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# United Women in Faith

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## THE ANCHOR

News from the Western Waters  
District United Women in Faith

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### 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. (Scroll down for a handy checklist of dates, deadlines and events so you don't miss anything!) Grab your calendar and enjoy catching up on UWF happenings.

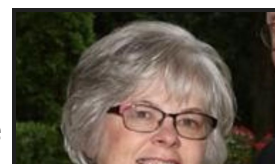
Feel free to print or forward this newsletter to anyone who may be interested.

Enjoy this issue of the ANCHOR!  
Sara Wolfson, Communications Coordinator  
[E-mail: saraw1104@gmail.com](mailto:saraw1104@gmail.com)

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### A Word from our President

This will be one of my last newsletter articles for *The Anchor*. At the district annual brunch on September 20 we



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Faith district president. You all are a great bunch of ladies to work with.



Speaking of our election at annual meeting, we are still looking to fill a few officer positions. We have three openings for district leaders (tap the link to read the description): [Spiritual Growth Coordinator](#), [Membership, Nurture and Outreach Coordinator](#), [Education and Interpretation Coordinator](#) and [Communications/Newsletter Coordinator](#). If any of these positions sound interesting please contact a [current officer](#). We would love to have you join our team. There are benefits to becoming a district officer. You get to meet some great women and your travel and meeting expenses are provided. Also, we assist district officers in attending Mission U, UWFaith Annual Conference and Assembly every four years.

I want to encourage you all to attend the UWFaith Conference Annual Meeting October 17-18. Keynote speaker will be Sally Vonner, General Secretary and CEO of United Women in Faith. There are scholarships available.

Put Mission u on your calendar for next July. Bring your children and grandchildren. It is a great event for all. I have been bringing my granddaughter for three years now. She loves to attend. Allison is hoping to get her cousin to attend with her next year. I want to thank Sandy from Empire UMC for becoming Allison's back seat friend.

Blessings to you all. Hope to see you at Annual Meeting at Georgetown UMC on September 20. Bring the bras and low-level reading glasses (inexpensive drugstore readers) for Jody to take to Peru.

Jean Sherman, Western Waters District President

[Email](mailto:sherdairy1@gmail.com): sherdairy1@gmail.com

WESTERN WATERS DISTRICT UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

# ANNUAL BRUNCH & CELEBRATION

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2025

GEORGETOWN UMC, JENISON



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10 a.m.–1 p.m. (doors open at 9:30 a.m.)  
Georgetown United Methodist Church  
2766 Baldwin St., Jenison, Michigan  
COST: \$20 by September 13  
Download a printable registration form [HERE](#)

***2025 Theme: Supporting Women Around the World***

Speaker Jody Pratt has devoted years to supporting women in faith and is an active member of Middleville UMC. Pratt serves as the Michigan Conference Volunteer in Mission (VIM) Coordinator and trainer for VIM and Early Response Volunteers (UMCOR) across the North Central Jurisdiction. She has worked with domestic missions from Benton Harbor to God’s Country Cooperative Parish in Newberry, Michigan. Internationally, she has led missionary teams that have traveled to Russia, Puerto Rico and Peru.

Intergenerational teams began working in the Amazon River basin providing health care to women and children. One of the requests that came out of working with the DB Peru Foundation was for bras. Volunteers from across the US have donated bras for distribution in the clinics and health events over the years. The 2025/2026 mission team will be working in the Lima/Callao area to help address the needs of urban poverty in the region and is supported by youth and the Women's Federation of Callao.

Jody will explain how her life has been changed through her participation in international mission trips. She has witnessed poverty and homes and lives that were altered forever through disaster. She has also created friendships that last forever. Mission volunteers are the hands and feet of God.

**MISSION FOCUS (INGATHERING):** Please help stock the Community Cupboard shelves at Georgetown UMC with these greatest needs: **toilet paper, tissues, paper towels, shampoo/conditioner and soap.**

**ALSO NEEDED** for Peru mission trip: **bras** (any size), **reading glasses, toothbrushes.**

COST: \$20 by September 13, 2025  
Download a printable registration form [HERE](#)  
Download the scholarship application form [HERE](#)

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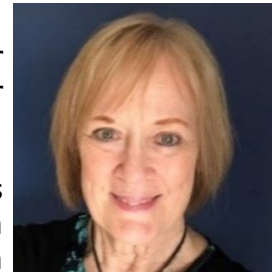
- [2026 Unit Pledge Form](#)
- [2026 Proposed UWF District Budget](#)
- [2026 Proposed District Leadership Team](#)

To honor new members and memorials, send names to [saraw1104@gmail.com](mailto:saraw1104@gmail.com) by August 31st.

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## An Update from our Treasurer

Hello friends. Our District Annual Meeting on September 20, 2025, will be here before we know it. In preparation for that, please review these documents:



1. Download a [2026 Pledge to Mission](#) form. Each Unit is asked to complete the Pledge form and bring it with you to the District Annual Meeting; you'll be given the opportunity to bring it forward during the Pledge Service.
2. Use this [Scholarship Application](#) form to cover the registration fee of \$20 for the District Annual Meeting if needed. Recipients must reside in the Western Waters District and should apply as soon as possible.
3. Download the [5-Star Person form](#). Similar to your Unit sending money in all 5 Channels of Giving (Pledge, Special Mission Recognition, Gift to Mission, Gift in Memory, and World Thank offering) any person who gives a minimum gift of \$60 for all 5 Channels of Giving could become a 5-Star Person. Complete the 5-Star Person form, give it to your Unit treasurer along with your offering. The local Unit treasurer deposits your check, then sends a Unit check to me along with your 5-Star Person Form. You will receive a 5-Star pin at the District Annual Meeting.
4. Review the [2026 Proposed Budget](#). The budget will be voted on at the District Annual Meeting.

Earlier this year your District officers approved the purchase of 100 tee shirts with the UWF logo on them to sell as a fundraising project with profits dedicated to our 2025 District Pledge. In July enough tee shirts were sold to cover the upfront costs. At the end of July I sent in an additional \$676.80 as a result of tee shirt sales. Many of you have already purchased a tee shirt. We have 16 shirts left, small and medium sizes. They will be available for sale for \$20 each at the District Annual meeting. Thank you all for your support.

Treasurer Forms are available online at [uwfaith.org](http://uwfaith.org). The links for each form are:

**Remittance form for All Treasurers:**

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

**Remittance Form for Treasurers:**

[https://uwfaithresources.org/images/productImages/12613\\_Remittance-2025-2028\\_600.jpg](https://uwfaithresources.org/images/productImages/12613_Remittance-2025-2028_600.jpg)

**Special Mission Recognition:**

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Keep up the good work! Our 2025 Pledge goal is \$30,000. At the end of July we were at 49% of our goal. Please continue sending your 2025 Pledges to me. I have faith that we will meet and surpass our 2025 goal.

All 2025 Remittances are due to me by **December 5, 2025**. I'm required to have our District funds to the Conference Treasurer by December 10th. Any payments received after that date will be held until January 2026.

God bless you as you continue to spread God's love around the world with your gifts.

Penny Brubaker, Treasurer

[Email](mailto:pennybrubaker99@gmail.com): pennybrubaker99@gmail.com

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## Making Our Voices Heard

I recently attended the Mission u meeting of United Women in Faith. It was most inspiring and inspirational. The theme of the sessions was Hope and we discussed what that means in our world today. We were encouraged to plant seeds of hope wherever we can. One point was made that we need to let our legislators know what we think as Christians regarding the various issues, both state and national. We were reminded that it is important to be in touch with all to let them know our positions. Sometime we feel like expressing our point of view is futile as partisanship seems to rule. We were told that it is also important to let those who do vote as we would like, know that we appreciate their stands.

The phone numbers and addresses for all our legislators are in the opening pages of our phone books and can be found on Google. Another source is [5 Calls, an app for your phone](#). This not only gives the contact information but tells what issues are currently under consideration. Whether you choose to call or write, it is VERY important to let these people know that you are paying attention and care about their votes and how this affects you and those who will be helped or harmed depending on the decisions made.

<a href="#">Make</a>	Ann Scott
<a href="#">Your</a>	District UWF Secretary
<a href="#">Voice</a>	Cedar Springs UMC
<a href="#">Heard</a>	<a href="mailto:momice4014@gmail.com">Email</a> : momice4014@gmail.com

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## Reading Program Resources



Important Date! The Report of Completion Requirements

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awarded at the District Annual Meeting on September 20. Please send the forms to Gayle Cox, 18003 Cherokee Drive, Spring Lake, MI 49456. Books from 2020-2025, not reported in the past, are eligible for inclusion on the form. For a complete list of eligible books [tap this link](#).

Want to know more about the Reading Program? I have a 45-minute program that I would be happy to bring to your Unit Meeting. Contact me at [rgcox3@gmail.com](mailto:rgcox3@gmail.com) for more information. I shared this presentation with a circle group a few weeks ago. They also brought in many of the books from the UWF Library. Some of the women were surprised that they had already read some of the books. Almost everyone went home with a book to read.

Gayle Cox  
Program Resources Coordinator  
1803 Cherokee Drive  
Spring Lake, MI 49456  
[Email: rgcox3@gmail.com](mailto:rgcox3@gmail.com)

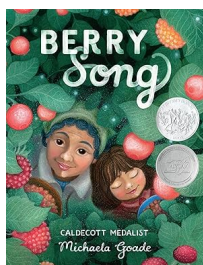
## Two book recommendations



### **Girl Gone Missing**

by Marcie R. Rendon

This is the second of the Cash Blackbear Mystery series. Cash was taken from the Ojibwe White Earth Reservation as a child and forced into foster care. She was befriended by the local Sheriff and sometimes helps with investigations. If you like mysteries, you'll enjoy this book from the 2022 Reading List under Social Action.



### **Berry Song** (Caldecott Honor Book)

Picture Book by Michaela Goade

Beautifully illustrated, this picture book is about a girl and her grandmother who gather gifts from the earth. Salmon from the stream, herring eggs from the ocean, and in the forest, a world of berries. Share it with your children, grandchildren and children from your Church. This book is from the 2025 Reading List under Nurturing for Community.

- Gayle Cox, District Secretary of Program Resources

## DON'T MISS THESE EVENTS!

- **Saturday, September 20:** District Annual Celebration, Georgetown UMC [[Registration Form](#)]





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- **January 2026:** Virtual Mission u on Zoom (dates to be announced)
- **May 15-17, 2026:** Assembly 2026, Indianapolis, Indiana
- **March 21, 2026:** Spring Fling at Grand Rapids Community House (tentative)
- **July 16-18, 2026:** Mission u of Michigan, Mt. Pleasant (tentative)
- **November 7, 2026:** Spiritual Growth Retreat, Pentwater Centenary UMC



## CHECKLIST OF FALL DATES

This newsletter is packed full of dates, deadlines and events.  
Use this handy checklist so you don't miss anything!

- **August 31:** Deadline to send names of new members and memorials to saraw1104@gmail.com
- **September 2:** Registration opens for [Assembly 2026](#)
- **September 7:** Deadline to apply for a scholarship to cover the registration fee for District Annual Brunch & Celebration
- **September 10:** Reading Program Logs due to Gayle Cox
- **September 13:** Registration deadline for the District Annual Brunch & Celebration, Georgetown UMC [[Registration Form](#)]
- **EVENT: Saturday, September 20:** District Annual Brunch & Celebration, Georgetown UMC (bring your 2026 unit pledge card!)
- **October 2:** deadline to reserve a hotel room for Conference Annual meeting in Clio on October 18 [see [Registration Form](#) for details]
- **October 11:** deadline to register for Conference Annual meeting in Clio [[Registration Form](#)]
- **EVENT: Saturday, October 18:** Michigan Conference Annual Celebration, Bethany UMC, Clio, MI
- **December 1:** 2026 Local Unit Pledge Cards due to Treasurer Penny Brubaker
- **December 5:** 2025 local unit remittances due to Treasurer Penny Brubaker

## 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



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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](http://uwfaith.org/assembly) for more information. Transportation note: there will not be a bus to the 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

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## Helpful Links:

[Form: District Annual Brunch & Celebration Registration Form September 20, Georgetown UMC](#) (registration closes September 13)

[Form: District Scholarship Application for Events](#) (deadline is September 6)

[Form: Michigan Conference Annual Celebration Registration Form October 18, Clio, MI](#)

[Form: Five-Star Person](#)

[Form: Mission Today Unit Objectives](#)

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

[Website: Michigan Conference UWF](#) (NEW!)

[Website: UWF Reading Program](#)

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**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](http://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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