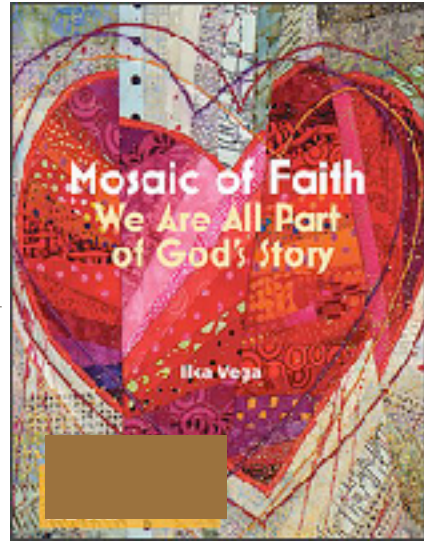


# We Are All Part Of God's Story



## MARY MARTHA LINK PEAKS PIKES PEAK DISTRICT DECEMBER 2023

### ***Calendar Dates***

#### ***Peaks Pikes Peak District Events***

#### ***Leadership Training January 27***

9:30 - 12:00  
Zoom

#### ***Spiritual Day Together June 8***

In person and Zoom

#### ***Mountain Sky Conference Events***

mtnskyumw.org

#### ***Western Jurisdiction Events***

May 8-10, 2024  
Western Jurisdiction Meeting  
Anchorage, Alaska

#### ***National***

Assembly, 2026  
Indianapolis, Indiana  
**National Mailing Address**  
United Women in Faith  
Church Center for the United  
Nations  
777 United Nations Plaza,  
p11th Floor  
New York, NY 10017



Margaret Wiatrowski  
President  
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### ***“Come, thou long-expected Jesus”***

*(words by Charles Wesley, 1744)*

I’m writing this as we begin the season of Advent, preparing once again to celebrate the miraculous birth of Jesus. In the Gospel of Luke, the angel Gabriel appears to Mary to announce the Lord’s presence with her. Even though Mary is confused by this news, she agrees to bear God’s son and become part of this miracle. I pray that all of you will have a blessed and meaningful Advent and Christmas season.

Shortly after we celebrate Christmas, the year 2024 will start. Many of your local units will have new members in leadership positions and begin making plans for the coming year. In the almost 155-year history of our organization, there have been many changes, but we still celebrate and cherish the original values of our founding members: spiritual growth, fellowship, and mission to women, children and youth. How do we decide which activities still foster those ideas? Are there programs that are no longer as meaningful as before? What can take the place of those things that don’t seem the best fit? We want to retain our current members, but hope to have new faces join with us. Perhaps changes in meeting

times or format would attract new members. What would work best? It won't be the same for everyone. The national organization offers a wealth of opportunities through their website: materials to invite and organize in local units, videos on the YouTube channel, podcasts such as Faith Talks, Voices from the Field and Just Energy for All. The Reading Program has been available for many years, but there are new books with timely and fresh ideas each year. The Utah/Western Colorado district welcomes anyone to participate in their monthly book discussions on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday evening of each month on Zoom. This is a great way for new (and not so new) members to really understand what we are all about! Let's not be limited by "the way we have always done it". Take advantage of technology and remote learning. Have a joint program (virtually or in person) with another unit. Share ideas. Try something new. Tell others. Maybe you can even write a "Bright Light" article for response magazine. If we all commit to one new idea for the coming year, great things can happen.

I'm looking forward to seeing many of you on Zoom for our Leadership Development Day at the end of January.

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Nancy Friday  
Secretary  
303-990-344  
[Nan.Friday@gmail.com](mailto:Nan.Friday@gmail.com)

It's time to update the Directory! I have sent emails to anyone listed as President or Secretary requesting updated information. If you have not seen the email, please check your spam folder, or email me at [pppuwfsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:pppuwfsecretary@gmail.com). You can always call me at 303-990-3944. I learned last year that many units decide their slate of officers in December; if that is the case, please send your update as soon as you can. If your team is not changing or you only have a few corrections or updates, please send that information right now to [pppuwfsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:pppuwfsecretary@gmail.com) or mail the information to Nancy Friday, 18836 E Napa Drive, Aurora CO 80013



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2023 Vice-President  
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## Connection

Dear Ones,

Connection ... we all know it is important, but what is it, exactly? Webster's dictionary definitions for the word 'connection' include "coherence; continuity; link; a set of persons associated together; denomination; clan ...". So what connects us? We are busy humans, after all. We travel in groups down busy roads, shop in busy stores and malls and turn on 'busy' programs when we are finally home. Many of us are busy at work while others of us are busy caring for family members or others on a daily or weekly basis. We are busy at church and at our circle gatherings and fundraisers. We are busy getting ready for Advent, Christmas, the New Year. Screens on our devices are "busy" - with programs of interest, music, ads to attract us, links for articles with catchy titles, colors, sounds, **flashes, moving lines of text, etc.**

Yes, we are busy! But are we 'connected'? I mean, truly c-o-n-n-e-c-t-e-d? What are the components of true connection for each of us? Which of our connections bring us joy? Fulfillment? Quiet happiness? A sense of well-being? When we turn off our various busyness companions and listen to the quiet, watch the stars, take in a breath of winter air, care for a house plant, feed a pet, hand-wash a water glass, brush our hair, sweep a floor . . . do we at last allow ourselves a few moments to be connected with our Creator who loves us just as we are?

On September 23, forty-five UW Faith women connected at Rinn UMC south of Longmont for our Peaks Pikes Peak Annual Gathering. We celebrated our second in-person meeting after the COVID-19 Pandemic began to fade. It felt great! Our theme was, "Renewing & Re-Energizing Our Faith Communities". Our thanks to Rinn UMC Unit members Suzanne Gallagher (who managed the sound system) and Betty Fouchee (who played the piano). Margaret Wiatrowski, PPP District President and Laurel Kubin, PPP District Treasurer capably led us through our Business meeting, Nominations and Budget discussion. We saw the beginning of a video by Rev. Rebekah Simon-Peter on the 3 S's--the elements essential to transforming loose-knit worshiping congregations into lasting, connected faith communities. Those essential elements are: Being Spiritual, Being Social and Being of Service. They are detailed in Rev. Rebekah's book, "Forging a New Path . . . Moving the Church Forward in a Post-Pandemic World". Some lively small group discussions followed Rev. Rebekah's video. (If you would like to order Rev. Rebekah's book, please feel free to contact me at my e-mail address below).

*(more from Ann)*

Rev. Lin Cheek connected with us on her vacation day, celebrating a beautiful Communion service. Following Communion, a Pledge Service were held. Lorrie Toni then provided a moving Memorial tribute for deceased UWFaith members. Following Elections for District Leadership Team, a delicious taco bar lunch prepared by members of the Rinn UMC UWFaith Unit coordinated by Debby Perry greeted us in Fellowship Hall. After lunch, Cheryl Runyon, Vice President of our Mountain Sky Conference leadership team connected us with "One Nation Walking Together" which is headquartered in Colorado Springs. Cheryl and Margaret W. led the group in filling shoe boxes with donated daily essentials and toiletries to be later wrapped as Christmas gifts destined for Indigenous community elders in South Dakota.

During our afternoon program, Margaret Hotze was the pianist. Ellie Young, Conference Leadership Team, performed Officer Installation from her connected but remote location in Grand Junction and we welcomed the newest member of our Nominations Committee, Connie Takamine. Margaret Hotze conducted outgoing Officer Recognitions. After Announcements and Jan Spittle's Closing Prayer, we adjourned at 2:00pm.

Please make a point to connect with other United Women in Faith from Peaks Pikes Peak District on January 27, 2024 for Leadership Development Day (Zoom) and again on June 8, 2024 for our annual Spiritual Day Together (in person and on Zoom). In between now and then, I pray you experience blessed and joyful connections with friends and family members as we once again welcome Jesus, the Christ child, Emmanuel, God With Us!

Love in Action,

P.S. One more Connection! Last month I was privileged to listen to a web interview with Mountain Sky Conference Bishop Rev. Karen Oliveto during which Karen reflected on her book, "Our Strangely Warmed Hearts" published in 2018. When asked what keeps her going, Karen quickly and enthusiastically responded, "Joy!". May our connections as United Women in Faith in our circles, our units, our places of worship, our communities and our world, bring us ever increasing Joy! See you in January!



Donations were gathered and then packed for the **One Nation Walking Together Christmas Shoeboxes Collection, sent to Native American Elders**



## Memories!

### Pictures from the September 23rd Annual Meeting, Rinn UMC



Newly installed officers: Pat Chase, Loeda Westphal Lorrie Toni, Margaret Hotze, Ann. Toll, Margaret Wiatrowski, Myrna Prentice, Jan Spitler, Mary Ann Kerttula, Megan Wieck, Laurel Kubin, Connie Takamine



Myrna Prentice  
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”United Women in Faith...Seeks to connect and nurture women through Christian spiritual formation, leadership development, creative fellowship, and education so that they can inspire, influence and impact local and global communities.”

May we live out this vision..



Laurel Kubin  
Treasurer  
970-686-0544  
909 Palomino Way  
Windsor CO 80550

### **A Note from the treasurer**

At this moment, the district is on its way to meeting our Pledge to Missions before the end of the year. We always take a leap of faith in determining the amount of the pledge as we trust that the units will generously contribute.

What do these pledge dollars get used for? One of the most interesting ways to keep learning the answer is to simply read each issue of the *response* magazine.

The September/October 2023 issue told of three nursing scholars we support at Vellore Christian Medical College Hospital in India and why we do this. They are three of the approximately 137 scholarships we give to students in the U.S. and around the world, totaling close to \$400,000. This article is a very interesting read.

The November/December 2023 *response* contains a wonderful article about our World Thank Offering. The article tells of just three of the ministries we support. These include the cottage knitting industry we support in Bolivia, the Rise Up organization's workshops for victims' families resulting from the illegal global drug trade in the Philippines, and Cornerstone Family Ministries in Tampa, Florida that facilitates the feeding of nearly four million meals to more than 14,000 children in child-care centers.

Read these articles and know more about how your funds are being used. Feel the joy that encourages even higher levels of giving for important projects such as these. United Women in Faith make a difference!!!



## Peaks Pikes Peak District United Women in Faith 2024 Budget

### Expense

Directory	Type to enter text	\$400
Program Resources Shipping		0
Newsletter		\$25
Audit		\$100
Zoom Subscription		\$165
<b>District Events</b>	<b>(Net of registrations)</b>	
Leadership Training		\$850
Day Together		\$300
Annual Gathering		\$500
<b>District Officer Expenses</b>		
Subscriptions (response, etc.)		\$750
Travel Expense		\$800
General Supplies		\$175
Print / Postage	\$	\$250
Shepherdess Program		\$100
Special Projects (MN&O, etc)		\$500
Total Budget/AMD Requested		\$4915
<b>Mission Giving Budget</b>		<b>\$65000</b>



The Legacy 150 Campaign  
is now in a Sustaining Phase.

Go to  
[uwfaith.org](http://uwfaith.org)  
to Legacy Fund  
For details on giving or  
becoming a  
150 Legacy Builder



Jan Spitler  
Spiritual Growth  
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[janaspitler@gmail.com](mailto:janaspitler@gmail.com)

### **The God of Comfort, Peace and Joy**

by Juanetta T. Swann, MDiv  
(from the Denver seminary website)

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:6-7

As we spiritually prepare and wait for the return of the Lord Jesus Christ in this season, we are reminded of the church He has called us to be. Not only does He desire for us to be without spot, blemish, or wrinkle, He desires that we would be filled with peace while resting in His comfort and joy. The world around us is filled with fear, chaos, striving, and unrest, yet we are reminded to be still, set apart, holy, and pure.

How are we able to do that? We are best able to be and to do what Christ has commanded when our minds remain focused on His promises and His word. His Word is not only our source, but it is our resource, our guide, our motivation, and the shield that protects us from the effects of the world in which we live. While it is true that the world attempts to inoculate us with its doctrines, standards, and cultural nuances, the Word of God reminds us that we can come to Him with prayer, petition, and thanksgiving when trouble and anxious thoughts try to consume us.

Moreover, He promises that His peace will guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus, giving us the ability to count every trial, every situation, and every trouble we face as pure joy. Being in the world but not of the world places us in the position to represent the joy of Christ through the wellness, wholeness, and completeness of His love. In other words, there is no need to worry, fear, or allow any situation to overtake our hearts and minds because we are in the Lord Jesus. We are transformed by the Spirit into a new creation with the rights and privileges thereof. Our new relationship promises to comfort our fears, provide us with joy, and cover us with peace as we present requests, dilemmas, and issues to our God with measures of thanksgiving and gratitude.

Our thanksgiving to God, even in uncertainty, helps us to put problems into proper alignment. When we measure everything against the light of His Word, we realize that all things work out for the better and for our good. In this way, we experience the amazing and fulfilling presence of the God of all comfort and peace because He is our joy.





Lorrie Toni  
2022 Membership  
Nurture and Outreach  
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## **STARTING OVER**

How many times, even at my age, have I started some project, some letter, some advice, some plans, and soon realized I needed to start over! I had dropped a stitch, or didn't have the right ingredients, or thought of a better way of writing what I meant to express, or misspelled a word or wished I wouldn't have said what I had said. Similarly, as I meditate about my day's obligations or plans, as I study my weekly and monthly calendars, I see many changes, cross outs, updates, and cancellations. Life and calendars get very messy!

I guess my calendar should be kept in pencil, yet it smears, and the notations are too big. I could do the online calendar but after once losing 6 months of appointments with a high tech gadget, I reverted back to a hand written calendar. And, at my age, I find I need to record my calendar entries in 2 places – the “carry-with-me-at-all-times” hard-copy calendar and the big, bold, wall calendar that hangs on a door in the most important room in my house – the kitchen.

With each future month that is void of too many entries, I promise myself that I am going to do a better job of keeping the calendar neat and legible. Yet life goes on and events add up and soon, that month is just as messy as the ones in the past were.

Life is messy. Yet each morning, we get to say hello to God and start over. We are given the wonderful gift from our Lord to start over every single new day. We are forgiven for our past errors, and we are loved anew. How glorious is that! I have read that science has found that people who start each day with gratitude have happier, more productive lives. This is not a surprise to Christians! We know God's creativity is powerful and beautiful. And we know that we were created in God's image. By creating a planet that is in constant motion, we get new days and new nights. By creating a planet that circles around the sun, we get new years.

And here we are starting 2024 with hearts full of wonder, joy, hope, love, and new calendars. We are so thankful for all the opportunities we have been given to start over. So, if the cookies burned, the birds will still eat them. If you knitted where you should have purled, it will blend in or it can be rescued. If you made a spelling mistake in a handwritten letter, you can cross it out and rewrite it. If you forgot to say your morning prayer, you can say it at noon. God is with us always; in all situations; at all places; and he loves that we are willing to start over.

I am looking forward to meeting you at our New Beginnings Leadership Development Day and I am wishing you often feel that strangely wonderful warmth in your heart that comes as you make errors and find ways to correct them. May God's love continue to motivate you to start over.



Betty Edney-Milner  
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***Please email  
names and reading levels  
of readers  
to Betty  
by January 10<sup>th</sup>  
(A list of books is not needed,  
just the level reached.)***



Megan Wieck  
Education & Interpretation  
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Cheryl Runyon  
Mtn Sky Conference Vice-President  
[cheryl.runyon@comcast.net](mailto:cheryl.runyon@comcast.net)  
303-494-0434

Celebrating Maxine Wendler, a long-time UMW member.  
She lives at Frasier in health care.



*Cheryl suggests that "UW Faith keeps you young!"*



Mary Ann Kerttula  
Social Action  
970-219-6747  
[makerttula@comcast.net](mailto:makerttula@comcast.net)

I hope that you are feeling the peace, joy, and love of this season, the season for celebrating the birth of Jesus and the start of a new year. As we celebrate, let us remember that being a follower of Jesus entails taking action. On the United Women in Faith website, there is a great saying about our organization: “We believe love in action can change the world.” Do not be intimidated by a call to action. If you are looking for a small, yet powerful, way to take part in UWFaith’s national social justice campaigns, consider sending messages to your officials. Click on <https://p2a.co/5rHY0nq> to send a message to encourage them to support The Ending Punitive, Unfair, School-based Harm that is Overt and Unresponsive to Trauma (PUSHOUT) Act of 2023. Click on <https://p2a.co/vUKRTtL> to send a message to urge your legislators to cosponsor the Protecting Our Students in Schools Act that will ban corporal punishment in schools. Perhaps your heart is drawn more to the need for climate justice. If you go to <https://p2a.co/J1FJexa>, you will find several ways to take action. If signing a petition or sending an email feels like too small an action, consider that you are adding your voice to those of your many UWFaith sisters. Joining together, we become stronger!



## Committee on Nominations



Margaret Hotze  
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970-223-8539

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Loeda Westphal  
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Connie Takamine  
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### Nominations Committee Report

Margaret Hotze

Greetings to all of you United Women in Faith from Peaks Pikes Peak District Nominations Co-chairs Margaret Hotze (in the north) and Loeda Westphal (from the south) as we prepare for Christmas ---and then the New Year. This is usually a quiet time for Nominations work, and we look forward to more activity in the spring. This year will bring some unique challenges as we change Districts again. Please remember to pray for all who are making these geographic decisions, and meanwhile---review our tasks of mission and our four areas of leadership: Spiritual Growth, Membership Nurture and Outreach, Education for Mission, and Social Justice. Of course we need those leadership positions such as President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Secretary of Program Resources—all necessary to fulfill our Purpose. Be on the lookout for those who can lead us in those areas. Please let us know if you have questions about job descriptions or tasks. It would be great to see you at our Leadership Training on Zoom on January 27! Blessings to you all as we prepare for Christmas and for the New Year.

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*Leadership Training*  
*ZOOM*  
*January 27*  
*All women invited!*

**Registration for District Leadership Training**

***New Beginnings***

Saturday, January 27

9:00-12:00

Zoom

*Register by Wednesday, January 24*

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

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Officer Position or Member \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Officer Position or Member \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Officer Position or Member \_\_\_\_\_

Local church/unit \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Officer Position or Member \_\_\_\_\_

*Registration may be made to Laurel Kubin by phone, 970-686-0544,*

*by e-mail, [laurelkubin@gmail.com](mailto:laurelkubin@gmail.com)*

*or by mail:*

Laurel Kubin, 909 Palomino Way, Windsor CO 80550



### 2024 Peaks Pikes Peak District Officers Contact Information

President	Margaret Wiatrowski	719-531-5283	<a href="mailto:mwiatrowski@earthlink.net">mwiatrowski@earthlink.net</a>
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Secretary	Nancy Friday	303-990-3944	<a href="mailto:Nan.Friday@gmail.com">Nan.Friday@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer	Laurel Kubin	970-686-0544	<a href="mailto:laurelkubin@gmail.com">laurelkubin@gmail.com</a>
Spiritual Growth	Jan Spitler	720=204-6583	<a href="mailto:janaspitler@gmail.com">janaspitler@gmail.com</a>
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#### Co-Chair of Committee on Nominations –

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Committee on Nominations – Pat Chase	303-356-0017.	<a href="mailto:patchase99@yahoo.com">patchase99@yahoo.com</a>

*Just a reminder—  
District Newsletters and the Conference Newsletter  
are available at any time at  
[mtnskyumw.org](http://mtnskyumw.org)*