



United
Women
in Faith

The Connection

Mile High Metro District Newsletter

October November December 2023



President's Message by Marcia Canter, Mile High Metro District
President bomaanka@yahoo.com Mobile 303-477-6278

There is a tree in a nearby park that I walk by several times a week with my dog. It's a magnificent cottonwood surrounded by several smaller trees. My favorite time to walk is in the early morning in the fall and going by that tree makes me feel very reassured with the state of world, despite what I hear or read.



Yet the tree goes through changes of seasons, similarly to what I feel like I am going through. The exciting news is that I will become a grandmother for the first time in February. I'm overjoyed and yet not sure how it will be to be a long-distance-grandma. More visits to California appear to be in my future.

And while we welcome a new addition to our family, we are moving into a new stage with my mother-in-law as she is now in hospice and we are anticipating a move to our house as she nears the end of her life. Again, I am not sure how this will go or how I will handle added responsibilities and life transitions.

Yet I'm not alone. With the blessed gift of friends, professionals, and family, we go through this journey together. I am not naïve enough to expect that it will be easy journey with bouts of my impatience, sadness and frustration. I am guessing I will be balancing guilt and irritation with how I am handling things and the gratitude that I have for having my mother-in-law for 46 plus years in my life.

I know that God has given me this chance to learn more about myself as well as others. I know God is there to give me strength through the hard times as well as forgiveness for myself when I'm not doing as well as I think I should. And I know God, (and some of my friends) will tell me when to take a break from caregiving, UWFaith, and anything else I am dealing with on my to do list. And I know I will still come up with new ideas to put into motion in my family, my work and involvement in United Women in Faith, thanks to you and the Divine.



Our organization is going through changes as well. In the next year our district may look different due to the reorganizing of the Mountain Sky Conference. I've asked Donna Parisi, vice president, to represent us in discussions at the conference level.

Our UWFaith at the national level is dealing with layoffs and a physical move. On some days it is easier to miss the past than looking forward to the uncertainty of the future.

Yet like the tree in the park, we stand strong through these seasons. And as I write this, I'm listening to the song Lean on Me. I am grateful that I have the Divine to lean on and that I have people in my life I can lean on when I need them. I hope that I remember to be that presence too. And that through our financial gifts and work in United Women in Faith, we provide a place that women, children and youth can lean on through good and bad times.

May this next season be a time of growth, support and love for you. And rest and comfort for you when you need it. May you reach out to share those gifts as well.

Blessings, Marcia Canter

United Women in Faith Board of Directors were reminded that they serve a God of abundance, even in the midst of economic challenges, wrote Response Editor Audrey Stanton-Smith on the United Women in Faith website.

She wrote that the United Women in Faith Board of Directors met October 13-14 and approved eliminating five staff positions and relocating United Women in Faith headquarters to the Church Center for the United Nations (CCUN), which is owned by United Women in Faith. These changes will go into effect by the end of 2023. Two additional staff positions will be eliminated in 2024.

The action is an effort to align United Women in Faith mission with revenue. "What is your 'do it' moment?" President 'Ainise 'Isama'u asked the board prior to the action, reminding members about the organization's legacy of determination, compassion, and the pursuit of justice. "What are you willing to do to turn the ship around and steer it toward brighter shores? Dream it. Believe it. Do it. These are not just words; they are the pillars of our renewed faith and determination."

"The dreams we carry within us are the sparks that ignite change, and they are the visions of a better world for women, children, and youth," she continued. "We must believe in the power of our collective action." For more information, go to the [website](#).

World Thank Offering

In this season of thanksgiving and hope, we thank God for our blessings through our prayers and our giving. We celebrate World Thank Offering, where we bring our gifts of gratitude for the transformation of local and global communities by raising money for women, children, and youth in our neighborhoods and around the world. We offer gratitude for God's blessings in our own lives and work to improve the lives of women, children, and youth through United Women in Faith. We give because we are grateful for God's blessings in our lives. The World Thank Offering is one of the five channels of giving that count towards our district Pledge to Mission. Funds can be collected all year with "spontaneous gifts of gratitude" or at an annual offering. Who or what are you thankful for today?

Because we believe that Love in Action can change the World.....!!



Vice President’s Message by Donna Parisi, MHM District Vice President
donnaparisi@comcast.net mobile (720) 480-4693

Greetings Sisters,

Our district Annual Meeting in September, Telling Our Story – Hearing Yours, was a joyous event. There was music and smiles and hugs. We had 70 attending in person and another half dozen on zoom. The annual business of the district was completed with the passing of a new budget, Pledge to Mission, and election of officers. We are so pleased to welcome Debi Padilla as our new Social Action coordinator! The memorial service let us recognize and remember the 34 UWFaith sisters who we have lost this past year.

Bishop Karen Oliveto was our guest speaker, helping us to imagine ***Where Do We Go From Here?*** As always, her presentation was engaging and thought provoking, and we loved having her join us. She was presented with a Gift to Mission and a thank you quilt from our district, lovingly made by the women at Arvada UWFaith.

A big THANK YOU to everyone who brought items for the Action Center in JeffCo. We collected over 1000 diapers, 2200 wipes, 257 pairs of socks, and 100 pairs of underwear for babies & children. Additionally, \$205 was donated to buy supplies. We appreciate your generosity.

Thank you to Phillips UMC and UWFaith for graciously hosting this event. Your efforts made our day a success!



Hamu Chigwada & Bishop Karen



Communion



Donations for Action Center

Our next event will be the Mission & Mentoring event in January! See next article.

Be well, Donna

Save the Date!

Plan Now to attend our annual Mission & Mentoring day. It will be held **Sat, Jan 27, 2024, 10am – 1pm, at Littleton UMC**. We will have training for officers, and discussion topics for everyone. Our mission project will be making “period kits” for women and girls. The Wesley Foundation at CU and the refugee centers have all requested these kits. This event is for everyone, not just officers. Our last M&M Day had over 50 attend! Mark your calendars now. More details to follow...



SECRETARY'S MESSAGE - WHO ARE YOUR UNIT OFFICERS FOR 2024? By Carla Schwartzkopf, MHM District Secretary carlasch@me.com mobile (303) 478-7185

It's that time again to prepare our **MHM District Directory**. **Please email your 2024 slate of officers** to me at Carlasch@me.com as soon as possible. If you have someone new in a position, please include their name, phone number, home address and email. If the person is returning and all their information is unchanged from the 2023 directory, you can just provide their position and name. Thank you in advance for helping get this information to us so we can turn it around and get the Directory out to you.



\$ TREASURERS REPORT \$ by Jill Tharp, MHM District Treasurer umwmhmtreas.jill@gmail.com mobile 720-480-6504

Unit Treasurers, your Unit's 2023 Pledge to mission are due NO later than December 11,2023. In order for your 2023 Pledge to Mission to be included in this year's donation to the conference, **please submit your Unit's Mission Pledge check No Later Than December 11th.**

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: MHM District or MILE HIGH METRO DISTRICT or MHM UWFaith and mail to: JILL THARP, 4720 South Dudley Street # 46, Littleton, Colorado 80123-1831. Please allow 3 days for mail service. Call, text or email to Home 303- 934-4272 cell 720-480-6504 Email umwmhmtreas.jill@gmail.com

BUDGET: Our monies received thru November 2023.

Pledges	\$17,882.50
SMR pins	\$240.00
Gift to Mission	\$1,115.00
Gift to Memory	\$637.00
<u>World Thank</u>	<u>\$698.68</u>
Total Giving	\$20,573.18

Pledge To Conference	\$32,000.00
<u>Monies Given To Date</u>	<u>- \$20,573.18</u>
Shortfall	- <u>\$11,426.82</u>

PLEASE DON'T FORGET NOVEMBER IS WORLD THANK MONTH!!!! World Thank goes towards our total Pledge to Conference. Also do SMR pins, Gift to Mission, Gift to Memory and our Pledges. LET'S SEE IF WE CAN EXCEED OUR PLEDGE TO CONFERENCE!!!! (\$32,001.00) Please get your Monies in by DECEMBER 11th!!!! Thank you to everyone who has sent in those pennies and dollars to support local charities and United Women in Faith in the Past, Present and the Future.

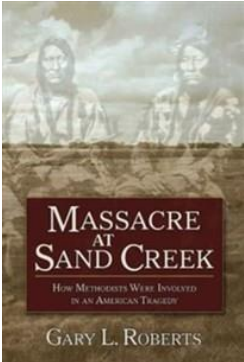
HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!! I want to wish you a Happy and Joyous Holiday Season of Thanksgiving and celebration of Our Lord Jesus Christ's day of birth. God Bless to all, Joy and PEACE, Jill Tharp



Get to know our new MHM Social Action Coordinator Debi Padilla

snowy55@outlook.com

Debi has been at Trinity United Methodist Church about 10 Years and is Treasurer of their UWFaith unit. She attended Lakewood United Methodist for about 20 years while her two daughters were growing up and was involved in mission trips, led their Education Committee, taught Sunday School teacher and held small groups at her house. Debi is a Colorado native and recently retired. She and her wonderful husband live in Lakewood. Thank you, Debi, for volunteering to lead our district UWF Social Action team!



Register for Book Group *Massacre at Sand Creek: How Methodists Were Involved in an American Tragedy* by Gary L. Roberts :

The Racial Justice Movement and Ministries Task Force (RJMM) hosts a conference wide Book Group and encourages and encourages you to join this Book Group as we journey, read, listen to different voices, learn, work towards dismantling racism together, and with God, imagine and practice Beloved Community. We will be reading several books throughout the year. When you register, you will receive a suggested reading schedule and a Zoom link to join a monthly one-hour check-in and discussion.

In January, February, and March of 2024, we will be reading *Massacre at Sand Creek: How Methodists Were Involved in an American Tragedy* by Gary L. Roberts. The monthly meetings are on the last Sunday of each month at 7 pm (MST). **Please register [here](#).**



Get to know our District Spiritual Growth Coordinator Sandy Barton sandbar369@gmail.com mobile 941-962-2303

I asked District Team leaders to write a short bio. Here is Sandy's! Hi! My name is Sandy Barton and I have been the Spiritual Growth Coordinator for the Mile High Metro District for the past couple of years. You may have seen me at the more recent Spiritual Days Apart or at the District Annual Meetings. If you attended summer Mission U, you will recognize me as one of the three Study Leaders.

My hometown is Pittsburgh (Go Steelers!), and I am a retired English teacher. I spent my career teaching in fascinating places such as Africa, the Caribbean, south Florida, northwestern Pennsylvania and here in Denver. My passion is poetry, and I dabble in writing it,

too. Hope to see you around the District in 2024! That's Henry in my arms.



Education & Interpretation Coordinator's Message by Karen Bueno karenbueno@aol.com mobile (303) 587-9693

SOME FACTS ABOUT THE MISSION PROGRAMS OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The United Methodist Church has more than 200 missionaries serving across the world.

All United Methodist Churches, including those in our Mountain Sky Conference, pay a portion of our donations to support these United Methodist missionaries.

The United Women in Faith, also known as the United Methodist Women, is an official women's organization of the United Methodist Church.

The United Women in Faith groups have as their purpose to expand the mission program of the United Methodist Church. This women's organization has existed under several different names for over 150 years. These projects are supported by donations from the local units of the United Women in Faith, who give their offerings as "second mile" giving.

The projects and scholarships granted by the United Women in Faith every year are specifically planned for the needs of women children and youth around the world.

Karen Bueno, Coordinator for Education and Interpretation of the Mile High Metro District UWFaith

District team leaders were asked to write a brief bio about themselves - here is Karen's!

Karen Bueno has lived so many years! How can a bio be brief? Let's just talk about the twenty-first century.

Karen became passionate about the global mission work of the United Methodist Women, aka United Women in Faith in the early 2000s. She served as communications coordinator for the Denver Metro District, and then President of that District. She served on the Nominations team of the Mountain Sky Conference United Methodist Women and then as Education and Interpretation on that conference team. Karen expresses delight with our new name and the reintroduction of our reason for being as United Women in Faith. (Her passion for global mission work became intense when she traveled with a faith group around the world. That was in the last century.)

She joined her local Good Shepherd (Thornton) United Methodist Women in early 2000s and soon was nominated for leadership. Some wise and unwise actions of hers, she admits, resulted in a split of that group which caused a lot of pain in keeping the group in being. But we now have an active local membership. She has been named President of the local group for some time. A woman who took the Presidency role for a couple of years needed to move to another state to care for her aging parents, so Karen continued to serve as president because she cannot give up on our Purpose! The major goal for our local group is to add younger members who have joined our church in the last few years. Karen intends to find and nurture leaders to insure the longevity of United Women in Faith in our congregation.



Message from Hamu Chigwada, Western Jurisdiction Secretary
hamu.umw@gmail.com Mobile 414-334-3305

Dear Mile High Metro District UWF sisters,

Reading Program Awards: Please email names for the reading program awards to me at hamu.umw@gmail.com or by US mail to Hamu Chigwada, 5343 Parfet Street, Arvada, CO 80002. If person wants a certificate printed, please indicate that next to their name. Please also see invitation below to attend Western Jurisdiction gathering in Alaska below! Thank you, Hamu



United
Women
in Faith

Greetings, United Women of Faith!

Registration is now open for the Western Jurisdiction United Women in Faith Quadrennial Gathering in Anchorage, Alaska! Please register at www.wjumw.com, where you will also find detailed information on the hotel, the Alaska Airline discount, time schedules, and workshop opportunities. Hotel Captain Cook is offering the option of adding 3 additional days before

or after our gathering if you'd like to extend your stay and take the opportunity to see more of Alaska.

We're excited about this chance to "Get Together" at the Captain Cook Hotel in Anchorage on May 9-11, 2024. (pre-events start May 8, 2024). Our theme "Get Together" is centered in John 13:34, and it's shared by all the jurisdictions. This theme feels especially relevant after having to cancel the 2020 in-person event and move to online only. After eight years, our team is eager to gather in person as we're sure you are! The central purpose of this event is to elect women who will represent our jurisdiction as National Board of Director members. In addition, we will worship, celebrate, share, serve, learn, sing, pray and connect.

The past several years of planning have been unusually challenging, due to the pandemic, but our team is delighted with how well the many aspects of our event have come together to showcase our values and priorities, while also highlighting the rich diversity and many cultures of Alaska. We're honored to have Amy Valdez Barker, PhD as our keynote speaker. This will also be an opportunity to meet Sally Vonner, our new General Secretary/CEO, and our President, 'Ainise 'Isama'u. It is our prayer that this event will be an opportunity for each of you to rest and be renewed as we celebrate our work as United Women of Faith together. Early registration goes through Nov. 30, 2023 offering you an opportunity to save \$50. Thank you so much for your continued support of all that we do as United Women of Faith! We hope to see you in Anchorage!



HIGH METRO DISTRICT NEWSLETTER –
September October November 2023



United
Women
in Faith

From: Brenda Bronson
UW Faith Mile High Metro District
Communications Coordinator
11063 W Ohio Pl
Lakewood, CO 80226



Message from new MHM District Communications Coordinator

Brenda Bronson, brendabronsonfpe@gmail.com, mobile 303-941-7634.

This is the first district newsletter I've put out so please bear with me as I learn how. My goal is to send it out using MailChimp or Constant Contact as many other districts do. I couldn't figure out how for this first newsletter, but I'll keep working at it.

I would love your help! Please email me articles you think should be in our quarterly district newsletter.

Is your unit doing an event you'd like to invite women from other UW Faith units to attend? Do you use Facebook? Would you like to see our District have a Facebook Group where people can invite other units to participate in our special events, write posts about our events? Would you join that group? Let me know what you think! Email, text or call me. Since this newsletter is usually only issued quarterly, Facebook posts and invitations might be best way for us to share.