with mentoring, tutoring or "big sisters" programs.  
\* Communicated with representatives advocating for children's 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.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 33. Sent this completed form to your **District Mission Coordinator** for Education and Interpretation by ***deadline date: March 1, 2024.***

This year our Unit qualified as a Mission Today FAITH HOPE JOY LOVE unit.

(Circle all that apply)

***Send to your District Mission Coordinator for Education and Interpretation***

Please send your completed form to:



Co-President Laura Marlowe  
2461 Hunters Pond  
Kalamazoo, MI 49048  
mmarlowe33@att.net

## WHAT

**The 2024 Advocacy Day at the Michigan State Capitol** will be held on Wednesday, March 13. Last year, 350 United Methodists and friends from across Michigan spent the day advocating with their state legislators, and this year, we hope to grow that participation. Our focus in 2024 is assuring that all persons have access to affordable mental health care and to reduce the stigma of mental health that impacts every family in Michigan.

## WHO

This event is for anyone who cares about mental health care in Michigan. In other words, everyone!

## WHEN

Wednesday, March 13, 2024

*\*All times Eastern Standard Time*

7:30 AM Registration and refreshments

8:30 AM Welcome

9:30 AM - 11:30 AM - Advocacy Activities

11:30 AM - Press Conference

12:15 PM - Lunch

1:00 PM - Worship

Official events conclude after worship. Capitol tours are optional at 2:30 PM and 3:00 PM. Sign-up is included in the registration form.

## COST

This year's Advocacy Day is being offered on a sliding scale. A fee of \$30 per person is recommended, and includes refreshments, lunch and materials. Additional funds will be used for future Advocacy Days.

## WHERE

Central United Methodist, 215 N. Capital Ave., Lansing, MI 48933

### ***Mission u... July 18-20, 2024***

Plan now to attend Mission u in Mt. Pleasant on July 18—20, 2024. I like to say that this is like “church camp” for women and children. Only we stay in hotel rooms and gather at the Mt. Pleasant 1st UMC for study, song, fellowship activities and good food. Offer “camperships” for a couple of gals from your church to attend. Kids go free! I haven’t missed a Mission u in years. It will be a life-changing experience.

Cindy Thiele

MN&O Coordinator

cindahthiele@gmail.com

# Get Together!

It's time to get excited for our United Women in Faith North Central Jurisdiction Event 2024!

We will gather at the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel, 31 West Ohio Street, in Indianapolis, May 31<sup>st</sup> - June 2<sup>nd</sup>, beginning at 8:30 am on *Friday* and ending at approximately noon on *Sunday*. There will be an optional, pre-event Soul Care Retreat on Thursday, May 30<sup>th</sup> from noon until 9:00 pm.

## GET TOGETHER!

What does it mean to answer the call to "love one another"? (John 13:34) Come GET TOGETHER! to

FEEL the joy when faith-filled women unite  
DEEPEN our relationship with God

NURTURE our souls through the strength of our sisterhood  
EXPLORE the power of love to make a difference

TOGETHER we can do more. TOGETHER we can be more.  
TOGETHER the power of love in action can change the world.

**SCRIPTURE:** The following scripture will provide the biblical foundation for our journey together: *John 13:34 (NRSV)*  
*I give you a new commandment that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.*



Keynote Speaker  
Deaconess  
Garlinda Burton

### WHAT'S HAPPENING at GET TOGETHER! 2024?

Pray: Community Gatherings, Worship

Listen: Discussion Groups, Multi-Media Presentations

Learn: Workshops, Conference Displays

Engage: Breakouts, Action Opportunities

Celebrate!: Saturday Night Fun Night!

Optional Soul Care Retreat: Focus on nurturing your mind, body and spirit while deepening your faith through spiritual practice and creating bonds of sisterhood (includes box dinner)



Music Director  
Amanda Powell

**SPREAD THE WORD!** Please go to the United Women in Faith North Central Jurisdiction Event website, <https://www.umwncj.org/> for programming updates and the latest information.

Special guest, Grace Musaka, Regional Missionary, will share a global perspective. One example of a workshop will feature Shannon Priddy and Dawn Armstrong who will challenge us in "Let's Talk Legacy". Breakouts will offer opportunities for activities with your sisters, connecting with friends - old and new. We will be electing Directors and Alternates for the National Board of United Women in Faith as well as the 2024-2028 NCJ Leadership Team.

How can we embrace and include everyone in a divided world? How can we confront injustice? How can we grow within ourselves and our faith? The answer is always the same. We can do it TOGETHER.

Come nurture your spirit TOGETHER

Come join in worship TOGETHER

Come make a difference TOGETHER

REGISTRATION will open Sept. 1, 2023

|                                  |                                  |          |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------|
| Early Online Registration closes | November 30, 2023 (Midnight EST) | \$225.00 |
| Online Registration closes       | April 30, 2024 (Midnight EDT)    | \$265.00 |
| Soul Care Retreat (optional)     | Filled until capacity            | \$75.00  |



United  
Women  
in Faith

**Greater Southwest District United Women in Faith  
Officers for 2024**

**OFFICERS**

**Co-Presidents**

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Open

**Treasurer**

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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**

- **Advocacy Day. March 13 \* Michigan State Capital**
- **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**