



United
Women
in Faith

The SOCO Journal

Together, love in action can change
the world

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Unstoppable

Real Faith. Real Women. Real Community

Women are tired—tired of injustice, burnout, division, and being told we can't make a difference. But tired doesn't mean defeated. When women come together in faith, fueled by purpose, and a deep sense of commitment for our community we become something else entirely: unstoppable.

United Women in Faith isn't just an organization, we're a powerful movement. We're spiritual, fired up, and never satisfied sitting on the sidelines. We're showing up for one another in bold life-changing ways.

Love in action is
UNSTOPPABLE



United
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in Faith



Presidents message

Hello Southern Colorado District United Women in Faith! I hope you all had great holidays with family and friends.

Our book club is on the 4th Thursday evening from 7-8 on zoom. Zoom link goes out on Monday or Tuesday before and the last one on the Thursday morning of the book club. We also send out several save-the-date reminders throughout the month. There is more information about the books we will be reading in this newsletter.

I would love to attend your unit events, but I need your help in telling me when and where the event is. Last year I attended 6 or 8 different unit events.

We are planning a Spiritual Retreat on June 6th at the Franciscan Retreat Center in Colorado Springs. Our theme is "Who is the Southern Colorado District and our guest speaker will be Rev. Nancy Meade, a retired pastor who lives in Alamosa. Registration for the retreat will be \$20 person, which includes snacks and lunch.

Franciscan Retreat Center
7740 Deer Hill Grove
Colorado Springs 80919

Our Annual Gathering will be on September 19th at Fowler UMC in Fowler. There will be more details to come.

Speaking of our Annual Gathering, it is a reminder to me that we are in desperate need of new officers in our district. Please search your heart and if there is a job that interests you, please contact anyone on our leadership team

I am looking forward to seeing all of you in Colorado Springs on June 6th.

Blessings & Peace,

N. Elaine Allison

N. Elaine Allison,
SoCo District UWFaith President
719-469-7394 (call or text)
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Who is SOCO??



Southern Colorado encompasses the San Luis Valley, as well as Pueblo and the land on the plains south of the Arkansas River. Before European contact, the San Luis Valley was the territory of the Utes, while Cheyennes, Arapahos and Comanches lived on the plains portion.

Some notable towns and cities there include Colorado Springs, Pueblo, Cripple Creek, Cañon City, Salida, Buena Vista, Monte Vista, Alamosa, Walsenburg, and Trinidad.

We are women from rural areas and small towns, we are women from urban agricultural places and women from a metropolitan city with one thing in common, faith, hope and love for all. With all our differences and distances between us, when we work together we CAN change the world.

Join with other women in faith. Contact the leaders in this newsletter. Would you like to join a district circle or small group?

No one becomes unstoppable alone.

We rise because someone stood beside us.

We keep going because someone called our name.

This sisterhood is made of circles, prayer partners, truth-tellers, encouragers, ride-or-dies in faith.

2026 Southern Colorado District Leadership Team

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Event Planning Committee

All members of the Leadership Team
Ima Lindstrom, Chair

Positions open on the SoCo District Leadership Team:

Chair for Committee on Nominations
Nominations committee members (2-5 positions)
Mtn Sky Conference committee on nominations



Ima Lindstrom Vice President

Ima Lindstrom currently serves as Vice President of Calvary United Women in Faith and has recently accepted the Vice President position in the Southern Colorado United Women in Faith.

Ima is proud of her family, which includes her son Chris, Chris's wife Leanne, and two grandchildren, London (4) and Luke (2).

Ima grew up in the small town of Lena, Illinois, was raised in the Methodist church, and has a deep love for God and for helping others. She is also an enthusiastic fan of the Chicago Bears and the Cubs.

Thank you from the Secretary - Barbara Canavan



I want to thank all the units for responding to my request for your 2026 Unit Leadership Team information.

The SoCo District Directory should be out soon. You all made my job easy with your quick responses. Thank you!

Reminder from the Treasurer - Helen Taylor



Send your pledges to

PO Box 1947
Alamosa, CO 81101
719-580-2340 (cell)
taylorhco@yahoo.com

Save the Date Saturday, June 6, 2026

Spirituality Retreat at Franciscan Retreat Center



The Franciscan Retreat Center is a peaceful, breathtaking setting on Mount St. Francis in the foothills of the Colorado Rockies.

Located on the western edge of Colorado Springs, but a world away from the city.

It is a place for your individual and group retreats, spiritual formation workshops, or an FRC Hosted Retreat.

Registration for the SOCO district retreat and more details will be coming to you soon

**Join the SoCo District Book Club on
Thursday, March 26th at 7 pm via Zoom**

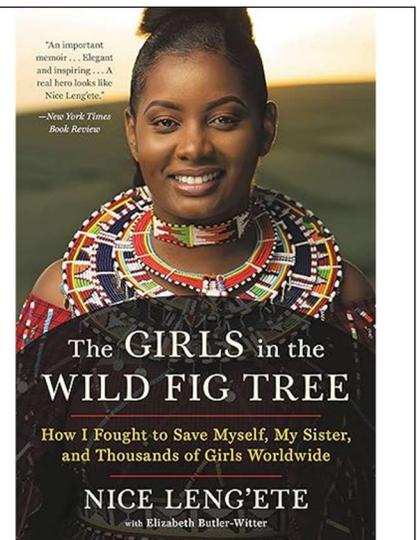
	<p>Our Missing Hearts is a dystopian novel by Celeste Ng, published in 2022, about a 12-year-old boy named Bird Gardner searching for his mother, a Chinese-American poet who disappeared after her work was deemed unpatriotic. Set in a near-future America gripped by fear and anti-Asian sentiment, the story follows Bird's quest, guided by his mother's folktales and a network of librarians, to uncover the truth about her and the oppressive "PACT" laws that have upended their lives. The novel explores themes of racism, censorship, and the power of art and love to resist injustice.</p>
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Thursday, April 23rd at 7 pm via Zoom

Nice Leng`ete was raised in a Maasai village in Kenya. In 1998, when Nice was six, her parents fell sick and died, and Nice and her sister Soila were taken in by their father's brother, who had little interest in the girls beyond what their dowries might fetch. Fearing "the cut" (female genital mutilation, a painful and sometimes deadly ritualistic surgery), which was the fate of all Maasai women, Nice and Soila climbed a tree to hide.

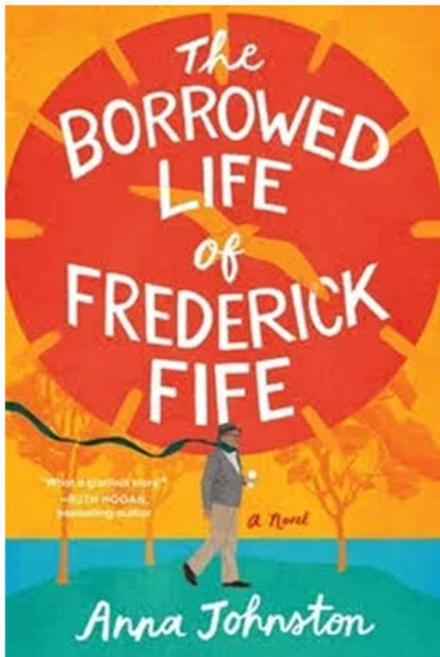
Nice hoped to find a way to avoid the cut forever, but Soila understood it would be impossible. But maybe if one of the sisters submitted, the other would be spared. After Soila chose to undergo the surgery, sacrificing herself to save Nice, their lives diverged. Soila married, dropped out of school, and had children—all in her teenage years—while Nice postponed receiving the cut, continued her education, and became the first in her family to attend college.

Supported by Amref, Nice used visits home to set an example for what an uncut Maasai woman can achieve. Other women listened, and the elders finally saw the value of intact, educated girls as the way of the future. The village has since ended FGM entirely, and Nice continues the fight to end FGM throughout Africa, and the world.



Nice's journey from "heartbroken child and community outcast, to leader of the Maasai" is an inspiration and a reminder that one person can change the world—and every girl is worth saving

The Borrowed Life of Frederick Fife" by Anna Johnston is a suggestion for the future by Pat Blasi during our leadership team meeting in February, possibly for May 28th



The Borrowed Life of Frederick Fife: A Heartwarming Story of Redemption and Forgiveness, Discover the Power of Second Changes and Found Family

“A funny, heartfelt story about found family and seeing the silver lining in life. Fans of *A Man Called Ove* and *Remarkably Bright Creatures* will especially enjoy this new novel.”—Library Journal

A zany case of mistaken identity allows a lonely old man one last chance to be part of a family.

“Would you mind terribly, old boy, if I borrowed the rest of your life? I promise I’ll take excellent care of it.”

Frederick Fife was born with an extra helping of kindness in his heart. If he borrowed your car, he’d return it washed with a full tank of gas. The problem is, at age eighty-two, there’s nobody left in Fred’s life to borrow from, and he’s broke and on the brink of eviction. But Fred’s luck changes when he’s mistaken for Bernard Greer, a missing resident at the local nursing home, and takes his place. Now Fred has warm meals in his belly and a roof over his head—as long as his look-alike Bernard never turns up.

Denise Simms is stuck breathing the same disappointing air again and again. A middle-aged mom and caregiver at Bernard’s facility, her crumbling marriage and daughter’s health concerns are suffocating her joy for life. Wounded by her two-faced husband, she vows never to let a man deceive her again.

As Fred walks in Bernard’s shoes, he leaves a trail of kindness behind him, fueling Denise’s suspicions about his true identity. When unexpected truths are revealed, Fred and Denise rediscover their sense of purpose and learn how to return a broken life to mint condition.

Bittersweet and remarkably perceptive, *The Borrowed Life of Frederick Fife* is a hilarious, feel-good, clever novel about grief, forgiveness, redemption, and finding family.

"Start with Hello" by Shannan Martin will be the book discussed at the Annual Gathering in October 2026.

This book will be discussed at some point in the near future.

A simple path to a more deeply connected life

You want more. You want to belong to a community that looks out for each other. You believe in your bones we don’t have to live detached, distracted, and divided. The question is, *How?* Shannan Martin invites you into deeper connection through simple resets, such as

- **Open Door > Perfect Décor.** *We invite others in, seeking to connect, not impress.*
- **Familiar > Fussy.** *We serve tacos and pizza like the feasts they are, because fancy is overrated.*
- **Tender > Tough.** *We greet the world with our hearts exposed and our guards down.*

Packed with street-level practices and real-talk storytelling, *Start with Hello* is your field guide for a life of security, camaraderie, and joy. There is no step too small.



From the conference

Social Justice, Environmental Justice, and Racial Justice

Judy Scrimshire, Social Action Coordinator, Mountain Sky Conference UW Faith
Cheryl Runyon, Racial Justice Committee, Mountain Sky Conference

Racial Justice and Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons (MMIP)

Our Mountain Sky Conference has a Racial Justice Committee. You are welcome to join us. Our committee is involved in raising awareness about Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons (MMIP). We submitted a resolution regarding MMIP to the Mountain Sky Annual Conference in 2025 and it was approved. The resolution establishes a task force to support the MMIP movement within our four states. We also were awarded a \$2,500 grant by the Board of Church and Society that will be used for education and advocacy in our Mountain Sky Conference. In addition, the Grand Junction unit has pledged an additional \$1,000 as a match to the grant.

We plan to reach out to UW Faith districts and units, churches, schools, and communities to share information and urge our members to advocate with decision-makers to better coordinate on MMIP issues. Our goal is to teach our members to advocate for state and federal legislation and financial support of programs that address MMIP. We will share how to write letters or emails to state legislators, members of Congress, and the US Department of Justice. Our goal is to stand with our indigenous communities and bring the strength of United Women in Faith to bear on this issue.

As you may know, our denomination has a Charter for Racial Justice, but it was initially adopted by the Women's Division of the United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries in 1978—well before the larger Church acted.

How can you, as a member of United Women in Faith, help us to raise awareness about the Charter for Racial Justice? Please save the date—October 2-3—for our Annual Gathering in Helena, MT. The Racial Justice Committee is planning a program related to MMIP for our Saturday session. In addition, we will have an Ubuntu project to pack Christmas shoeboxes with gifts for delivery to the Blackfeet United Methodist Parish (BUMP) in Browning, MT. The shoeboxes will be packed for both children and elders. Please save your shoeboxes!

Creation Care Updates

I also want to share the good news that the Mountain Sky Creation Care Task Force recently received a grant from the UW Faith's Just Energy 4 All program. The \$3,000 grant is for projects that will benefit Native Americans served by BUMP and Native Grace, which is based in Cortez, Colorado. Our Creation Care Task Force also wants to remind you that our Conference is asking each local church to form a Green Team and to prioritize energy and water efficiency efforts. If you serve on your Board of Trustees or Church Council, please advocate for establishing a Green Team at your church. Need a role model? We just learned that Dr. Karen McElfish is serving on the Virginia

Conference Creation Care Team; she also serves as the president of the Virginia Conference of United Women in Faith! We wonder when she has time to sleep.

The task force meets monthly on the 4th Thursday at 6:30 pm on Zoom. If you would like to participate, please go to <https://www.mtnskyumc.org/creation-justice> or send an email to: creationjustice@mtnskyumc.MS4org.

Want to exercise your advocacy muscles? Please contact your US Senators and Representatives and urge them to continue to consider creation justice when making policy decisions. Learn what committees your members of Congress serve on and their impact on creation care. For example, Representative Joe Neguse, serving the 2nd District in Colorado, has a focus on climate justice and serves on the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis. Units within his district can contact him at: <https://neguse.house.gov/contact>.

But don't stop there. Please consider also contacting your state senators and representatives.

Your local Colorado state representatives can be found at: https://leg.colorado.gov/find-my-legislator?_gl=1*bf567*_ga*MTQ0NTU2MjkyMS4xNzY5ODI0NDAY*_ga_V0L3NG2C4C*_czE3Njk4MjQ0MDEkbzEkZzEkdDE3Njk4MjQ0MTckajQ0JGwwJGgw

If you need background information before contacting decision-makers, the UMC Council of Bishops has written a letter supporting and prioritizing the urgency of Climate Justice work that can be found at: <https://www.umnews.org/en/news/bishops-prioritize-creation-care>.

Please consider drafting advocacy letters and having them at your church for other UW Faith and church members to sign before you send to your Congressman, Senator, Governor, or local state legislator.

Want even more information? Our UW Faith Reading Program has some great books to help us move forward by learning more about these issues. One we suggest is "Start With Hello (And Other Simple Ways to Live as Neighbors)" by Shannan Martin. Other reading to help get started with your local units might be the Sarah August book, "The Land Is Not Empty," about the Doctrine of Discovery, as well as the UW Faith racial justice timeline.

During the recent Northern Colorado District Leadership Team meeting, Laurel Kubin shared her inspirational sign: I need to be able to tell my grandchildren I DID NOT STAY SILENT!! We all need to take this message to heart.

Southern Colorado District
United Women in Faith Newsletter
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