



United Women in Faith

THE ANCHOR

**News from the Western Waters
District United Women in Faith**



Hello Friends!

Sending you warm greetings along with the latest news from the Western Waters District of Michigan. This newsletter is full of interesting updates, important deadlines and helpful resources from United Women in Faith. Grab a glass of lemonade or iced tea and enjoy catching up on UWF happenings.

Feel free to print or forward this newsletter to anyone who may be interested.

Enjoy this issue of the ANCHOR!

Sara Wolfson, Communications Coordinator

E-mail: saraw1104@gmail.com

A Word from our President

Thank you to all who have attended the Spring Fling event and Spiritual Growth Retreat. A big thank you to the officers and speakers. Thank you to Hart and White Lake UMC churches for hosting these events.

I'm looking forward to seeing you at Georgetown UMC on September 20 for our district annual celebration. Our



annual district meeting brings many things together. We will be recognizing our members who have passed, our new members, our reading program. Jody Pratt will be speaking about her mission trips. Remember to bring those gently used and new bras for Jody to take to Peru on her next trip. We will also be electing our district officers for 2026.

What does being a district officer mean to me? I have completed somewhere around 9 years as a district officer. I have learned how the UMW/United Women in Faith organization works. I still do not know all of the ins and outs of the organization. My faith has grown and is still growing. The biggest gain in my life with United Women in Faith is my friends. As we learned at the Spiritual Growth Retreat about our different levels of friends. My UWFaith friends fits into many of those circles. I have friends that I would call if I needed them. Then I have some that I recognize, but am not sure of their names or which church they are from. I can go to a district meeting and have someone I know to visit with. The same with going to a conference event.

A year from now I hope to attend the [United Women in Faith Assembly](#) in Indianapolis, Indiana (May 15-17, 2026). The first year I attended, I was able to visit with two ladies that had been members in Fremont and had moved to other areas of the country. And three years ago I visited with a member of the UWFaith leadership team and a member of the Oklahoma Indian Conference. Please consider serving on the 2026 District Leadership Team and learning more about the church and God plus adding to your circle of friends.

Jean Sherman, Western Waters District President
[Email: sherdairy1@gmail.com](mailto:sherdairy1@gmail.com)



Mission u of Michigan

July 17-19, 2025

Mt. Pleasant First UMC

Cost: \$80 by June 15, \$90 until July 10.

YOUTH AND CHILDREN ARE FREE and must be accompanied by an adult.

So bring your kids and grandkids!

Register online now: <https://michiganconferencemissionu.square.site/>
or download a printable registration form [HERE](#).

This year's theme is *Practicing Hope Together* and we are thrilled that the adult class will be led by United Women in Faith (UWF) National Fundraising Executive Shannon Priddy. Shannon will guide us through stories of the post-resurrection New Testament community as we explore hope, particularly when hope seems hard to find. The study's purpose is to cultivate hope that is honest about our current conditions, hope that is restorative when everything feels urgent, and hope that is possible even when we transgress.

Children and youth will be studying the same theme of *Practicing Hope Together* with trained leaders in age-appropriate classes. Youth will be led by Rev. Paul Reissmann (Central First UMC, Lake Odessa) and Pastor Jess (Davenport) Joyce (Co-Pastor, Portage Chapel Hill). Children will be led by Adrienne Struck (Director of Family Ministries, Milwood UMC, Kalamazoo) and Pam Udeagwu (Children and Youth Ministry Coordinator, Metropolitan UMC, Detroit).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

LODGING is on your own. We have a block of rooms reserved until July 1st (or until sold out) 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 valid for 1-4 people in a room. There is a pool! Rooms are limited.

MISSION FOCUS INGATHERING will benefit Community Compassion Network in Mt Pleasant. Please bring infant (not toddler) formula.

SCHOLARSHIPS are available. Contact Judy Huynh at judyhuynh@gmail.com for an application.

Come enter a sacred grove of hope with us as we gather to worship, sing, study, eat, laugh and love together in Mt. Pleasant on July 17th.

Love one another,
Sara Wolfsen, Dean
Mission u of Michigan

E-mail: saraw1104@gmail.com

An Update from our Treasurer

This is the day the LORD has made.

We will rejoice and be glad in it."

- Psalm 118:24



I believe these words are a wonderful way to start every day. With God by our side, we can accomplish great things. The Spring Fling offering was \$497.85 with half going to our District's Pledge and half going to The Farmworkers Legal Services. The Spiritual Growth Retreat offering was \$303.00 with half going to White Lake UWF for their local food missions and the other half for our District's Pledge. We are blessed to have each of you join us at these events and blessed by you as you give so generously through the offerings at our UWF events.

The sale of UWF logo t-shirts was started to help raise funds toward our District Pledge of \$30,000. We are about \$80 short of covering the up-front cost of the t-shirts which are being sold for \$20.00 each. Look for them at Mission u and future UWF events.

Western Waters District United Women in Faith Scholarships are available to cover the registration fees for Western Waters District events and Mission u. Scholarship applications should be submitted as soon as possible in advance of the registration deadline. Scholarships will be given on a first come, first served basis. All Western Waters District scholarships shall be restricted to those residing in the Western Waters District. Download for the Scholarship Application [HERE](#).

Keep up the good work! If you have any questions or you would like to meet with me, please feel free to contact me.

Penny Brubaker, Treasurer

Email: pennybrubaker99@gmail.com

ADVANCED NOTICE - Assembly 2026

May 15-17, 2026 | Indianapolis, Indiana

Registration: \$365 (opens September 2nd)

There has never been a more important time for women of faith to come together, tap into our strength and unite to change the world. Assembly 2026 is a once-every-four-years gathering of women committed to faith, empowerment, and making a difference. Picture a weekend that uplifts your soul, strengthens your faith and brings you together with an unstoppable sisterhood. Visit uwfaith.org/assembly for more information. Transportation note: there will not be a bus to the

A yellow starburst graphic with a blue outline. Inside the starburst, the text "Dream it! Believe it! Do it!" is written in a bold, orange, sans-serif font.

**Dream it!
Believe it!
Do it!**

event. We will need to carpool. Please contact me with questions or if you plan to attend so we can make arrangements for transportation and for roommates. - Jean Sherman, sherdairy1@gmail.com

Reading Program Resources



Looking for a program for a Unit Meeting? Want to know more about the United Women in Faith Reading Program? I have a 30-45-minute program about the UWF Reading Program and will be happy to bring it to your Local Unit meeting. I developed the program for this year's Spring Fling but was hit by RSV and was unable to present the slide show. Contact me for more

information.

If your women are already reading, GREAT! Be sure they keep track of what books they have completed. A reporting form can be found at: <https://uwfaith.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/ReadingProgramReportingForm.pdf>

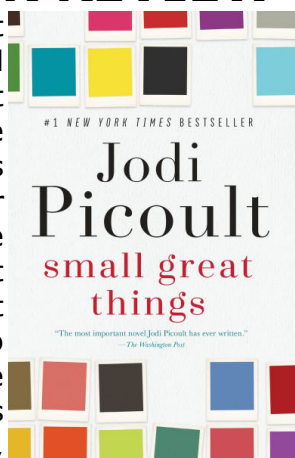
Completed forms should be sent to me by **September 10**, to be recognized at the District Annual Meeting. If they are sent later, I will provide certificates, but they will not be recognized this year.

Enjoy reading several book reviews in this issue of the ANCHOR.

Gayle Cox
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UWF READING PROGRAM BOOK REVIEW

Small Great Things by Jodi Picoult is one of the most thought provoking books I have ever read. We read and discussed it in our Books & Beyond book study group at our church. The central character is Ruth Jefferson. She is a dedicated, excellent labor and delivery nurse, who is also a single mom of an intelligent teen son. As a regular part of her responsibilities, she conducted a routine checkup on a newborn, the infant of white supremacist parents. They demand she, an African American, not touch their infant again but when the baby goes into cardiac distress, she is the only nurse available to provide the care needed. After a tragic outcome, the book tells the story of her legal battle and its affect on her, her son, and her career, told from the viewpoints of Ruth, the angry, vengeful dad, Turk, and Ruth's white attorney, Kennedy. Ruth and Kennedy had some very intense conversations and each learned a lot about their assumptions and biases. Many parts of the book also made me aware of some of the prejudice and biases that I hold when I thought I did not. I highly recommend this book as a Social Action selection from the 2021/2022 Reading



Do you want to submit a book review from the [UWF Reading Program](#) for a future issue? Send your review to saraw1104@gmail.com.



Two anniversaries have come to my attention this past week that have given me a focus for this letter. The first is the 5th year anniversary of the murder of George Floyd which we watched with horror over and over again on the news.

Then with the murder of Breyona Taylor and so many others two slogans grabbed our attention. BLACK LIVES MATTER and SAY HER NAME. The outpouring of response was enormous and there was lots of talk about actions that needed to be taken. Some actions were some weren't, but almost all have fallen by the wayside through inaction or neglect.

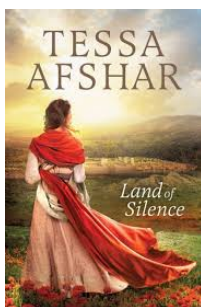
We, as United Women in Faith have worked for several years to end the School to Prison Pipeline, but when history is selectively erased, when schools are defunded, when the police are in schools that become more segregated, that pipeline grows.

As a people's history is erased it becomes easier to install polluting industries in their neighborhoods, not fund repairs to water and sewage systems, and neglect their health and well-being. But pollution doesn't just stay in one place. It fills the air we all breathe and the water we all drink, and poisons the fish we all like to eat. So stay awake, pay attention, and be involved.

The second anniversary is the 80th anniversary of VE day, when the war in Europe ended and the world had to face what many knew yet denied, that millions had been exterminated in concentrations camps in German occupied territories. In Gaza, where ALL humanitarian aid has been blockaded, children are starving, mothers and fathers, Grandmothers and Grandfathers also. So, when you remember the Holocaust, as we should, remember Gaza as well.

Jean Petersen, Empire UMC
District Social Action Officer
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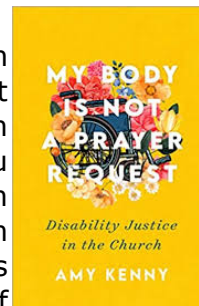
Two more book recommendations



I recommend *Land of Silence* by Tessa Afshar (Spiritual Growth 2024). It's based on a very short healing miracle. I learned about her life under Roman occupation, and her need to be physically and spiritually healed. I read this while I had RSV. It helped me understand how desperate people in Jesus's time were for physical healing.

I also recommend *My Body is Not a Prayer Request* by Amy Kenny (2025 Leadership Development). "Much of the church has forgotten that we worship a disabled God whose wounds survived resurrection", says Amy Kenny.

What I learned: Almost everyone will be physically disabled in their lifetime. This could be caused by a broken bone, joint replacement, illness or accident. How accessible is your Church building? How compassionate is your heart? What shouldn't you say to a disabled person? A whole soul can exist in a broken body. NOTE: Michigan Conference Secretary of Program Resources Julia Hulka will also facilitate a book discussion on this book during [Mission u](#) in July. - Gayle Cox, District Secretary of Program Resources



Helpful Links:

[Form: 2025 Mission u Registration Form](#) (registration closes July 10)

[Form: District Scholarship Application for Events](#)

[Form: Five-Star Person](#)

[Form: Mission Today Unit Objectives](#)

[Form: UWF Reading Program Reporting Form](#)

[Website: Michigan Conference UWF](#)

[Website: UWF Reading Program](#)

Best,

Sara Wolfsen, Communications Coordinator

Western Waters District United Women in Faith

Join us on Facebook!: [Midwest District - Michigan United Women in Faith](#)

Michigan UWF site: uwfaithmichigan.org **(NEW!)**

National UWF site: [United Women in Faith | Love in Action \(uwfaith.org\)](#)

UWF Reading Program: [United Women in Faith | Reading Program \(uwfaith.org\)](#)

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