

SKY LIGHTS

News for the Mountain Sky United Women in Faith

Robin's Ramblings

God's Word Says:

James 1:22: "But prove yourselves doers of the word; and not mere hearers who delude themselves." (NASB)

Ladies of the Mountain Sky Conference of United Women in Faith are doers. We nurture our spiritual growth, educate ourselves, and reach out to the world providing mercy and working for justice.

This year we are focusing on several focus areas.

Our social justice focus this year is revisiting the Charter for Racial Justice. In response to the church's creation of the racist, non-geographical Central Jurisdiction into which all African-American churches were segregated, the then Women's Division of Christian Service in 1941 adopted a policy of holding its meetings only in places where all members could stay without any form of racial segregation. It was then that the Division began drafting its first Charter for Racial Justice Policy. It was adopted

by United Methodist Women in 1952 and the United Methodist Church in 1980.

United Women in Faith celebrates the diversity of God's good creation. As a sisterhood of grace, we are called together by a shared mission: love in action. We affirm our ongoing commitment to the principles outlined in the Charter for Racial Justice and recognize racism as a deep sin and a clear rejection of the teachings of Jesus Christ. We grieve the many ways that racism has harmed our relationships with God, with ourselves, and with one another.

Another focus is Membership Nurture and Outreach. We are reaching out to our current membership and anyone who would be interested in our organization. We want to know how we can support our local units to be vibrant sisterhoods. And we are reaching to the churches who don't have units or ladies who have been members but are now attending churches that disaffiliated from the United Methodist Church. United Women in Faith is open to any woman.

Continue reading Robin's article on page 2.



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

Robin’s Ramblings cont.

And United Women in Faith are moving for mission. They may be walking, baking, knitting, wheeling, swimming, or calling. A fundraiser campaign is agreeing that you will do something, anything, that requires movement. Then ask family friends, church members or maybe even the folks walking by to pledge how much they will donate for each repetition. How can you educate the donors about the good works of United Women in Faith?

James 1:22: “But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not mere hearers who delude themselves.” (NASB)

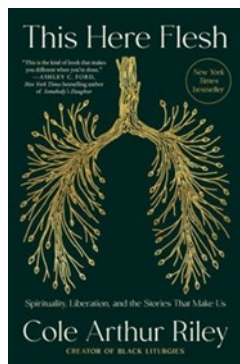
Just Do It!

Robin Ball
Conference President

Director Update from Jana Jones

As I was contemplating the theme for this newsletter, “Communion”, it seemed so appropriate that the Western Jurisdiction Event will happen in just a few short weeks – a communal event. The theme is “Let’s Get Together”. Following the pandemic, this is the first time that we have been together as a Jurisdiction, and General Conference is meeting together right now for the first time since 2016. Communion, centering together around God’s table, is all about relationships. Relationships with God, each other, and with creation.

As United Women in Faith, we learn together. Here are some resources for our social action campaigns to share with your units:



National book discussion of “This Here Flesh” by Cole Arthur Riley on May 6 at 5 PM, MT. If you have read the book, please join us! [Meeting Registration - Zoom](#)

If you have not signed up for newsletters from National, you can do so at this link: [mailing lists](#)

Just Energy 4All Address Climate Crisis: [United Women in Faith - CLIMATE JUSTICE: JE4A- Address Climate Crisis \(uwfaithresources.org\)](#)

Racial Justice Video “Never Give Up: Cynthia and Michelle’s Faithful Fight Against Mass Incarceration” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9X5q8P-DJQE>

Together, as a conference, and as an organization, our pledges to Mission are making a difference in the lives of those who are served by our National Mission Institutions as well those around the world who receive education, scholarships, microloans, and support. Each District, each unit, and each member is an essential component of what we collectively can achieve – together. In 2023, our conference was able to give MORE than we pledged. We did this together. I encourage you to continue to move forward in faith, increasing your pledge to mission. **We can do this together.**

SPIRITUAL GROWTH, Denise Logan

Greetings. I was told that the preferred subject for articles this month was “communion” and as I thought about this my mind raced in a dozen different directions at once. Then I thought about the times we spend together sharing food, praying, studying, singing, praising God, working together to help others, i.e. in communion.

We have times scheduled in the near future to be together (Spiritual Retreats, Annual Conference) and some that are scheduled for later in the year (Mission U, Annual Meeting). I hope that you will try to attend any that you can so that we can be in communion together. Then we can share with each other the love and peace of God.

Until then, I look forward to seeing you in person or on Zoom!

Blessings,

grumpybear59@hotmail.com

Denise Logan, Spiritual Growth Coordinator

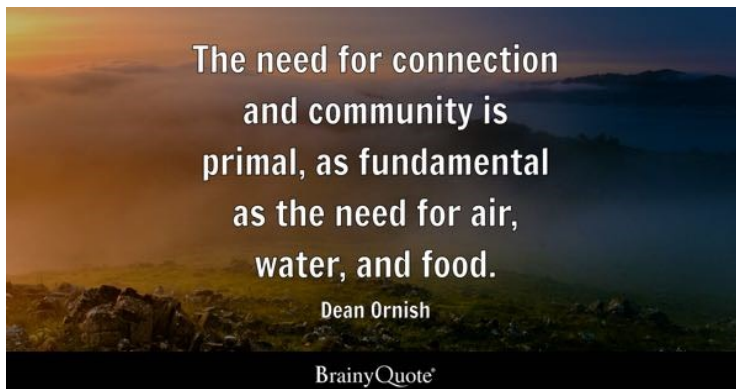
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Definition of Communion

the sharing or exchanging of intimate thoughts and feelings, especially when the exchange is on a mental or spiritual level



Who do you commune with that builds your relationship with others and with God?



MEMBERSHIP NURTURE AND OUTREACH, Karen Waldron

I love the theme of this newsletter – COMMUNION. When I receive communion at worship, I feel connected to all those who have received the bread and wine from when Jesus offered it to his disciples and all who will receive it in the future. When I attend a United Women in Faith meeting or event, I feel connected to all the amazing women who have been involved in the mission of our legacy organizations, those involved now and all those who will carry on our work in the future.

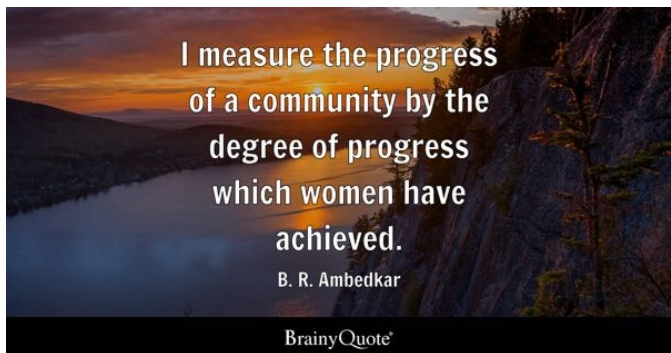
Since taking on the position of Conference Coordinator for Membership Nurture and Outreach, I’ve become aware that many districts and units do not have a specific person filling this position. We all need to work on nurturing our current members and reaching out to invite others into membership and involvement, but it does help to have someone provide the leadership. I thank each of you who take the initiative to make sure these important tasks are done.

Our national organization offers resources to help us nurture our current members and to reach out to women both inside and outside our local churches. If you struggle with how to reach out to let women know about United Women in Faith and invite them to be part of our movement, you might try the United Methodist Women Welcoming Event Toolkit, which is available for free download from the <https://uwfaithresources.org> website. You might hold a Soul Care Retreat, as a way to invite non-members to an event that will nurture them. The toolkit is available for purchase at the same website. That event will help with outreach as well as providing nurture to your current members.

Of course, the everyday actions that nurture your members and let them know they are appreciated and valued continue to be important. Writing notes or calling those members who have not been able to attend meetings, sending Gift to Mission and Gift in Memory cards when appropriate, awarding Special Mission Recognition pins to acknowledge work and support of the UW Faith mission projects are all ways to nurture and recognize your members.

I invite you to send me suggestions and stories of how your district and units are supporting your current members and reaching out to women who would benefit and be benefited by UW Faith. I’ll share your ideas in future issues of the newsletter and at UW Faith events. Thank you for the work you do to keep our organization growing and meaningful.

Karen Waldron
keakw@comcast.net



VICE-PRESIDENT—Cheryl Runyon*Come with Me**To the quiet minute**Between two noisy minutes**It's always waiting ready to welcome us**Tucked under the wing of the day**I'll be there**Where will you be?**Everything Comes Next—Collected and New Poems, by Naomi Shihab Nye*

Linda Cockett, our wonderful Communications Coordinator, challenged us to re-think Communion as we were writing our articles for this newsletter. I recently read *Everything Comes Next* (it's on our 2024 Reading Program list). This poem reminded me of that quiet time we seek for communion—whether during the communion service at church, or time with a dear friend, or just trying to find a minute during our busy day to have a 'chat' with God. Could God be talking to us in this poem—that he will be there for us—waiting--but where will we be?

I find that I need at least a quiet minute (or two) as it feels like everything else are noisy minutes right now. Please join with me in seeking those quiet minutes and valuing that time 'tucked under the wing of the day.'

Cheryl Runyon, Vice President

Frasier Manor UW Faith Agreement in Place

The Mountain Sky Conference has completed a revision of our agreement with Frasier Manor Retirement Community, in Boulder, CO, to offer two studio apartments to retired clergy, deaconesses, missionaries and UW Faith members. The agreement provides that UW Faith-approved applicants would not pay the entrance fee for a deluxe studio apartment, or would pay a reduced entrance fee for a one-bedroom apartment. In addition, the monthly fee for meals, activities, security, and overall maintenance of the community will only be 80 percent of the regular amount. There also are provisions for continuing care in Assisted Living, Healthcare and Memory Care at a reduced rate for residents who need to access these services after joining Frasier. We currently have one retired missionary who is residing in Assisted Living and it is a joy to visit her on your behalf. As your representative on the Frasier Board, I am proud of this on-going witness about United Women in Faith to residents and board members.

If you are considering retiring to a senior community, please consider Frasier. You would be surrounded by dear friends and just across the street from Mountain View UMC. Please let me know if you need more information about Frasier. I can be reached at: Cheryl Runyon, 315 Manhattan Dr., Boulder, CO 80303, 303-494-0434 (home), cheryl.runyon@comcast.net



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—Connie Pittinger

The transition of the Conference financial records from Robin Ball has been completed. I am in a significant learning phase. I hope you will be patient with me.

I am learning that the workings of our Conference UWFaith are not simple, they are actually quite complicated. Some may think that the happenings of the Conference just automatically occur. These happenings take much planning and effort from many different people. As your Treasurer, I am a support person to those many different people. And you, as members of your Local Unit, are support people to me. When you give your Pledge to your Local Unit, then that Pledge goes from your Local Unit to your District Treasurer who then sends that Pledge onto me at the Conference level. We are allowed to keep a small portion of your Pledge to provide financial support to the Conference and to the District happenings. Most of your Pledge goes on to the National Office to support all of our mission projects and allow the National Staff to provide support for all of us.

This is our community of United Women in Faith—from each local member contributing what she can. When more members contribute, then our efforts reach out to more Mission projects.

Our Mountain Sky efforts are off to a good start for 2024. As of March 31st, \$28,678.62 has already been sent to the National Office for all five Channels of Giving. We just need to continue with those efforts to reach our goal of \$215, 583.00. As a community of dedicated women, we can reach our goal.

Connie Pittenger,
Conference Treasurer

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/>

Kindness in words creates confidence.

Kindness in thinking creates profoundness.

Kindness in giving creates love. Lao Tzu

United Women in Faith Breakfast at Annual Conference

We are planning for the United Women in Faith Breakfast during the Mountain Sky Conference. It will be held on Saturday, June 22, beginning at 7:00 a.m., at First UMC, 332 E. 2nd St., Casper, WY. We will have a fabulous breakfast offered by the UW Faith unit at First UMC, a wonderful presentation by Deaconess Robin Ridenour, and the opportunity to meet the deaconesses and home-missioner who live and work in our conference. The registration fee for the breakfast is \$15. Cannot attend the breakfast in person? We plan to Zoom the presentation and the Zoom registration fee is \$5. Lora Fulton is our registrar. Please contact her at: mrcumwregistrar@gmail.com, 303-439-2129, or 1710 Dogwood Ct., Broomfield, CO 80020, to register. We've included a flyer in this newsletter that you can share with district officers and local units.

Visit the National Historic Trails Interpretive Center while at Annual Conference

If you have a little time during Annual Conference, plan a visit to the National Historic Trails Interpretive Center, 1501 N. Poplar St., Casper, WY 82601. The center focuses on both indigenous peoples in the area and pioneers who used the California, Mormon, and Oregon trails to cross the continental United States. The center, operated by the Bureau of Land Management, is open daily 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; admission is free. Visit the website, <https://nhtcf.org/> to plan your visit.

Mountain Sky Conference Annual Meeting at St. Andrew UMC

It's difficult to think about October and our Annual Meeting for the Mountain Sky Conference while the trees are budding and the tulips and daffodils are blooming—even after our recent spring snow! Please save the date—Oct. 11-12 for our Annual Meeting at St. Andrew UMC in Highlands Ranch, CO. We will contract for a block of rooms at a nearby hotel, so continue to watch the conference and district newsletters, plus our website, for more information.

We are planning a meeting chock-full of Ubuntu service activities, book discussions, wonderful music, delicious food, and fellowship. We will remember our sisters who have entered into glory, honor our retiring officers, and cheer on our new slate of conference officers. We also will approve the new districts for United Women in Faith in our conference and approve our budget as a conference. We are planning workshops to better understand how to use the materials available on the national UW Faith website and learn more about how we can live out the lesson of Matthew 25: 35-40. There also will be an exhibit area where you learn more about potential service projects, the 2025 Reading Program, and shop for goodies for friends, family and maybe even yourself.

Note: Conference and District officers will plan to meet (in person and by Zoom) the afternoon and evening of Oct. 10, so please add that day to your calendar.

Plan to attend!

**UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH
BREAKFAST
AT ANNUAL CONFERENCE**



**COME FELLOWSHIP WITH
DEACONESS ROBIN RIDENOUR
MEET OUR DEAONESSES AND HOME-MISSIONER**

SATURDAY, JUNE 22 (6:45 A.M.)

First UMC
332 E. 2nd St.
Casper, WY 82601

We will have a delicious breakfast
and presentation from Deaconess Robin Ridenour

In-person Registration fee: \$15 Zoom Registration fee: \$5
RSVP by June 19 to Lora Fulton (mrcumwregistrar@gmail.com; 303-439-2129,
1710 Dogwood Ct, Broomfield, CO 80020)



SAVE THE DATE

MOUNTAIN SKY CONFERENCE ANNUAL MEETING


FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11-12, 2024

St. Andrew UMC 9203 University Blvd. Highlands Ranch, CO 80126,

Please bring a friend!

RSVP by Oct. 8 to: Lora Fulton, Registrar,
mscumwregistrar@gmail.com, 303-439-2129, 1710
Dogwood Ct., Broomfield, CO 80020

You're Invited to Celebrate with Us!





Sandra Barton
Study Leader

Summer 2024 Hybrid Mission u Study Registration Form

“Living the Kin-dom: Exploring the Lord’s Prayer as a Spiritual Practice for Social Transformation”



Denise Logan
Study Leader

Sponsored by the Mountain Sky Conference (MSC) United Women in Faith,
Utah/Western Colorado District and the MSC Mission Team

Saturday, June 8, 2024, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
Gathering Time: 8:30-9:00 a.m.

First UMC, Serving Ogden Area, Utah
1339 W. 400 N., Marriott-Slaterville, Utah 84404

Registration Deadline: May 31, 2024

Virtual Participant: There is no registration fee.

In-person Participant: Registration fee of \$12 includes in-house lunch and snacks.

Please mail your \$12 check (made out to United Women in Faith),
along with this completed registration form, to Jennie Sambamurthi,
575 W. 2350 S., Perry, UT 84302-4557
(Questions may be directed to Jennie. Her phone number is 435-225-5920.)

Hotel near the church: [Best Western Plus High Country Inn](#), 1335 W 1200 S, Ogden, Utah 84404.
The hotel’s phone number is 801-394-9474.

Reimbursement for caregiver costs may be requested and granted on a case-by-case basis.
If interested, contact Kathryn Witte at kathrynwitte75@yahoo.com.

An offering will be taken to support the Seager Clinic, in downtown Ogden, Utah.
This clinic offers medical, dental and counseling services to those in need.

Name:

Street Address, City, State, ZIP Code:

Best Phone Number:

Email:

First-time Attendee to Mission u? Yes No

Home Church, City/Town, State:

I will participate: In Person Virtually (via Zoom)

If attending in person, please list any dietary restrictions.

Check All that Apply: Clergy Lay Member Uwfaith Male Female Non-binary

Request certificate of completion for lay servant ministries/CEU credit.

**Must complete two recommended readings to qualify for lay servant ministries/CEU credit.
(Listed at bottom of page two.)*

Study Leaders

Sandy Barton is a member of Hope United Methodist Church in Greenwood Village, Colorado, where she is also a member of United Women in Faith, the hospitality team, the handbell choir and is a Certified Lay Servant. Sandra moved to Colorado in July 2020 from Florida and is living in Southeast Denver with her cat, Henry. For more than 40 years, Sandra taught high school. She taught in Pennsylvania, Morocco (as a Peace Corps Volunteer), the U.S. Virgin Islands, Denver and IMG Academy in Bradenton, Florida. Sandra is a long-time member of United Women in Faith and was a district spiritual growth coordinator in the Florida Conference and has done many Spiritual Day Apart programs. Her experience includes teaching several Mission u spiritual growth studies. She now serves as the Spiritual Growth Coordinator on the Metro Mile High District team. "I am looking forward to meeting many of you in the months to come," says Sandy.

Denise Logan is a member of the First United Methodist Church of Rocky Ford, Colorado, where she and her husband have lived for 45 years. Denise is a certified lay servant and teaches Sunday school. During her 40+ year membership at the church she has taught different age groups of Sunday school and vacation Bible school; directed children's choir, helped with youth group and a member of the adult choir. Denise is a member of United Women in Faith (formerly United Methodist Women) since her early days with the church. She is the treasurer of her local unit and the spiritual growth coordinator of the Trinity District. "I am really excited to lead a Mission u study," says Denise.

The Curriculum for Living the Kin-dom

THIS STUDY BY RIVA TABELISMA gives fresh eyes to the Lord's Prayer. Often learned by rote, the Lord's Prayer is a rich guide for how we can live out God's kin-dom in our lives. Tabelisma invites participants in this study to step away from our automatic recitation of the prayer and dive deep into the meaning of each line. Living the Kin-dom can be adapted to a variety of settings outside of the Mission u format, including Sunday school and other church school settings. It can also be adapted for virtual gatherings.



For virtual participants, an introduction letter with details about the event, including the Zoom link, will be sent during the week before the first session.

Please obtain your own study book, written by Riva Tabelisma.

It can be purchased on the Mission u website for \$14.99 plus shipping.

<https://uwfaithresources.org/prodDetail.cfm?productID=9903&catid=2176>

The Kindle version can be ordered from Amazon for \$5.95.

https://www.amazon.com/Living-Kin-dom-Exploring-Spiritual-Transformation-ebook/dp/B0BT4N4DTR/ref=sr_1_1?qid=1705344130&refinements=p_27%3ANora+Simpton&s=books&sr=1-1

***Must complete these two recommended readings to qualify for lay servant ministries/CEU credit.**

[Prayers of the Cosmos: Meditations on the Aramaic Words of Jesus](#) by Neil Douglas-Klotz

(Amazon \$9.79 paperback; \$13.99 Kindle)

[Teach Us to Pray](#) by Justo Gonzalez (Amazon \$18.99 paperback; \$13.49 Kindle)

PROGRAM RESOURCES—Mary Ann Tabor

When we partake of Holy Communion, we are aware of the sacred sharing of the moment. We are reminded of Christ’s closeness with the disciples and how He invited them into that first communion by simply saying, “Come.” They had already finished the meal, in fact, when Jesus invited them into a more intimate sharing. Jesus and his disciples had shared much over the years; but in that moment, Jesus was inviting them to come closer to him.

The word “communion” means “the exchange of intimate thoughts and feelings.” We women often share with each other in our conversations. We talk of family, careers, frustrations, joys. But when we become members of United Women in Faith, we answer the call to come closer and we become bound together by our purpose and commitment to women, children, and youth.

When we invite someone to join us, we are not only expanding our circle of friendly “communion,” we are inviting that person to join us in that more intimate place, where we are united in our commitment to women, children, and youth.

The reading program is another way that brings us into communion with each other. With a new reading list of books every year, we are never at a loss of what to read. Recent lists have even included novels and a number of children’s books. I think there are books for every taste.

While I enjoy group discussions centered around a book, I am also grateful that we can engage in reading as an individual activity. We can read on a bus or airplane while going to visit the relatives. We can read while waiting for an appointment or before falling asleep at night. I’ve even been known to read while eating breakfast. And when it comes to audio books, one can listen to a good story while washing dishes! Books open our minds and hearts and bring us pleasure, too. They also offer a communion of ideas and thoughts. I invite you to examine the reading list and pick out a good book today. Read! You’ll be glad you did.

Mary Ann Tabor
Program Resources



Use this link to find the 2024 Reading Program list:

[https://uwfaithresources.org/searchresults.cfm?
searchText=reading+program](https://uwfaithresources.org/searchresults.cfm?searchText=reading+program)

You can also access a list of all the books from the past 5 years and which category they fall into!

Mile High Metro District Report

What started out as “What should the Arvada UWFaith Bookworms (a reading group) at Arvada United Methodist Church be reading in 2024?” ended up being a celebration of UWFaith women and others with our Bishop Karen Oliveto on April 11.

When the small group met in December, Our Strangely Warmed Hearts was selected. I, not really expecting anything to happen, asked, “Should I invite her to the discussion?” The obvious answer was, “Yes.” Shooting her an email during Advent, I didn’t expect an answer right away and maybe not even from Bishop Karen. She responded in less than two hours that she would love to join us.

I then ask “Well, do you want dessert or a meal?”

Her response was, “I would love a meal.”

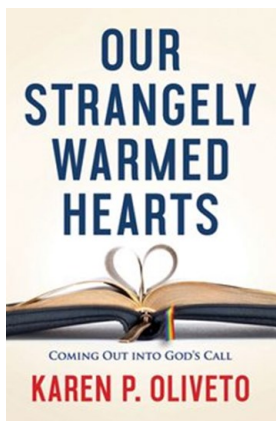
So it began. We reached out and invited others through the Mile High Metro District UWFaith as well as through invitation to churches in the area. A core team was created and it was decided that we would take an offering for the Rainbow Alley, a part of The Center on Colfax. Rainbow Alley is a safe, brave space where LGBTQ youth (ages 10-17) and their allies find support and acceptance, with events and activities, counseling and support groups, health services and life skills.

Ninety-six people came that night for a delicious meal prepared and served by women of Arvada UWFaith with help from two Green Mountain UWFaith members.

Bishop Karen spoke about her experiences, growing up gay and being a clergy member and being the first openly gay Bishop. Sandra Zapata shared about her experiences, and we were blessed with having present the “queer” Santa who provides holiday cheer to some youth who might not otherwise experience it. More than \$700 was collected to support the Rainbow Alley work.

Communion was shared by Bishop Karen and Pastor Lauren Boyd and there was time to celebrate Bishop Karen’s service to us as well as her birthday.

We hope to continue to support the Center and Rainbow Alley. Several members will again be participating in the Pride 5k in June. If interested in pledging or walking/running, contact me and I’ll send details. May we reach out with open arms and hearts to those in our community and beyond.



Other news from Mile High Metro UWFaith units

Grace United Women in Faith had their annual UWF Sunday on April 21st. The speaker was Jana Jones from Smokey Hill United Methodist Church, who currently serves as a National Director to United Women in Faith, representing the Western Jurisdiction and the Mountain Sky Conference. Her talk was "Let your Light Shine," and the whole service was filled with references to this theme. The pastor had the morning off and the whole service was done by UWFaith women from the Call to Worship to various prayers to a women's choral ensemble. The service was uplifting, fun and even had goodies that were baked and served by UWFaith ladies afterward.



Green Mountain United Women in Faith (GMUWFAITH) sold Butter Braids in March to support our covenant missionary couple - Emmanuel Mefor, M.D. & Florence Mefor, Nurse-Midwife. The project raised more than \$1,000 to help construct a shaded paved pathway connecting the Outpatient Department, Ward, Operating Room, X-ray department, and the Mortuary at the Old Mutare Mission Hospital in Zimbabwe where Emmanuel and Florence Mefor work. As it is now, a patient needing surgery cannot be wheeled safely to or from the OR and presently, when there is a death in the Ward, a vehicle is needed to take the body to the Mortuary.

Amazing women!

Western Mountains District

Fairmont Retreat

History: The Fairmont retreat has been held every other year, except the year of Covid. Although the event occurs in the Western Mountains District, attendees have come from across the state, and this year was no exception to that! The retreat occurred April 5-7.

Friday evening was a get acquainted time, with a brief “teaser” of what to expect from Rev. Lynn Miller Jackson’s (the keynote speaker) sessions throughout the weekend. The evening ended with popcorn and the movie “A Man Called Otto”. (We could see out some of the windows that it was snowing!)

Saturday morning started with breakfast and opening music and worship. Rev. Lynn Miller Jackson opened her first session of “Soul Care/Spiritual Self Care”. After lunch were three workshops, Beading In on Prayer, with Tish Herries, Journaling with Joy with Rev. Su DeBree, and Anxiety, Stress and Worries, Oh My, with Rev. Sami Pack-Toner. We had two hours of free time, which some of us used to warm up in the hot springs water! (It was a little scary when the sign on the door said to expect polar weather if you went to an outside pool!)

We enjoyed a soul food bar-be-que for dinner! Rev. Lynn closed her presentation of “Soul Care”. The evening closed with singing and worship.

Sunday morning included music, worship, and Michelle Haught’s workshop “Keeping Control in Chaos and Making Space for Me!” It was amazing that all four speakers presentations coordinated so well even though they had not coordinated with each other!

Epworth United Women in Faith will enjoy a shortened version of Rev. Lynn Miller Jackson’s “Soul Care/Spiritual Self Care” presentation at our summer retreat on June 6, at Karen Highbarger’s home!

Charter for Racial Justice Grant for the Mountain Sky Conference

The national office of United Women in Faith awarded the Mountain Sky Conference a \$500 grant to raise the visibility of and promote the Charter for Racial Justice. We hope to implement the grant through encouraging districts and units to focus on books related to racial justice from our Reading Program list, host sessions related to Racial Justice at our spiritual life retreats, and have presentations at our Annual Meeting with a Racial Justice focus. We do have funds available if you need to purchase books for a district or local unit discussion, or offer a fee to a speaker who focuses on an aspect of Racial Justice.

Because our Conference encompasses several minorities, including African-Americans, Asian-Americans, Hispanic-Americans, Native Americans, and individuals with different abilities and gifts, we believe we need to promote the Charter from a very broad perspective. Questions? Please contact any member of our Charter for Racial Justice committee: Robin Ball, Lauri Kiel, Teresa Rivera, Mary Ann Tabor, Janet Ulrich, and Cheryl Runyon.

EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION—Michaele Ann Buell-McFeeters

As you already know, Conference Giving includes Five Channels of Giving as well as designated gifts. The Five Channels include unrestricted funds received by the organization. Conference Giving is budgeted to directly support 46% of the Programs and Supporting Services in 2024.

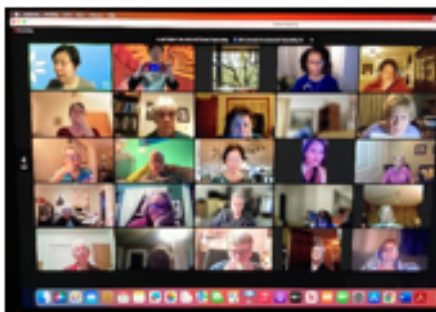
The Five Channels of Giving are Gift to Mission, Special Mission Recognition, Pledge to Mission, World Thank Offering, and Gift in Memory. When you Pledge to Mission, you help to fulfill the PURPOSE of United Women in Faith; this is the largest channel of Mission Giving. For 2024, \$5.90 million was budgeted for Mission Giving (unrestricted) and \$450 thousand for Designated Giving (restricted) [representing 46% of our funding sources].

I am very anxious to “meet” every one of you—not only the designated E&I District Officers—but any and ALL who are interested in our Missions. I came into this office not knowing a lot about missions, so it is a “work in process” for me and those of you who already know whatever I write about, bear with me. Please! I welcome all your comments and questions, and we will work together to find answers.

Michaele Ann
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Summer 2024 Virtual Mission u Study Registration (Free)

“Welcome Home” (Exploring How to Know God as an Intimate Friend)



Sponsored by Mountain Sky United Women in Faith
and the Mountain Sky Mission Team.
Open to all adults, youth, clergy and lay persons.

2024 Summer – Free Virtual Adult Mission u Study: “Welcome Home”
Dates: July 9, 16, 23, 30 (Four Consecutive Tuesdays) – 7:00 to 9:30 p.m.
Study Leader: Janeen Hill
Study Book: [“Welcome Home”](#)

Study Description: This study explores how we can know God as an intimate friend who welcomes us. Abiding in God’s safety and dwelling in God’s provision allows us to open our hearts to a full embrace of the power and presence of God. This enables us to find our home in God. The study leads participants outward so that what starts with our personal homes, expands to welcoming others to join us in our work as co-creators to establish God’s kin-dom on earth.

*Reimbursement for caregiver costs may be requested and granted on a case-by-case basis.
If interested, contact Kathryn Witte at kathrynwitte75@yahoo.com.*

*An offering will be taken. The proceeds will be split between Mountain Sky United Women in Faith
and the Mountain Sky Conference Mission Team.*

Name:

Street Address, City, State, ZIP Code:

Best Phone Number:

Email:

First-time Attendee to Mission u? Yes No

Home Church, City/Town, State:

Check All that Apply: Clergy Lay Member Uwfsaith Male Female Non-binary

Request certificate for CEU/Lay Servant Ministries Credit be sent upon completion of course.

Study Leader Janeen Hill



Janeen Hill is a member of the Broomfield United Methodist Church in Broomfield, Colorado, where she sings in the Grace Notes choir and volunteers teaching English as a second language. Janeen served as a UM Licensed Local Pastor from 2013-2022, serving Colorado churches in Keenesburg, Fowler, Manzanola and Olney Springs. Her other teaching experience comes from time as a Peace Corps volunteer in Tetuan, Morocco, working with children ages 3-7; as a youth group leader at the Louisville UMC, in Louisville, Colorado; and leading Bible studies during her time as a pastor. She was an attorney for more than 30 years, focused on helping clients make simple wills and guiding families through the probate process after a death in the family. She is a third-generation Methodist and is excited about leading a Mission u study.

The Curriculum for Living the Kin-dom

Welcome Home is an adult curriculum that explores how we can know God as an intimate friend who welcomes us. Abiding in God's safety and dwelling in God's provision, allows us to open our hearts to a fuller embrace of the power and presence of God. This enables us to find our home in God. Participants are invited to dig deeper into what it means to live in the kin-dom of God and how this helps us to develop practices for building and existing in healthier communities.

Author Neomi Fletcher leads participants through a journey that starts with examining home and redefining what it means in light of Scripture's repeated invitations to dwell with God as individuals, community members and persons of faith.

How a Virtual Mission u Works

An introduction letter with details about the event, including the virtual link, will be sent during the week before the first session.

Please obtain your own study book, written by Neomi Fletcher.

It can be purchased on the Mission u website for \$14.99 plus shipping.

<https://uwfaithresources.org/prodDetail.cfm?productID=11156&catid=2176>

The Kindle version of it can be ordered from Amazon for \$5.95.

<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0CR9VH5W1>



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