



United
Women
in Faith

**Western Mountains District
UMW leadership team**

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Janet Ulrich

Vice President:

Secretary:

Treasurer:

Claudia Davis

Newsletter Editor:

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Spiritual Growth

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Mission Ed & Action:

Lynda Anderson

Nominations:

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GLOWING EMBERS

**August 2023 Newsletter
Western Mountains District - Mountain Sky Conference**

JANET'S JINGLES

Trimming Back:

Wait! The calendar says it is August already! Where has the summer gone?! With little rainfall the last six weeks, some of my plants are turning brown. I have been pulling up bachelor buttons for weeks now! I'm cutting off the brown stems from other plants.

My tomato plants have been demanding at least a half gallon of water each day. As they are about to produce dozens of little tomatoes, I don't want to stop watering them now! But I did learn not to plant three plants in one pot, as they seem to be climbing out of the wire rack used to hold them up!

I remember a parable about a fig tree that was not producing. The gardener said he would trim and take care of it and if it didn't produce fruit next season, he would cut it down.

At times in our lives, we all need to access our accumulated stuff and trim back so that we have room for things we really need and use! For some of us, our church or United Women in Faith (UWF), rummage sales are great times for us to trim back! Just like me trimming back my old plants so there is room for new plants next spring!

I know some of your units have been trimming back your budgets. But this is a good time to step out in faith and continue to contribute to the pledge to mission. Our conference has been great about contributing to pledge to mission, even during the COVID pandemic. Since some of our meetings and events have been held by Zoom, or have been hybrid meetings with Zoom options, we have saved on travel costs. For example, Mission u has been held by Zoom, so some of us have contributed to pledge to mission at least part of what our travel and registration cost would have been.

So, go through your "stuff" and trim it back and contribute to that rummage sale! You will be glad you did!

Janet Ulrich, President

Spiritual Growth and Membership Report

All Shall be Well

This summer I participated in the virtual Mission study, “Living the Kingdom.” This lovely study didn’t disappoint, because not only do I always learn new things, new doors and vistas are always opened. During this study I was introduced to the English mystic Julian of Norwich, 1343 to 1413, the first female to write in English. Being alive during the plague, like us, she lived through difficult pandemic times.

This summer, Covid 19 has increased in numbers, and again we may find ourselves curtailing activities, avoiding larger groups, and praying we and our loved ones will be passed over. Like my own unit, your own may have suffered during these last couple of years from decreased attendance, decreased numbers, decreased enthusiasm.

I have been heartened by Julian who pointed to the goodness of God, to the unending light of God surrounding us in the times of darkness. May we believe in and bask in that light also, and may we believe in and be comforted by one of her most famous quotes, “All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well.”

And may we have faith to attend our District Fall Gathering in Helena where I will look forward to sharing with you Julian’s Body Prayer: Await, Allow, Accept, Attend. Nothing nurtures our membership more than an inspirational gathering of our UWF sisters. I truly hope and pray that I will see YOU and a carload of members from your unit in Helena!

If I can be of assistance to you in any way, I would very much like to hear from you. God bless....

Tish Herries tishsafron@gmail.com
Spiritual Growth and Membership Coordinator.

So Long, Sandy

At the end of July, District Treasurer Sandy Balliet moved back to Maryland to be close to family following the unexpected death of her father. Eight years ago, Sandy attended her very first Western Mountains district meeting, and volunteered to sign on as our treasurer. She has gracefully, capably held that position ever since.

During her last Sunday attending Missoula First UMC, the local unit presented Sandy with a Mission Recognition pin, giving thanks for all her service to UMW/UWF. She was also recognized for being the co-coordinator every Saturday morning at church to make sandwiches for the Poverello homeless shelter. In addition, Family Promise gifted her for volunteering in the evenings at the YWCA Meadowlark family shelter desk. Sandy made a huge difference in her community, selfless giving of her time and talent. The world could use a million more humans like Sandy Balliet. So long, it’s been good to know you. Baltimore is lucky to have you back.



Education and Action

Hope for a Better Future Montana Kids win Held v. State of Montana

Sixteen Montana Youth Plaintiffs had brought suit against the State of Montana in 2020 claiming that the state had violated their constitutional right to a clean and healthful environment through laws and energy policy promoting fossil fuels. The ruling by Judge Kathy Seeley on this case came down on Monday August 14, 2023 in this historic, first ever of its kind climate change case.

Judge Seeley's ruling wholly in favor of the 16 plaintiffs ages five to 22 declared Montana's fossil fuel-promoting laws to be unconstitutional and in violation of provisions in the state constitution that guarantee a clean healthful environment for every citizen of the state. In the 103-page ruling the Judge finds that green house gasses emitted into the atmosphere do in fact impact the environment exacerbating the injuries and harm to the plaintiffs. The youth claimed their lives and liberties were at stake, including their constitutional rights to a clean and healthful environment, to equal protection of the law, to individual dignity, and to safety, health and happiness and the responsibility of their state government to cease its actions that exacerbate the climate crisis, degrade Montana's environment and natural resources and harm the youth.

The Youth Plaintiffs were excited and thrilled by the ruling.

"The ruling is truly historic. We were heard! Frankly the elation and joy in my heart is overwhelming in the best way. We set the precedent not only for the United States but for the world!" ~ Kain, youth plaintiff

"Together we have done this amazing thing and it's just so wonderful!" ~Eva, youth plaintiff

The state has 60 days to appeal the decision to the state Supreme Court.

The decision sets an important precedent for other constitutional climate cases being brought by youth and most importantly gives these youth plaintiffs hope for a better future.

Lynda Anderson, Education and Action Coordinator

lyndalucy50@gmail.com

Western District — Communications & News



BOOK EXCHANGE

Do you have books you no longer need, but would love to share them with others? Bring them to Helena to the Fall Gathering Sept. 30. We will have a book exchange table at our district meeting. Bring a book or books and take home a new-to-you book or books

Western District Nominations Report

Members will be voting on new and returning officers for the Western District Women in Faith Leadership Team at the Annual Gathering on Sept. 30 in Helena, MT. The positions are: President, Vice President, Treasurer, (one year term), Secretary, Spiritual Growth and Membership, Communications, Education and Action, Program Resources and nominating committee members.

If you would like to nominate yourself or someone else, you may do so during the voting process at the Annual Gathering.

Mtn Sky Conference — Communications & News

REQUEST FOR MEMORIAL NAMES:

During our Annual Gathering this October, we will hold a memorial service to remember members who have passed away since our last gathering in 2022. Please submit the names of these ladies to Cathy Speich-Ferguson at cathysf@bresnan.net.



STAND UP FOR



**RACIAL
JUSTICE**

United Women in Faith
Western Mountains District

Fall Gathering
September 30, 2023

8 am—3 pm

8-9 am Breakfast & Registration

Cost is \$20 in person

Covenant United Methodist Church
2330 East Broadway St, Helena, MT



Join the sisters of United Women in Faith and friends as we gather to celebrate 2023 and all our Mission work. We will share breakfast and lunch, have guest speakers, and install next year’s officers. See old friends and make new friends. All women, of any faith, who love mission work are invited to join us.

Our Mission project for this meeting is joining with St. Paul’s UWFaith in providing Feminine Hygiene products to Helena’s homeless shelter. Please bring tampons-size small or large, sanitary pads, packets of hand wipes, small hand cream or lip balm, or small bottles of hand sanitizers. Thank you for this much needed mission.

Register Online at <https://form.jotform.com/232119253903148> by September 25 for in-person or September 28 for Zoom.

Or mail this form to Claudia Davis, District Treasurer, 725 Middlemas Rd., Helena, MT 59602 or email form to:

stpaulshelenaumw@gmail.com

Name

Address City State Zip

Church or Unit

Phone

Email

- In Person - will pay \$20 when I arrive
- Online - Zoom link will be sent 2 days prior to meeting

Breakfast and Lunch will be served on Saturday by St. Paul’s UWFaith Unit.

Please list any dietary restrictions. We will try to accommodate all. _____

“Stir the Pot of Love for Justice”

Stirring the Pot in Billings and via Zoom, Oct. 13-14,



Mark your calendars for the Mountain Sky Conference’s Annual Gathering in Billings, MT. Unable to travel to Billings? We will have Zoom capability for the meeting, so you can participate from home or church with us.

Our planning committee has developed a wonderful meeting that will include a panel discussion about Missing and Murdered Indigenous People (MMIP), documentaries about MMIP, the choice of two book discussions from our UWFaith Reading Program, and a bedtime story from our wonderful Conference president. In addition, we will conduct our annual business meeting and our memorial service for UWFaith members who passed during this past year,

Ubuntu Day of Service Projects at the Annual Gathering. We will be offering three Ubuntu service projects on the afternoon of Friday, Oct. 13. These include volunteering at the local food bank in Billings, helping at the Free Store--sponsored by five Billings Methodist Churches and operated by Evangelical UMC--and making menstrual hygiene kits for distribution to women and girls in the Billings area.

Registration form on next page! Coming to our gathering in Billings, please consider wearing red. Why: To bring attention to Missing and Murdered Indigenous women, girls, and their relatives. Show our support! Stand up for Justice. Lift your voices and say No More!

Supplies Needed

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Quart Ziplock bags | sanitary napkins |
| tampons | washcloths |
| Comb | lip balm |
| Toothbrush | small toothpaste |
| Nail file | dental floss |
| Wet wipes | |
| hotel size shampoo, conditioner, and lotion | |



And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works.”

Hebrews 10:24

“Stir the Pot of Love for Justice”

Mountain Sky Conference United Women in Faith
Annual Gathering
Billings, MT
Oct. 13-14, 2023
REGISTRATION DUE OCTOBER 2, 2023



NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
PHONE: _____
EMAIL: _____

I am, if applicable:

_____ Conference Officer _____ District Officer
_____ Past Conference Officer _____ Past District President
_____ National Officer _____ Hostess Unit Volunteer

Participants:

Virtual Registration _____ \$25
In-Person Registration _____ \$68
(Includes 3 meals—2 lunches, 1 dinner)
In-Person Registration, Sat. only _____ \$33
(Includes Sat. lunch)
TOTAL \$ _____

Please consider wearing red.

Why: To bring attention to Missing and Murdered Indigenous women, girls, and their relatives.

Show your support!
Stand up for Justice.
Say No More!

I will be attending UBUNTU activity, and Leadership Workshops (UWFaith 101 and Developing Sisterhood) on Friday afternoon. ___YES ___NO

Ubuntu activities include:

_____making period kits _____helping at the food bank _____helping at the Free Store

*Email will be sent to you for your preferred choice of activity.

Any special needs, including food allergies? _____

Your attendance Zoom link will be emailed to you the week of Oct. 9; be sure to watch your email. Questions? Call 303-439-2129, or email mscumwregistrar@gmail.com

Please mail form and checks payable to United Women in Faith to:
Lora Fulton, Registrar
1710 Dogwood Ct.
Broomfield, CO 80020



United
Women
in Faith

The Women's Retreat at Fairmont is back!
Save the date: April 5-7, 2024, Fairmont Hot Springs

Soul Care

A Women's Retreat for Mind, Body and Spirit



Keynote Speaker

Montana West District Superintendent Lynn Miller Jackson

This women's retreat will focus on **Soul Care by helping you connected with your higher power and your inner strength with the goal of being the best possible version of yourself.**

Workshops, swimming, creativity, learning and MORE!

Save the date. More information will follow

SAVE THE DATE

- ♦ **September 30: Western District UMW's Fall gathering—Stand Up for Racial Justice** 8am to 3pm, at Covenant United Methodist Church, 2330 E Broadway St., Helena, MT In-person gathering. Bring books to exchange. Bring supplies for Ubuntu project: Feminine hygiene kits for homeless shelter.
- **Oct. 13– 13 Mtn. Sky UMW Annual Gathering—Stir the Pot of Love for Justice.** Billings First UM Church, Billings, MT. Hotel: Best Western Clocktower Inn. Registration due Oct. 2, In-person or zoom. 3 meals included. 3 Ubuntu projects. \$68 in-person or \$25 virtual. Panel discussion on Murdered and Missing Indigenous People (MMIP). Annual memorial service. Bring supplies for feminine hygiene kits for homeless shelter. Wear red to show support for MMIP.
- **February 4, 11, 18 and 25, 2024 Mission u—Finding Peace in an Anxious World II,** The Rev. Su DeBree will return, building on "Finding Peace in an Anxious World," first presented in winter 2020. Exploring how to build and sustain peace, the study will present new material and will offer an updated interpretation for our current time. Registration is scheduled to open mid-November. Be watching for more information on the study.
- **April 5-7, 2024: Soul Care: A Women's Retreat for Mind, Body and Spirit,** Fairmont Hot Springs, MT. Keynote Speaker: Montana West District Superintendent Lynn Miller Jackson. Workshop, swimming, creativity, learning and MORE! Watch for further details to come.
- **May 8-11, 2024 Western Jurisdiction Quadrennial Meeting,** Anchorage, Alaska, Captain Cook Hotel. Watch for more information coming! <https://www.wjumw.com/>

News from National

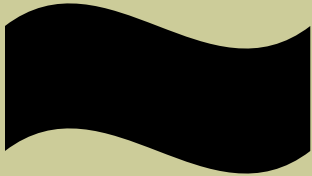
LEGACY FUND UPDATE

- **Day of Giving 2023 raised \$342,160 for the Legacy Fund, exceeding the goal of \$300,000!** Thank you to all who participated. Over 13,500 watched the event live on Facebook.
- **United Women in Faith has now reached over 100 members of the 1869 Society,** Individuals who have made a will bequest, gift of stock, or other type of planned gift to the Legacy Endowment Fund.
- **UW Faith's new CEO/General Secretary Sally Vonner** brings new energy and vision to the Legacy Campaign, stay tuned for how you can help us reach the goal of \$60 Million

HOLY HILARITY

GLOWING EMBERS

Western Mountains
District
Mountain Sky
Conference 2023
Summer Newsletter



Do you have news articles, events or photos you would like to submit for the newsletter? If so, you may email your information to:
cathysf@bresnan.net



S.M.I.L.E

Holy Hilarity reprinted with permission from the *Joyful Noiseletter*



CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp



Our days are happier when we give people a bit of our heart instead of a piece of our mind!



What has four wheels and flies?

A garbage truck!

What did the tomato say to the other tomato during a race?

Ketchup.

Why shouldn't you write with a broken pen?

Because it's pointless.

Why can't you trust the king of the jungle?

Because he's always lion.

What did one wall say to the other? "

I'll meet you at the corner."

UNITED WOMEN OF FAITH

The organized unit of United Women of Faith shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and 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.