

# **GLOWING EMBERS**

**SPRING 2026 NEWSLETTER**  
**WESTERN MOUNTAINS DISTRICT - MOUNTAIN SKY CONFERENCE**



United  
Women  
in Faith

## **The Presidents' Corner**

Happy Spring! Wait, what? Is it still Winter? Someone better tell Mother Nature! I'm sure we are all enjoying the lovely weather (except those who like to play in the snow!) The other day, it was warmer in Dillon, MT than in Orlando, Florida. I think we all need to pray for precipitation, or we will be in for a long, dry summer.

We were fortunate to attend the Spiritual Retreat/Annual Gathering "Faith Not Fear - Acting Fearlessly" in Montrose, Colorado. It was a fabulous weekend of spiritual growth shared with old and new friends. We loved experiencing the beautiful landscape of this country.

There are many exciting United Women of Faith upcoming activities. We hope you can participate in some or all of them. Many of our members are planning to attend the National Convention in Indianapolis (see back page). They will be identifiable by beautiful stoles. It sounds wonderful!

Are you looking for an opportunity to relax, refresh your soul, and draw closer to Jesus? Then join us at the retreat at Fairmont Hot Springs. Enjoy new and old friends, uplifting music, a wonderful speaker, a movie, crafts, and time to swim in the pool.

The 2026 Fall District meeting will be held in Kalispell. Such a beautiful part of our state. Our UWF sisters in Salmon, Idaho, are excited to host the 2027 Fall District meeting.

*Arlis & Cathy*

**"What does the LORD require of you?  
To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly  
with your God."**

**Micah 6:8**



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## Western Mountains District UWF Leadership Team 2026:

We are thankful for these women who have said YES to serving as your district officers for the coming year. They are ready to serve and ready to be valuable contact persons for you and your unit. Please keep them in your prayers and offer them your appreciation whenever you get a chance.

You will note we are still lacking a Mission Education and Social Action Coordinator. Surely there is someone in our district who has a heart for our national emphases, for the marginalized, for the women, children and youth who need our support throughout the world. Please examine your own heart and let the nominations committee know you are also willing to say YES!

**Co-Presidents:**

Arlis Vannett - 406-925-2209 - [Arlis\\_v@hotmail.com](mailto:Arlis_v@hotmail.com)  
Cathy Speich-Ferguson - 406-925-1994 - [cathysf@bresnan.net](mailto:cathysf@bresnan.net)

**Vice President:**

Adina Fox - 406-253-1774 - [adinafox49@gmail.com](mailto:adinafox49@gmail.com)

**Treasurer:**

Claudia Davis - 406-461-9618 - [Westernmountainsdistrictuwf@gmail.com](mailto:Westernmountainsdistrictuwf@gmail.com)

**Secretary:**

Roxanne Roehl - 406-239-1452 - [roxroeste@gmail.com](mailto:roxroeste@gmail.com)

**Spiritual Growth & Membership Coordinator &  
Program Resources Coordinator:**

Elaine Williams - 406-529-1325 - [eewilliams31705@outlook.net](mailto:eewilliams31705@outlook.net)

**Communications Coordinator:**

Janna Lauver - 406-698-0810 - [Janna@bozemanumc.org](mailto:Janna@bozemanumc.org)

**Missions Education & Social Action Coordinator: VACANT**

**Committees on Nominations:**

*Chair:* Tish Herries - 406-370-6572 - [tishsaffron@gmail.com](mailto:tishsaffron@gmail.com)  
Carol Perry - 406-452-6296 - [c2s2p@yahoo.com](mailto:c2s2p@yahoo.com)  
Janet Ulrich - 907-230-5881 - [bluejaytree5881@gmail.com](mailto:bluejaytree5881@gmail.com)  
Janet Zimmerman - 406-451-3859 - [janetkayzee@gmail.com](mailto:janetkayzee@gmail.com)

# Treasurer's Report for the Western Mountains District Year 2026

Welcome to 2026. If you haven't heard, we had terrific news from our conference treasurer and our national staff concerning our 2025 giving. Our conference, Mountain Sky, exceeded its pledge to the mission. And for the first time in 10 years, our national office exceeded the budget in mission giving sent from the conferences. Our district helped this by exceeding our pledge to the mission. We can all celebrate!

More good news.... The Legacy Fund is now at \$53,819,136.27. Less than \$7 million away from the goal of \$60 million. When it gets to the goal, then the interest earned will be used for administrative costs, and all our mission giving will go to mission work. So let's help this fund reach its goal this year. Have a Legacy Fund giving jar at all your Circle and Unit meetings. Take a special offering for the Legacy Fund whenever possible. Your unit sends this directly to the Legacy Fund. Mail your check to:

**United Women in Faith**

Attn: Legacy  
Church Center for the United Nations  
777 United Nations Plaza, 11th Floor  
New York, NY 10017

Call to Prayer and Self-Denial offering should be taken in your Units this month or next. This year, the funds will support vulnerable children through the work of National Mission Institutions. NMIs help children through low-cost early childhood education, after-school programs, enrichment programs, mental health support, guidance for the transition to adulthood, reunification with family, and more. Send this offering to the District Treasurer (me).

I hope to see a lot of you at Fairmont Hot Springs from May 1-3, 2026, for our Women's Retreat (See Pgs. 7-9). The district has lowered the registration cost to \$100 and is offering a \$50 per night/per room financial assistance. We hope this will encourage more of you to attend. Watch for the online registration coming on March 1, 2026. And the units will be emailed a registration form to print and share. We also sent out a Scholarship form template to Unit presidents, as we are encouraging all units to offer a scholarship or two to attend the retreat.

**Unit Treasurers, don't forget to send me your 2025 audits. Thank you.**

It is a pleasure to call you my sister and an honor to serve as your District Treasurer.  
*Blessings to all, Claudia Davis, Western Mountains District Treasurer*

## Awards List: 1 Star to 5 Star Awards 2025 Giving

Five Channels of Giving are: Pledge to Mission, Gift in Memory, Gift to Mission, Special Mission Recognition, and World Thank Offering

<p><b>1 STAR AWARDS:</b> Great Falls First Missoula Grace Polson UMC</p>	<p><b>2 STAR AWARDS:</b> None</p>
<p><b>3 STAR AWARDS:</b> Great Falls Christ UMC Kalispell Epworth UMC Missoula First UMC Salmon UMC</p>	<p><b>4 STAR AWARDS:</b> Bozeman UMC</p>
<p><b>5 STAR AWARDS:</b> Dillon UMC, Helena St. Paul's UMC, Mission Valley UMC &amp; Stevensville UMC</p>	

## Fall Gathering 2025: “Where in the World is UWF?”



A wonderful Fall Gathering was held on September 20, 2025, in Great Falls at Christ Church. The theme was “Where in the World Is UWinFaith?” Rev. Janet Fitzgerald presented a program on East Angola and its partnership with The United Methodist Church. She has traveled there twice for fellowship and service with the people of East Angola, and they have truly stolen her heart.

The leadership team shared information, and even dressed in attire representing projects of UWinFaith in seven world areas: Africa; Asia & Pacific Islands; Europe; Mexico with Central Caribbean and Central America; the Middle East; the USA & Puerto Rico; and South America. Arlis and Cathy also brought an amazing collection of dolls from around the world.

Twenty-five women attended: 22 (including one online) from the district and three from outside the district (two from Billings and one from Harlowton). It was a wonderful turnout — and we look forward to welcoming even more next time.

*Submitted by: Roxanne Roehl, Photo of the Installation of District officers by Joey Diers.*

## Mission u - Summer 2026



Mission u is a transformative educational program that encompasses both Bible-based curricula and events. All are welcome to engage with either or both components of Mission u.

*Interested in deepening your faith in community? Gaining experience interpreting Scripture? Working toward healing for yourself, your community, and all of creation? Mission u is for you!*

[uwfaith.org/events/mission-u/](http://uwfaith.org/events/mission-u/)

## United Women in Faith Day of Giving: March 23

Day of Giving is our opportunity to gather together as one sisterhood in faith to thank God for the continued grace shown to United Women in Faith by giving to ensure the future of our vital mission work to improve the lives of women, children, and youth at home and abroad. We invite you to join us and show your appreciation for God's Grace in Abundance with your generous gift. Live phone lines will be open to accept your gifts on Monday, March 23, from 8 to 5 p.m. EST. Call 1-800-278-7771. Give securely online at: [bit.ly/DayofGiving2026](http://bit.ly/DayofGiving2026)

Checks can be mailed to:  
United Women in Faith  
Attn: Day of Giving  
Church Center for the United Nations  
777 United Nations Plaza, 11th Floor  
New York, NY 10017



## Unit Update: DREAM IT, BELIEVE IT, DO IT!

Like many United Women in Faith units, Missoula First UMC found itself facing an aging, dwindling membership, with fewer and fewer women able or willing to hold office. We prided ourselves on still having four active circles and a group of busy crafters. What to do? Last Fall we surveyed our members. We received the results at our annual planning meeting in January. They led us to dispense with elections and installations and instead try operating with a steering committee, in keeping with our Program Resource theme, "Mapping Our Way Forward."

We still have a treasurer and nominations, and a missions education coordinator to keep the big picture before us. Our steering committee centers around individuals being responsible for our various activities throughout the year: potlucks, fundraisers, summer and winter parties, etc., with one or two women heading up each activity. All national programs, such as the World Thank Offering, will be conducted in each circle rather than at a general meeting.

We have dreamed it. We believe we can do it! We offer this idea simply to encourage other units to "think outside the box!" while our PURPOSE is ALWAYS to be "a community of women whose PURPOSE is to know God through Jesus Christ."

Perhaps you have come up with other plans that are working for you? If so, maybe you'd like to share them in this newsletter?

Grace and peace, Tish Herries



*Banner at Missoula First UMC purchased with donations given at UW in Faith potluck to welcome groups meeting in the church, such as Scouts and many AA groups.*



**Is your unit planning a program on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples? Want to create a display of red dresses to raise awareness and honor those who have been murdered or taken?**

**Western Mountains District has a small collection of red dresses (adult, youth and infant dresses).**

**To borrow these dresses, please contact  
Pastor Su DeBree in Helena, by email  
[su.debree70@gmail.com](mailto:su.debree70@gmail.com)**

## Ubuntu! What is it? Why do we do it?



Has your United Women in Faith unit done an Ubuntu project or have you attended a district or conference meeting where you are invited to participate in an Ubuntu project? During my years as a UWF member, I have participated in several Ubuntu projects. One might consider these projects to be service to others, sharing love, and doing social justice. Examples of projects I have contributed to are: donating socks and blankets for homeless shelters, collecting school supplies, taking cookie plates to shut-ins at holiday time, and providing housekeeping/kitchen supplies for foster children who age out of the system at age 18.

Why do we call it “Ubuntu”? Consider the following points and see if you agree that Ubuntu is serving the Lord by recognizing our human connections.

- Ubuntu is a Nguni Bantu term meaning "humanity towards others."
- It emphasizes the interconnectedness of all people and the importance of community.
- The philosophy promotes compassion, kindness, and mutual respect.
- Ubuntu suggests that one's well-being is tied to the well-being of others.
- It is often summarized by the phrase "I am because we are."
- The concept has influenced various fields, including ethics, leadership, and social justice.

## **2026 A Call to Prayer & Self Denial The Future is Now: Invest in Our Children!**

Gifts to A Call to Prayer and Self Denial 2026 will support vulnerable children through the work of our National Mission Institutions. NMIs help children through low-cost early childhood education, after-school programs, enrichment programs, mental health support, guidance for the transition to adulthood, reunification with family and more.

Resources to promote A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial in your United Women in Faith group may be found at [uwfaith.org/CallToPrayer](http://uwfaith.org/CallToPrayer).

You or your group may make your gift today by visiting [www.uwfaith.org/calltoprayer2026](http://www.uwfaith.org/calltoprayer2026) or by sending a check to: United Women in Faith, Church Center for the United Nations, 777 United Nations Plaza, 11th Floor, New York, NY 10017 Attn: Call to Prayer 2026.



# Soul Care **Soul Care** Soul Care

**Save the Date**

**May 1, 2 & 3, 2026**

Western Mountains UWF - Spring Retreat Fairmont  
Hot Springs - Anaconda, MT

## **Restore, and Refresh Your Soul**

Keynote Speaker: Sandy Barton

***“How to be a Christian in today’s world”***

Activities include:

*Movie Night • Live Music • Crafts*

*Relax & Renew Workshops • Hot Spring Soaks*

Registration for workshops and meals: \$100. Room cost: \$256.52/night for up to 4 persons - Bring a friend. Block of rooms are available now. *Code: 31727.* Call: 406-797-3241 Block of rooms closes April 1st. Scholarships available. Women of all faiths and ages are invited. More information to follow.

Registration should be received by April 24 for food count.

**Email or mail to registrar:**

Claudia Davis

725 Middlemas Rd

Helena, MT 59602

westernmountainsdistrictuwf@gmail.com

406-461-9618

### **What to Bring:**

Swimsuit

Empty Altoid Tin or

Similar Tin

Open Mind

Smile

**Online Registration: Opens March 1, 2026**

**<https://pci.jotform.com/Westernmountainsdistrictuwf/womens-retreat-2026-registration>**

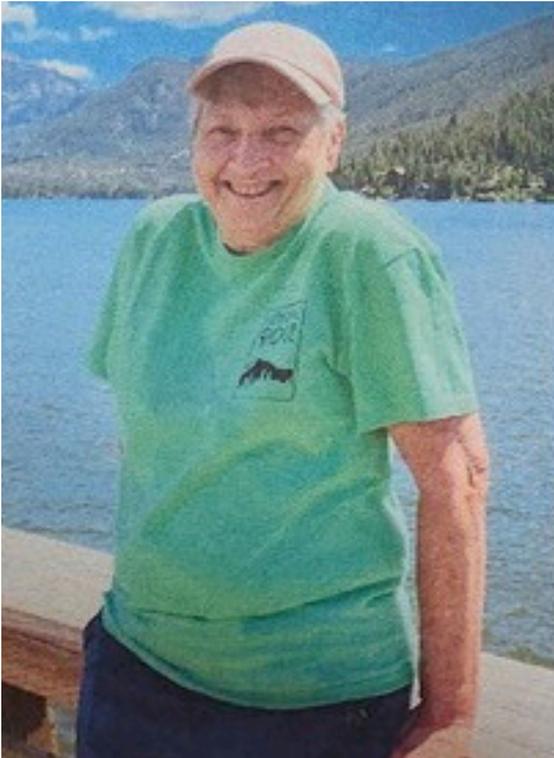


# Soul Care Soul Care Soul Care

**Western Mountains UWF - Spring Retreat  
Fairmont Hot Springs - Anaconda, MT**

**Keynote Speaker: Sandy Barton**

**HOW TO BE A CHRISTIAN IN TODAY'S WORLD**



*Sandy Barton is a member of First United Methodist Church in Grand Junction, Colorado, where she is also a member of United Women in Faith and is a Certified Lay Servant.*

*Sandy moved to Colorado in July 2020 from Florida and recently relocated from Denver to Grand Junction with her cats, Marley & Harley. 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, most recently co-leading Living the Kin-dom: The Lord's Prayer and Practicing Hope.*



United  
Women  
in Faith



**“Restore and Refresh Your Soul”  
May 1-3, 2026 Fairmont Hot Springs Resort  
Western Mountains District United Women in Faith Women’s Retreat**

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE: April 24, 2026**

Please return this portion of the form with payment.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name (One person per registration form, please.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Unit/Church

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address: Mailing/Street, City, ST, Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone (including area code)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Special Needs: Dietary Restrictions etc....

**Registration Fee**

Contact local United Women in Faith unit for scholarship assistance.

**\$100.00 (includes all Saturday, and Sunday morning meals)**

Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Cash \_\_\_\_\_ Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Credit Card: Name on card** \_\_\_\_\_

**Card #** \_\_\_\_\_

**MM/YY** \_\_\_\_\_ **CVV** \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to Registrar: Claudia Davis  
725 Middlemas Rd Helena, MT 59602  
Email to: westernmountainsdistrictuwf@gmail.com



## Assembly 2026 is Almost Here!

We're getting ready to "Dream it! Believe it! Do it!" — and we want YOU with us.

Assembly 2026 (May 15–17, 2026, in Indianapolis, Indiana) will gather thousands of United Women in Faith for a powerful, spirit-filled weekend of worship, inspiration, sisterhood, and action. Come grow closer to God, connect deeply with others, and be equipped to change the world. Whether it's your first Assembly or you've attended before, now's the time to register!



Register today:

<https://assembly.uwfaith.org/website/82390/>

Together, we'll "Dream it! Believe it! Do it!"  
We can't wait to see you in Indianapolis!

## SAVE THE DATES: FALL 2026

### ***Western Mountains District Annual Gathering: September 26, 2026***

This year's District Annual Gathering will be held on September 26<sup>th</sup> at Epworth United Methodist Church in Kalispell! Plan to bring handmade items for the ever-popular silent auction to benefit missions! Anything from homemade huckleberry jam to quilts, potholders, pottery - the sky is the limit! Or come a day early and visit Glacier National Park or perhaps Whitefish Mountain Resort. Or visit Whitefish, Bigfork, or Kalispell for some gift shopping. Renew friendships with women from around Western Montana. There are plenty of bed and breakfasts and hotels in the area if you plan to stay overnight! Watch for more information soon!

### ***Mountain Sky Conference Annual Gathering: October 2-3, 2026***

*Helena's St. Paul's United Methodist Church is the site of this year's Conference Annual Gathering! Friday, will be a spiritual growth retreat. Saturday will be workshops and business meetings. Katie Pryor is scheduled to be the keynote speaker. She has been the main person involved with the new Unstoppable program! Hope to see you here in October!*

***GLOWING EMBERS Western Mountains District Mountain Sky Conference  
2026 Spring Newsletter***

***Do you have news articles, events or photos you would like to submit for the newsletter? If so, you may email your information by June 15th to:***

***janna@bozemanumc.org***