

SKY LIGHTS

News for the Mountain Sky United Women in Faith

President's Musings

Psalm 121: 1-2,7-8; Psalm 122: 6,8

I lift up my eyes to the hills – from where will my help come?

My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.

The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:

May they prosper who love you

For the sake of relatives and friends I will say,

“Peace be within you.”

This Psalm has spoken to me this week as I grieve the death of my father. It speaks to me as I look out the windows at the beautiful mountains surrounding my home reminding me that God is with me always as are the mountains.

As we move towards the Advent Season and a new year, may peace be with you. Amongst the demands of gift giving, more appointments on your calendar, more food to prepare and more music and more worship, I hope that you find great joy and peace each day.

As we more towards 2024, let us brainstorm new and appealing ways to promote our wonderful organization. We need to share what we can accomplish as we work together to improve the lives of women, children and youth in the world.

May your holiday season be joyful and peaceful.

Robin Ball

President



United Women in Faith

faith

action

sisterhood

Sky Light Sky Bright

Event Dates

- Mission u February 4, 11, 18, on 25

Highlights

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This issue can be printed in whole or just print the pages you want to share. Use for bulletin boards, inserts, reminders. Any comments or questions please email **Linda Cockett** at mountainskyumw@gmail.com



**United
Women
in Faith**

Director Update from Jana Jones

As a national UWFaith Director, it has been my great pleasure to also serve as a director on the General Board of Global Ministries. Over the last 3 years, during the pandemic, all the meetings have been virtual vs meeting (pre-pandemic) in Atlanta. After not meeting in person, General Secretary Roland Fernandes made the decision that we should meet where UMC mission is happening. GBGM met in Mozambique in April, which I was unable to attend. I just returned from our fall meeting in Cambodia. What an experience!

In Cambodia, I met UMC missionaries from all over Asia including Fiji, Japan, Laos, Mongolia, Nepal, the Philippines, South Korea, Taiwan, and of course, Cambodia. On behalf of United Women in Faith, I presented each of the 20 Missionaries present with a UWFaith Pin made available by the Grand Junction UWFaith. (Made by Navaho artists Darlene and Eugene Lansing and family in Aneth, Utah.) So many told me how much they appreciate Unite Women in Faith and the support that the women of the organization has given them, including birthday emails, prayers and words of support through the Daily Prayer Guide.



I was so delighted to meet Emma Cantor, our UWFaith Regional Missionary to the Philippines and Joy Prim, a Deaconess who serves in Hong Kong, (both pictured above). Emma works to facilitate gender training and leadership development. She told me, "Tell United Women in Faith, thank you, thank you, thank you for your support." Joy works in Hong Kong with migrant workers. (Note: Joy was so excited by the new UWFaith necklace that she immediately contacted Glenna Kyker Brayton and ordered several.)

In Cambodia, we visited a Street Children Ministry School in the slums of Phnom Pehn; the Susanna Wesley Dorm Ministry which houses young women from the provinces as they attend university; the Cambodian Methodist Bible School which is a school of theology, producing new church leaders. Hearing the stories of the missionaries and their work was deeply moving. And inspiring. We went to church at a local church where we removed our shoes, worshiped God together and sang familiar songs in English and Khmer at the same time.

During this month of gratitude, my heart is filled with gratitude for the opportunity to represent you, my sisters, in Cambodia. I am over-whelmed by what these dedicated missionaries are doing in the name of Christ, the United Methodist Church, and United Women in Faith to make a difference in the lives of the underserved throughout the world. Because of you, faith is being put into action. I invite you to join me in gratitude to continue this work by donating to the World Thank Offering. [World Thank Offering 2023](#)

With Gratitude,

Jana Jones

SPIRITUAL GROWTH, Denise Logan

Greetings,

As I begin this trek as your new Spiritual Growth Mission Coordinator, I am humbled by the knowledge and the experience of the members in our Conference. There is so much that I continue to learn from **you**.

"I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. For in him you have been enriched in every way — with all kinds of speech and with all knowledge — God thus confirming our testimony about Christ among you." 1 Corinthians 1:4-6 NIV

It has only been a few weeks since we attended the Annual Gathering in Billings, Montana. It was, in spite of the distance (714 miles) and the rain, a nice trip to Billings. I enjoyed the fellowship and getting to meet the ladies from all over the conference, especially the ladies from the Montana area. The churches that hosted the event were so gracious and, in true Methodist spirit, there was always plenty to eat.

As at other meetings I have attended, you could tell that a lot of thought and planning had gone into the program, and I learned a lot of new information about the missing indigenous people. I really hope that if you were not able to attend in person that you were able to attend by Zoom. Thank you to all who had a part in planning and executing the plans for the meeting. You did a great job! I am excited to see what we will plan for this coming year.

Coming Attractions include: Mission U in February! Watch for Announcements with dates!

If I can be of assistance to the district or local units with your spiritual growth endeavors, please feel free to reach out to me.

Praying that the Lord will grant you peace and that your light will continue to shine in the darkness like a beacon to the lost to show them the way.



Figure 1facebook.com/photo.Goodnew.community

Denise Logan

grumpybear59@hotmail.com

719-980-6576

MEMORIES OF ANNUAL GATHERING



Vice-President's Report

THANK YOU! to our Annual Gathering Attendees and Planning Committee

I want to thank all our attendees (in person and on Zoom), as well as our wonderful Planning Committee for a great Annual Gathering. We had wonderful sessions—including an outstanding panel discussion, meaningful conversations, fabulous meals, Ubuntu projects, and amazing fellowship. We learned more about the Doctrine of Discovery and its cascading effects on Native Americans—including the lack of a coordinated official response to Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons (MMIP). We raised up MMIP through our Red Dress displays and we have an action item to display red dresses in our states' capitols on May 5, 2024 (Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Awareness Day).

We also discussed and passed two resolutions during the meeting--urging the elimination of the Doctrine of Discovery from US case law; and a resolution urging additional state/local/federal/tribal actions on the MMIP issue. Copies of the resolutions have been shared with the National United Women in Faith office and we plan to present the resolutions at the Western Jurisdiction meeting in Anchorage in May 2024. Copies of the resolutions are available on our United Women in Faith website ([www. https://www.mtnskyumw.org/](https://www.mtnskyumw.org/)).

I look forward to seeing you at our meetings in 2024—in person or by Zoom. Thank you for all you do for United Women in Faith.

Cheryl Runyon
Vice-President

Volunteers Needed for Planning 2024 Spiritual Life Retreat

As we concluded the 2023 Annual Gathering, the Executive team began thinking about our Spiritual Life Retreat in 2024. We would like to create a “retreat on a flash drive” that we can share with districts and sub-districts to use in their own special way. We know that some districts hold a stand-alone Day Together and other districts pair their retreat with their Annual Gathering.

Fortunately, the Utah/Western Colorado District already has developed a template for us with their Spiritual Nurture Retreat earlier this year. The retreat focuses on John Wesley's Six Spiritual Practices: prayer; searching the scriptures; Holy Communion; fasting; Christian community; and healthy living.

If you are interested in assisting in developing a “retreat on a flash drive,” please contact Cheryl Runyon (cheryl.runyon@comcast.net; 303-494-0434) and we will start working on this special event after the first of the year. I look forward to hearing your thoughts, ideas, suggestions, creativity, and willingness to help us reach out to our sisters in love.



United
Women
in Faith

Find United Women in Faith Online

United Women in Faith Website: **uwfaith.org**

This is our primary website. Here you will find the latest news and information about United Women in Faith programs, initiatives, and events. It's where you connect with other members and get involved. You'll also find links to our many resources and the e-store.

Downloads: umwmissionresources.org

Find new brand elements, member materials, programs, and catalogs here.

Online Community: **uwfaith.mn.co**

Connect with United Women in Faith members on Mighty Networks, a safe and secure online space to deepen our community and engage digital resources for local programming and transformative education. The platform features the digital Program Resource, Prayer Guide, Mission u curricula, online groups around specific interests, and more.

Facebook: **facebook.com/uwomenfaith**

If you're on Facebook, be sure to "like" United Women in Faith. Follow the link and sign up so that our regular posts will appear on your home page.

Twitter: **twitter.com/uwomenfaith**

Do you tweet? So does United Women in Faith! Use the link to find our Twitter account @uwomenfaith. Follow us, tweet with us, and become a part of the continuing conversation around faith, hope, and love in action.

YouTube: **youtube.com/uwomenfaith**

Need a video for a presentation? You'll find it on YouTube. Check out the video resources available by following the link. New videos are posted often!

Flicker **uwfaith.org/flickr**

Need a photo for your newsletter or PowerPoint? Follow this link and you'll find terrific images illustrating the work of United Women in Faith members.

Treasurer Tidbits

October 2023

WOW, it just hit me. This is my last Treasurer's Report after 11 years – 4 as Utah/Western Colorado District and 7 as Mountain Sky Conference.

To date we have remitted \$91,491.26 towards our Pledge to Mission in 2023. Plus an additional \$10,736.40 in designated giving. Of that UMCOR donations were \$2350.00 and Call to Prayer and Self-Denial of \$4509.64.

We are 55% of the way to meeting our Pledge. This is typical for our giving pattern. However, I don't want anyone to think it is a slam dunk. We need to continue to encourage giving. Christmas card Gift to Mission is a great way to honor friends and family. If your District or Local Treasurer don't have any, please look to the website and print your own.

We welcome Connie Pittenger as the 2024 Conference Treasurer. She has had 4 successful years as the Utah/Western Colorado District Treasurer and many years as Treasurer of other civic organizations. Her attention to detail is an asset to the position and the Team.

We also welcome two new District Treasurers. Claudia Davis accepted the position for Western Mountains District part way through 2023 when Sandy Balliet needed to move out of the area. Anna Ball was elected in Utah/Western Colorado District in September.

Everyone should thank their District Treasurers as they encourage Mission giving at the local and district level. There are so many questions to answer.

Thank you for 7 years of great support and sisterhood.

Robin Ball

Did you know you can Give to
Mountain Sky Conference United Women in Faith online
Left menu bar on the homepage
<https://www.mtnskyumw.org/donate-pay-it-forward/>

God loves a cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 9:7

2024
Reading Program
Programa De Lectura
독서 프로그램

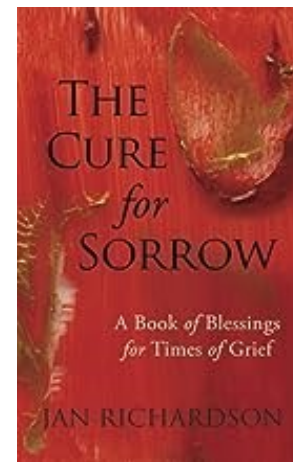
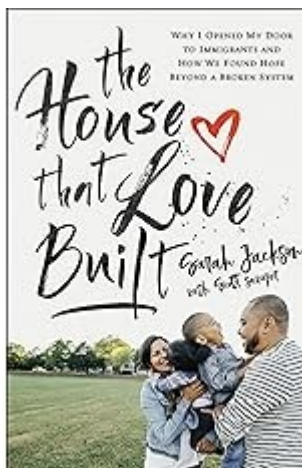


The 2024 Reading Program is now available! Check it out at

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

This year's program includes:

- An expanded selection of books offering more choice for readers.
- A larger number of youth and children's book selections, including several intentionally paired sets to facilitate intergenerational programming.
- A new virtual page at bookshop.org/shop/uwfaith where you can browse and purchase most of the 2024 Reading Program books while earning 10% back for the organization.



Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women

Resources

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Videos

If you would like to watch or share videos that share information about Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW), these are some of the videos we shared during the Annual Gathering.

Understanding How the Laws Encourage Violence/History of MMIW (6:39)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1tyx1IFhVX0>

Missing or Murdered Indigenous People: Bringing Loved Ones Home (5:50)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DrT9cZM5UKo>

Honoring Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (from Canada) (2:19)--explains about the use of red dresses and urging the wearing of red to remember MMIW.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jh5N8KehMrE>

The Missing and Murdered Indigenous People Crisis Explained (4:15)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0JZEQ6QiRis>

In addition, Jennifer Murphy, one of our panelists, referred to this Today show video during her presentation. We were unable to show it during the meeting, but it explains her work to raise awareness about MMIW through billboard displays. The link is: <https://www.today.com/video/missing-in-america-inside-montana-s-native-american-community-144679493646>



Ubuntu Day of Service Projects at the Annual Gathering

We had some wonderful Ubuntu projects at our Annual Gathering in Billings, MT. Below are some pictures of our energetic, dedicated women engaged in various projects.



Mission u Update

and Building

Winter Mission u—Finding Peace in an Anxious World

SAVE THE DATES

Sunday Afternoons in February 2024 (2:00-4:30 p.m.)



Study Leader: The Rev. Su DeBree

Virtual Study: Building on the 2021 Winter Mission u study, "Finding Peace in an Anxious World," we will explore how to build and sustain peace within ourselves, our families, our communities, and our world. This study will offer spiritual tools and actions we can take to calm anxieties and to employ our faith to serve as peacemakers in anxious times.

There is no registration fee. No study book is required; however, there is a recommended reading list below. Click below for online registration or contact Lora Fulton at mscumwregistrar@gmail.com or 303-439-2129

<https://mtnsky-reg.brtapp.com/MissionUfindingpeace2024>

Recommended Reading

[*Becoming Brave: Finding the Courage to Pursue Racial Justice Now*](#) by Brenda Salter McNeil (2024 UWF Reading Program)

[*High Conflict: Why We Get Trapped and How We Get Out*](#) by Amanda Ripley (2024 UWF Reading Program)

[*Who Can We Be Together: A Biblical Exploration of Luke 13*](#) by Candace Simpson (2023 UWF Reading Program)

Finding Peace in an Anxious World, Edited by Erin James-Brown, available on Kindle

Companions in Christ, The Way of Blessedness, by Marjorie J. Thompson and Stephen D. Bryant, Upper Room Books, 2003

The Soul of Civility, by Alexandra Hudson, St. Martin's Press 2023

A Hidden Wholeness, The Journey Toward an Undivided Life, by Parker J. Palmer, Jossey-Bass, 2004

The Gifts of Imperfection, by Brené Brown, Hazelden, 2010

The Dance of Connection, by Harriet Lerner, Harper Collins 2001

Crucial Accountability: Tools for Resolving Violated Expectations, Broken Commitments, and Bad Behavior, by Patterson, Grenny, Maxfield, McMillan, Switzler, McGraw Hill, 2013

MOUNTAIN SKY CONFERENCE of UNITED WOMEN in FAITH
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND ACTION REPORT
November 2023

As I think about my time as the Social Justice and Action Coordinator, I ask myself how anyone in United Women in Faith ever “retires” from this office. Social Justice is part of who we are as United Women in Faith, and we find ourselves following our hearts as we take “social action.” Feeding the hungry; caring for the poor; teaching the children; and speaking out for the voiceless; and advocating for women, children, and youth is built into who we are.

Since 1869, we have established hospitals and colleges. We have welcomed the immigrant. We have supported clergy and laypeople as they cared for the souls and bodies of people the world over. We have fought for the inclusion of women in areas of leadership in the church and in the public square. We have fought against injustice wherever we are.

During our annual meeting in October in Billings, Montana, we learned more about the Missing or Murdered Indigenous Persons movement and in what ways we can bring awareness of this tragic issue to our home communities. After hearing the stories around this topic, we found ourselves passing resolutions to raise awareness about MMIP at all levels of United Women in Faith; and to advocate the US government for the repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery. These are major actions broken down into small bites: incorporating more books on these topics into our reading program; hosting sessions about these topics at meetings local and national, including the 2026 Assembly; urging the United Methodist Church to join us in these justice issues; and contacting public officials to advocate for justice in these areas.

My sisters, we are all Social Justice and Action Coordinators. This grows out of our commitment to Christ, as we move forward through our faith in God.

Mary Ann Tabor



Mile High Metro District Report

Our annual meeting was September 16, using the theme Telling our Story—Hearing Yours. Bishop Karen Oliveto was keynote speaker and did a marvelous job with interaction between the 60-some women present. Phillips United Methodist Church did a great job hosting. Breakout rooms consisted of speakers on UWFaith forward, Racial Charter, Zero Waste and Planning what we want. It was well received by the participants. The message we received was that more hands-on experience was needed. We welcomed Debi Padilla as our social justice coordinator. Brenda Bronson will assume Teri Sergent's position of communications coordinator. All positions are only for one year.

We recognize that our next year will have considerable time and energy spent reorganizing our district UWFaith units. Donna Parisi will serve on the conference taskforce dealing with the redistricting issue. The leadership team has discussed having a central focus as well. Supporting refugees like Arvada and Green Mountain UWFaith units have is a key interest.

Leadership Training which we entitle Mission and Mentoring Day is set for January 27 at Littleton.

Acting boldly,
showing up, and
making a difference
begins with all of us.

Most of all,
it begins with you.



Important Information

United Women in Faith is moving its headquarters to its Church Center for the United Nations at 777 United Nations Plaza, 11th Floor, New York, NY 10017.

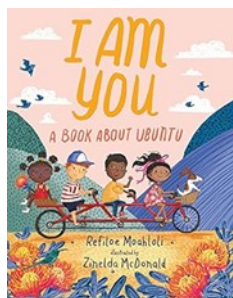
[Read our member letter about the change.](#)

Be sure to sign up for **General Conference news** at tinyurl.com/UWFaithAtGC, and follow the General Conference blog at uwfaith.org/general-conference. The church needs you.

Utah/Western CO Book Discussion

Thursday, December 14, 2023*

*please note that there are 3 books listed for this date

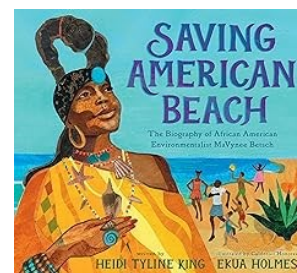


I Am You: A Book about Ubuntu by Refiloe Moahloli Spiritual Growth

We may be different, but our hearts beat the same. In southern Africa, there is a belief called *ubuntu*—the idea that we are all connected. No matter where we're from or who we are, a person is a person through their connections to other people. With simple, lyrical text and charming artwork, this lively picture book, first published in South Africa, is the perfect introduction to the concept of ubuntu for young kids. A celebration of friendship and kindness, the book shows children the many ways that we are all one.

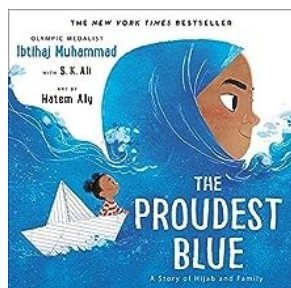
Saving American Beach (also Dec. 14th) by Heidi Tyline King Social Action

This heartfelt picture book biography tells the story of MaVynee Betsch, an African American opera singer turned environmentalist and the legacy she preserved.



MaVynee loved going to the beach. But in the days of Jim Crow, she couldn't just go to any beach--most of the beaches in Jacksonville were for whites only. Knowing something must be done, her grandfather bought a beach that African American families could enjoy without being reminded they were second class citizens; he called it American Beach.

After the Civil Rights Act desegregated public places, there was no longer a need for a place like American Beach and it slowly fell into disrepair. MaVynee remembered the importance of American Beach to her family and so many others, so determined to preserve this integral piece of American history, she began her second act as an activist and conservationist, ultimately saving the place that had always felt most like home.



The Proudest Blue (also Dec. 14th) by Ibtihaj Muhammad Leadership Development

A powerful, vibrantly illustrated story about the first day of school--and two sisters on one's first day of hijab--by Olympic medalist and social justice activist Ibtihaj Muhammad.

With her new backpack and light-up shoes, Faizah knows the first day of school is going to be special. It's the start of a brand new year and, best of all, it's her older sister Asiya's first day of hijab--a hijab of beautiful blue fabric, like the ocean waving to the sky. But not everyone sees hijab as beautiful, and in the face of hurtful, confusing words, Faizah will find new ways to be strong.

Reach out to Molly Hoey at rhoey1@gmail.com for the link to the book discussion



United
Women
in Faith

Get Together!

REGION JURISDICTION QUADRENNIAL EVENT

May 9-11, 2024 ANCHORAGE, AK, www.wjumw.com

What does it mean to answer the call to “love one another”
(John 13:34) in 2024? Come GET TOGETHER! to:

FEEL the joy when faith-filled women unite

NURTURE our souls through the strength of our sisterhood

DEEPEN our relationship with God

EXPLORE the power of love to make a difference

**TOGETHER we can do more. TOGETHER we can be more
TOGETHER the power of love in action can change the world.**

Registration available at <https://www.wjumw.com/>

Have you read this issue of response magazine?



In the November/December 2023 issue, the women of Mountain Sky were prominently featured! There is a wonderful article about the beading ministry supported by the United Women in Faith at First United Methodist Church in Grand Junction, CO. This has been an on-going project with the Navajo people close to them. It is an inspiring article that explains the partnership and the continued mission work with the native population. We want to thank this unit for their ongoing ministry!

Also, in this issue, Claudia Davis from Helena, MT was interviewed about her commitment to the Legacy 150 fund and the 1869 Society. It's a great story about how one invitation can start someone on the path to a lasting pledge to service.

Way to go!

response, an award-winning publication, is the official magazine of United Women in Faith and is published by the national office. Each issue will touch your heart, stir your soul and challenge your mind. Topics and issues cover spiritual growth, mission outreach and reports on our local, national and international work. **response** tells the story of United Women in Faith and is an essential resource for all members.

response helps United Women in Faith members stay informed about the work of the organization and is a great way to share the story of United Methodist Women with new and potential members and with leaders in your church and community committed to uplifting women, children and youth.



[Subscribe today for yourself or as a gift](https://www.cambeywest.com/subscribe2/?p=RSP&f=custcare) <https://www.cambeywest.com/subscribe2/?p=RSP&f=custcare>



United
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in Faith

You're Invited



Voices From the Field

"Love, Justice, Service:
Home Missioners in
Ministry"

December 5, 2023, at
7:30 pm ET / 6:30 pm CT /
4:30 pm PT

Virtual via Zoom

to hear how three home missioners are living out their lifetime calls to love, justice, and service.

Hear guest speakers



- Home Missioner Jonah Ballesteros, North Texas Conference – Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Program Specialist for Richardson Independent School District and actively seeks ways to cultivate community connections in the Philippines.
- Home Missioner Jeff Fuller, North Georgia Conference – Abundant Health Coordinator
- Home Missioner Bill White, Michigan Conference – Co-Founder of 5Loaves2Fish Northern Michigan

[Don't miss the opportunity to join the *Voices from the Field* virtual event on December 5 to find out more about the work of the **Office of Deaconess and Home Missioner**, administered by United Women in Faith. Learn from people who are transforming their communities and how you, through Mission Giving, make this transformation possible.](#)

An *optional* breakout session will follow the one-hour program.

To register — go to this link — [https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fuwfaith.us6.list-manage.com%2Ftrack%2Fclick%3Fu%3D29c7c08b73c632ded44fb9935%26id%3D3d832b2c20%26e%3D5e78ae08d8&data=05%](https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fuwfaith.us6.list-manage.com%2Ftrack%2Fclick%3Fu%3D29c7c08b73c632ded44fb9935%26id%3D3d832b2c20%26e%3D5e78ae08d8&data=05%3D)

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SKY LIGHTS November 2023

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