



# The Compass

Newsletter of the Greater Southwest District United Women in Faith

## ***A note from your President...***

**August 2025 Edition**

Greetings!

This summer is just flying by. School starts in a few days and my granddaughter Ellie can't wait to begin 4th grade. I tried to do activities with her that took us outdoors on the days I spent with her. We ended up visiting the Arcadia Marsh and the Sky Walk in Hidden Lake Gardens. Both were great ways for us to experience God's wonderful creation. It was quiet and peaceful and a nice way to connect to Ellie.

It's been a hot summer, but we managed a couple of trips close to home and I'm trying to plan a couple more for this fall. I'll keep you posted. In the meantime, I hope to see you at the District Annual Meeting on September 27, 2025 at Schoolcraft UMC and the Michigan Conference Annual on October 18, 2025 at Clio Bethany UMC.

*Cheryl Proctor, President*

Greater Southwest District United Women in Faith

## ***A note from our National Director, Julia Paradine-Rice...***

It is (almost) time...to sign up for the **UWFaith Assembly** in Indianapolis, IN - **May 15-17, 2026**. Registration opens on September 2 at the [uwfaith.org/assembly](http://uwfaith.org/assembly) website. It is an amazing event of spiritual growth, worship, mission education and sisterhood that you won't want to miss!

It is time...to invite new members! We are asking each local unit to invite 2 new members to join. Look in your own congregation for women who have not yet taken to the step to join you, look at nearby UMC churches who no longer have a unit and invite them, and look around your community for friends & neighbors who may share your passion for mission and fellowship!

It is time...to make the final push to increase your pledge to mission for 2025 by 10%! That was the challenge I asked of each local unit at our Conference Annual Celebration last year. You can do it!! Empty your treasury at the end of the year. Let's finish 2025 strong in support of missions that empower and improve the lives of women, children & youth.

It is time...to call me! I would love to speak at your church for a United Women in Faith Sunday. We need to hear our story to remind us of the impact of UWFaith, to celebrate how far we have come in 156 years, and to spark our passion to inspire our ongoing mission into the next 150+ years!

Julia Paradine-Rice

National Director, United Women in Faith

989-576-0675

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

I hope all of you have had a chance to read the cool books that are on our Reading list this year.

Please send your info of the books you have read to me by September 1st so I can recognize you at the District Meeting on September 27<sup>th</sup> at Schoolcraft UMC. If you have any questions, please contact me by phone or email me.

There is still time to read and one of the coolest books to read is: *Let your Light Shine: Mobilizing for Justice with Children & Youth* by Reginald Blount and Virginia Lee; also *Raise Your Voice: Why We Stay Silent and How to Speak Up* by Kathy Khang; as well as *We are not here to be bystanders: A memoir of Love and Resistance* by Linda Sarsour.

Hope to see you all at the District Meeting. Any questions, reach out to me.

Jan Hedgcock  
303 Calhoun Street  
Union City, MI 49094  
269-251-5169  
hsspecteach@yahoo.com

## ***A note from Membership, Nurture & Outreach...***

### ***Need a speaker for your next event?***

#### **Hear About Our Mission in Haiti:**

Valerie Mossman-Celestin, Executive Director @ Haitian Assets for Peace International (HAPI). She is a deaconess in the UMC. Valerie has been the Executive Director of HAPI (Haitian Assets for Peace International) since 2007. She works from her home in Hudsonville, MI, with occasional trips to HAPI's mountaintop home in Mizak. Contact her at vmossman-celestin@michiganumc.org

#### **Learn About the Oils of the Bible**

Megan Vos will come share the healing and history of the Oils of the Bible. Ms. Voos brings handouts and samples for a fragrant and informative gathering. megnvos@gmail.com

#### **Everything You Want to Know About United Women in Faith**

Julia Paradine-Rice will come with the history and all the ins and outs of our organization. Where do we go from here? Your questions answered. jparadinerice@gmail.com.

Cindy Thiele  
District Team Membership, Nurture, & Outreach  
cindahthiele@gmail.com  
(269) 673-4514



# **Greater Southwest Michigan United Women in Faith**

## **Proposed Slate of Officers for 2026**

### **Officers**

#### President

Cheryl Proctor  
104 Tuttle Park Dr.  
Sherwood 49089  
(517) 741-3125  
seldominn@wowway.com

#### Vice President

Open

#### Secretary

Linda Luce  
104 N. Fiske Road  
Coldwater 49036  
(517) 178-8443  
lindaluce@msn.com

#### Treasurer

Mary Howard  
PO Box 114  
209 Grant St.  
Hopkins 49328  
(269) 757-3011  
maryhowa@att.net

#### Secretary of Program Resources

Jan Hedgcock  
303 Calhoun St.  
Union City 49094  
(517) 741-3245  
hsspedteach@yahoo.com

### **Mission Coordinators**

#### Committee on Nominations Chair

Linda Burton-Collier  
2574 127th Ave.  
Allegan 49010  
(269) 793-7323  
lindaburtoncollier@gmail.com

#### Spiritual Growth Coordinator

Simmie Proctor  
73486 8th Ave.  
South Haven 49090  
(269) 637-6053  
simmiepr@hotmail.com

#### Education & Interpretation Coordinator

Laura Marlowe  
2461 Hunters Pond  
Kalamazoo 49048  
(269) 929-7393  
mmarlowe33@att.net

#### Membership Nurture & Outreach Co.

Open

#### Social Action Coordinator

Nancy Snell  
4656 Weston Ave.  
Kalamazoo 49006  
(630) 926-1235  
nsnell1997@gmail.com

#### Communications Coordinator

Open

*7th Annual Greater Southwest District  
United Women in Faith Celebration*  
**Saturday, September 27, 2025**  
**9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**  
**Schoolcraft United Methodist Church**  
**342 N. Grand Street \* Schoolcraft, MI 49087**

\* \* \* \* \*

*Registration and coffee begins at 8:30 a.m.*

**“Practicing Hope”**

**Guest Speaker:**  
**District Superintendent**  
**Rev. Dean Prentiss**



Cost is \$15 per person and includes lunch  
Child care is available, please bring a sack  
lunch for your child

**Thank Offering will go to our District pledge**

**Memorials**

COMMUNION

*A time for Singing – Celebrating – Welcoming*



## Memorials for United Women in Faith

Church name \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

Women's names:

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## 2026 UWF Unit Pledge to Missions

Pledge Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Unit Name \_\_\_\_\_

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## Registration for Annual Meeting Celebration

Deadline to register is Wednesday, September 17, 2025

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Church \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Free childcare provided, please bring a sack lunch. Child(ren) must be pre-registered.

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Age(s): \_\_\_\_\_

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Register with Mary Howard:

Phone: 269-757-3011

Email: maryhowa@att.net

You may pay at the registration table upon arrival by cash or checks payable to GSW UWF.

If you have questions, please call Mary at 269-757-3011

## **Michigan Conference United Women in Faith**

**7<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebration October 17 – 18, 2025**

**Clio Bethany United Methodist Church 353 E. Vienna St Clio, Michigan 48420**

**Saturday, October 18, 2025 Registration 9:00 AM Program 9:30 AM \$20 (Includes Lunch)**



### **EMBRACING New Challenges**

Sally Vonner, current General Secretary and Chief Executive Officer of United Women in Faith, will be our Keynote Speaker. Sally oversees the implementation of the organization's vision, mission and strategic plan to positively impact the lives of women, children and youth around the world.

**Friday, October 17, 2025 Registration 3:30 PM Program 4:00 PM Dinner 6:00 PM \$10**

There is no charge to attend the program unless you join us for dinner.

**October 17, 2025 United Women in Faith Officer and Leadership Training 7:00 PM**



### **ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE: A Call to Hope & Action**

Jacob Stone and Pastor Audra Hudson Stone, co-conveners of the Environmental Justice Taskforce of the Michigan UMC, will share a comprehensive introduction to the issues. Their presentation will include information on the realities of environmental injustice, a Biblical framework for creation care and suggestions for prophetic action.

**MISSION FOCUS will benefit Clio Bethany United Methodist Church Food Pantry Please donate canned foods, nonperishable foods, personal hygiene - full sized, toilet paper, paper towel.**

Comfort Inn, 11911 Dixie Hwy, Birch Run, MI 48415 989-624-7777 or 989-624-7273

**Hotel Rooms** are available at a special rate of \$125/room, single or double occupancy \$10 charge per night for each additional person over 2 people. Complimentary Breakfast.

Cut off Date is Thursday, October 2, 2025, for Room Block at \$125 Rate **Register** Early!

Mention "United Methodist Women" or "United Women in Faith"

Register by October 11th online at:

<https://my-site-102740-102533.square.site/> or scan QR Code



# Conference Annual Registration Form

## Registration Deadline is October 11, 2025

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail required if you wish to receive annual meeting materials.  
NO hard copies will be available at the meeting.**

Please Check one: ☐ Local Officer ☐ District Officer ☐ Conference Officer

District \_\_\_\_\_ Office held \_\_\_\_\_

Home Church and City \_\_\_\_\_

Please check events attending:

☐ \$10.00 - Friday Officer Training/Leadership Development

☐ \$20.00 - Saturday Celebration

\_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL DUE (Make checks payable to: Michigan Conference UWF)

Dietary Restrictions: \_\_\_\_\_

Child care needed? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Names and ages of children: \_\_\_\_\_

Lodging is on your own. Hotel rooms are available at:  
Comfort Inn, 11911 Dixie Hwy. Birch Run, MI 48415 989-624-7777 or 989-624-7273  
Hotel Rooms are available at a special rate of \$125 per room, single or double  
occupancy. \$10 charge per night for each additional person over two people.  
Complimentary breakfast.

**Cut Off Date** is Thursday, October 2, 2025 for Room Block at \$125 rate.

***Register Early!***

**Mention “United Methodist Women” or “United Women in Faith”**

**Mail before October 11th with check payable to: Michigan Conference UWF to:  
Sally Messner, 1072 Stonehill Drive, Charlotte, MI 48813  
sallymessner@yahoo.com (269) 783-6334**

## ***A note from our Treasurer...***

I hope everyone is enjoying summer and staying cool during our extended heat wave!

We are in the 3rd quarter of our fiscal year so *please* send in your pledges as soon as you are able. As a district, we have struggled to meet our annual pledge goal and this year is no different. Since COVID, fund-raising at the local level has become more challenging with units looking for new and innovative ways to connect with the community and raise money. Adding to the difficulty is the loss of some units through disaffiliation or declining membership. ***On the positive side***, 3 units have increased their giving so far this year and I have received pledges from 2 units that were moved into GSW when districts were realigned so a BIG thank you to those units!

I encourage all of you to consider becoming a 5 Channel Giving unit. The areas for giving are Pledge to Mission, Special Mission Recognition, Gift to Mission, Gift in Memory and World Thank Offering. You can do this as a unit by increasing your giving to include the additional four areas OR any single member of your unit can also give personally to all 5 areas and be recognized as a 5 Star Person. This is considered part of your unit pledge, and the unit is then automatically a 5 Channel Unit. There is a specific form for 5 Star Person so please contact me if you would like one. Five channel units and 5 Star Persons are recognized at the district celebration.

I have a good supply of cards for Gift to Mission, In Service of Christ, birthdays, and new baby and recently got a new supply of Gift in Memory cards. To receive any card, a pledge of \$5 is needed in one of 4 channels (Special Mission Recognition is a \$40 pledge. A pin and certificate are sent rather than a card). You can also just order/purchase a supply of cards to keep. I will have them at the celebration.

PLEASE NOTE: You will be sending registrations for District Celebration to me this year.

### **Registration for District Annual Meeting Celebration**

**Deadline to register is Wednesday, September 17, 2025**

**You will be sending registration information to me this year. Please send me numbers so that we can plan for the meal. Registration fee can be paid at the door.**

Let me know if you need help in any way. Thanks.

Mary Howard  
PO Box 114  
Hopkins, MI 49328  
(269) 757-3011  
maryhowa@att.net



## ***UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH – FUNDRAISING IDEAS***

**Bag and Basket Booth:** Sell baskets, handbags, gift boxes, tote bags, shopping bags, knitting bags, coin purses, cosmetic cases, book covers, hampers – everything used to hold and carry articles. Encourage members to assemble bags with items inside to sell in a booth at local craft fairs or events during the year.

**Bake Sales:** Tried and true fundraiser that can be held anytime of the year at any local or church event.

**Balloon Popping:** Each member who is giving or turns in a pledge form gets to choose a balloon with a prize written on a slip of paper inside. Prizes can be anything or your choosing including small UWF giveaways, inspirational bookmarks, gift cards to local businesses, etc.

**Book/Media Sale:** Ask for donations of gently used items. Set up a booth at local events or in your church with items for sale. Donate leftovers to local libraries or shelters.

**Chili Cook-off:** Ask members to cook a favorite chili recipe and have a cook off. Charge for tasting and voting with the chili raising the most money designated as the winner. Or ask a panel of “experts” to choose the winner after all the tasting is done.

**Cutest Pet Contest:** Everyone loves their pets! Place pictures of pets by jars and encourage donations to vote for the cutest. Whichever draws the most donations wins. This could be a church-wide contest that spans a month. Also, reverse donations by subtracting paper money donations from the total of change in a jar.

**Decorating Contest:** During a holiday season (can be any holiday) invite church families to “buy a table” to decorate in your church community space. During the month church members vote for their favorite table by putting donations in jars.

**Sell something:** There are many opportunities now on social media to hold a sale for your unit. Everything from Tupperware, Pampered Chef, Pizza or any other product can be set up as a sale party for your church and friends. A percentage of the sales would go toward your unit as the “host” of the party.

**M&M/Jellybean Jar:** The classic guessing game fundraiser. Buy a guess for \$1. The person who guesses closest wins the jar. Again, this can be a church wide game that continues for a month. No limit on the number of guesses.

**Monday Night Football:** Ask a church or UWF member to host a tailgate at his/her home during football season. Charge \$10 to attend and serve hotdogs, wings, chips, etc. This is also just a fun way to gather together as a church family.

**Penny Wars:** Place a secure bucket in a prominent area in the church or community space where people can drop loose change. Decorate the container for a specific mission or with information about missions supported by UWF. Smaller churches can limit it to one container, larger churches can have families or groups (men vs. women, kids vs. adults) compete for raising the most money.

**Quilt Auction:** Do you have a quilter in your unit? Auction a donated quilt or decorated dish towels. This is another event that could be set up at a community event or as a silent auction.

**Silent Auction:** Expand the quilt auction to include other white elephant items, the gift baskets from the first suggestion on this list, gift cards from local businesses, food items, etc.

**Sucker Pull:** Quick and easy fundraiser for the church or community event such as the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Mark some suckers for prizes (ask for donations) and sell chances to pull a sucker.

**Talent Show:** Host a church or community talent show and charge for admittance.

*Continued on page 10...*

## ***Fundraising Ideas continued....***

### **Other Ideas:**

Board Game Tournament  
Car Wash  
Craft Bazaar  
Dunk Tank  
Fun Run  
Ice Cream Social  
Lunch and a Movie  
Lunch Box Auction  
Pie Throwing Contest  
Root Beer Float Sale  
Walk a Thon

***Many of these ideas can be adapted for large or small churches and units. Use your imagination and find things that work for you. Pick several and change your fundraiser each month or quarter. Contact other units and ask what works for them. The traditional bazaar and pasty sales are becoming more difficult, especially for smaller units or older members so look for ways to make it easier for all to participate. Most importantly:***

***HAVE FUN TOGETHER!***

## ***A note from Social Action...***

### **Do you know what to do if ICE knocks on your door?**

If Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents come to your church, it's crucial to know your rights and how to respond while prioritizing safety and respecting the law. Churches should have a pre-established plan to address potential ICE encounters, including training staff and volunteers. Key actions include verifying warrants, remaining silent, and contacting legal counsel if needed.

1. Know Your Rights
2. During an Encounter:
  - **Stay Calm:** Avoid running, arguing, or resisting the agents.
  - **Verify Warrant:** Ask to see a judicial warrant and review it carefully.
  - **Contact Legal Counsel:**

If Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents knock on your door, do not open it unless they have a valid judicial warrant signed by a judge. You have the right to remain silent and not answer their questions, even if you speak to them through the door or window. If they claim to have a warrant, ask them to slide it under the door or hold it up to a window so you can verify its validity.

### **Social Action at Your Fingertips.**

5 Calls is an app where you can contact your representatives on issues of the day right from your cell phone. It is right there in the app store—5 Calls. It looks like a blue circle with 5 stars in a circle. After giving your state and zip code, the app will help you contact your representatives and even help you compose what to say as an email or phone call. You can do this. Make calls every week. BE BOLD.



Above photo: Members of the Greater Southwest District United Women in Faith who attended this year's Mission u on July 17-19, 2025 at Mt. Pleasant First UMC. Back row: Bishop Bard, Jan Hedgcock, Laura Marlowe, Mary Howard, Julia Paradine-Rice and Cindy Thiele. Front row: Cheryl Proctor, Linda Burton-Collier, Judy Huynh, Alice Reissmann and Joyce Babbitt.

Photo below: All attendees at this year's Mission u held on July 17-19, 2025 at Mt. Pleasant First UMC.



Greater Southwest District United Women in Faith  
3813 Rockwood Drive  
Kalamazoo, MI 49004

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Kalamazoo, MI  
Permit No. 384



## **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 2025 DATES**

- **Greater Southwest District UWF Annual Meeting  
September 27, 2025 \* Schoolcraft UMC, Schoolcraft**
- **Conference Leadership Training for District Officers  
October 17, 2025 \* Clio Bethany UMC in Clio**
  - **Conference UWF Annual Celebration  
October 18, 2025 \* Clio Bethany UMC in Clio**