SKY LIGHTS

News for the Mountain Sky United Women in Faith

Robin's Ramblings

Have you read "Everyday Ubuntu, Living Better Together the African Way"? Let me give you a taste of this treasure.

Ubuntu — a person is a person through other persons. Desmond Tutu explained the philosophy as "My humanity is caught up, and inextricably bound up, in yours" OR "I am because you are."

One of the first lessons is "Strength in Unity." Immediately I thought of United Women in Faith. Together we have and continue to impact and influence our world. A short quote from the lesson — "Yet it's easy to forget the potential we have as a collective. Apathy and insolation have sometimes led us to think our contribution to causes we believe in has no value. However, we all have a voice. And it's loudest when it's expressed alongside the voices of others. There is always strength in numbers."

If you want to go in a hurry, go alone.
If you want to go far, go together.
African proverb

Fall is quickly approaching. My area in southwest Colorado has been so dry that much of the area has become brown looking like late fall. We are getting some rain now which is much appreciated. A little green makes me feel like autumn may not be eminent.

With fall comes our annual meetings, both district and conference. These are wonderful opportunities to visit with friends, make new friends, and learn about our organization, its missions and projects. I hope all of you are planning to attend. There will be more information about each of these events in the following pages.

The Mountain Sky Conference of United Women in Faith will meet at the Annual Gathering (annual meeting) in **Helena, MT on October 2nd and 3rd at St. Paul's UMC.**

Friday, October 2nd is a Spiritual Retreat with forgiveness as the theme. The event

Robin's article is continued on page 2

United Women in Faith

faith
action
sisterhood

Sky Light Sky Bright

Event Dates

- Conference Spiritual Retreat & Annual Gathering—October 2-3 — Helena, MT

Highlights

- President's Message Pg. 1 & 2
- National President's Message Pg. 4
- Spiritual Retreat/Annual Gathering Pg. 3 and 11
- Special Meal at Annual Conference Pg. 10
- Nominations Pg. 12-13
- District News Pgs. 14-17

Lots of other good stuff throughout the newsletter!

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 President's Message cont.

leadership team includes Marcia Canter, Judy Scrimshire, and Cheryl Runyon. Portions of a documentary of nine sisters who attended a boarding school in South Dakota will be used as we continue to learn from our Native Sisters. An exploration of the role of forgiveness in our lives and others' will grow our understanding.

Friday evening's meal will be provided by the Helena Indian Alliance. After the meal will be a presentation by the Alliance. A wonderful evening of fellowship and learning.

Saturday, October 3rd will include our keynote speaker, Katie Pryor, Executive Director for Membership Nurture and Development, for United Women in Faith. Katie will inspire us in ways we can grow our organization and nurture our members.

Saturday will also include workshops in the afternoon with topics such as Mass Incarceration of Women of Color, the Intermountain Children's Home, and more. And, of course, we have our annual meeting for adoption of the standing rules, review of finances/giving, and election of officers.

Helena is a distance away for some of us and really close for others. That is a reality of our Conference. With that in mind, Saturday's program will be available via Zoom.

Let's go far — together!

Robin Ball, President

"Looking for Forgiveness"
Theme of Spiritual Retreat

Is forgiveness an "F" word for you? That's the name of a lesson in Everyday Ubuntu. Or do you see it more the way Mark Twain saw it?

"Forgiveness is the fragrance that the violet sheds on the heel that has crushed it."

We'll be discussing those ideas and more on October 2 at the spiritual retreat portion of the annual meeting in Helena. In **Looking for Forgiveness**, participants will be invited to reflect on Biblical forgiveness references, forgiving ourselves, forgiving others, forgiving the past, and being forgiven. Is there forgiveness for ignorance? Are we responsible for transgressions done by our culture?

Marcia Canter, Judy Scrimshire, and Cheryl Runyon will lead the reflections and the questions. There will be time to share and to contemplate. Bring a pen and notebook/journal and an open mind and heart as we look for forgiveness.

Documentary *Nine Little Indians* Available Soon

Final details are being worked out for licensing a documentary which tells the tragic story of nine Native American sisters who went to a boarding school like so many other indigenous children. The documentary, from executive producers Leonardo DiCaprio and Tony Robbins, and award-winning filmmaker Shannon Kring, ***Nine Little Indians*** is a powerful and unflinching film that brings to light a critical chapter in American history. While the school was a Catholic institution in South Dakota, our Methodist history also had boarding schools with the idea of assimilating Native Americans in language and culture.

The Mountain Sky Conference United Women in Faith is partially funding the project through a General Board of Church and Society Peace With Justice grant. The license will allow showings of the documentary throughout our Conference under our name for a year. This film is graphic about the sexual and cultural abuse children faced, so care needs to be taken that it is shown to an age-appropriate audience, with compassionate listeners also available.

Marcia Canter is in charge of the details, which is being worked out with the distributor and the shipping of the material for a minimal charge. She is hopeful that it will be available for attendees to watch in Helena and will be able to be shipped to the various groups interested after that. If you want more information, as it becomes available, contact Marcia at bomaanka@yahoo.com or 303-477-6278.

Education and Interpretation Report

How did it get to be late August already? I hope you have had a good summer and were able to keep cool. I enjoyed spending time away with family and attending Assembly along with 70 Mountain Sky Conference members in May. I also attended several other United Women in Faith events that have been happening in our conference and district as well as Mission u. Wow, United Women in Faith are so busy with so many opportunities to learn, serve, and be in community with each other.

While at Assembly, I attended a couple workshops where the panelists were missionaries and administrators who are out there in the cities, villages and communities, and heard the stories of hope and success and putting face and name to those women, children, and youth who are benefitting from our Mission Giving efforts.

The women receive health care, safe shelter, and food. They are receiving job training and obtaining loans and grants that empower them to support their family and community. This also leads to them learning about themselves, becoming independent and moving forward in faith. The children and youth are given health care, safe shelter, food, and an education which leads to empowering them to strive for a better future and to dream big.

I am proud to be a member of United Women in Faith, knowing what my Mission Giving is doing to help those around the world. Not only is our money going worldwide, it is also staying here in the United States helping in the same way through nearly 90 National Mission Institutions.

This report is continued on page 4.

Education and Interpretation Report cont.

As we move into the fall, many of our Units will be starting their busy part of the year by planning their meetings, fundraising, and planning for the holidays with traditional Bake Sales, Boutiques, Fall Festivals, etc. Many of your fundraising will go to fulfill your unit or district pledges. I know Connie, our Conference Treasurer, always stresses out during this time of year because there is a lot of money that needs to be made up to meet our Conference pledge to Mission and Mission Giving before the end of the year.

Mission Giving is an unrestricted pooling of financial gifts that fund programs supporting women, children, and youth, local community projects, and global social action.

Core Focus Areas

- **National Programs:** Funds nearly 90 National Mission Institutions across the U.S. providing child care, job training, and shelter.
- **International Work:** Supports leadership training, micro-loans, and emergency relief for women and youth in dozens of countries.
- **Justice and Advocacy:** Promotes racial justice, climate justice, and economic equality.

Mission Giving not only comes from each of the district and unit pledges, but it also comes through the 5 Channels of Giving. Many of us forget these five channels of giving also count toward our pledging. I encourage you to use them as they are also important ways to give.

Five Channels of Giving

- **Pledge to Mission:** Regular financial commitments from local members.
- **Special Mission Recognition:** An undesignated gift for mission work that honors the recipient. Special Mission Recognitions may be given by any individual, or circle, or unit in honor of any person, male or female. It is not necessary that the recipient be a member of United Women in Faith.
- **Gift to Mission:** Cards purchased to honor or to remember loved ones. This undesignated gift in his or her name can be presented by purchasing a card with a minimum of $5.00. There are eight different Gift to Mission cards: Thank You, Congratulations, Thinking of You, A Special Day, A Baby, Happy Birthday, Peace, and In the Service of Christ. There are also special Christmas card designs. Each card has a message indicating that a gift to mission through United Women in Faith has been made in the recipient's honor.
- **Gift in Memory:** A Gift in Memory honors the memory of a much-loved family member or friend by making possible additional donation toward mission work in the United States and around the world. Gift in Memory cards represent a gift in her or his name of at least $5.00,
- **World Thank Offering:** The World Thank Offering is an opportunity for individuals to respond to God's abundance and grace with spontaneous gifts of gratitude. Individuals or families collect such gifts in special boxes or labeled containers. Gifts are usually brought together within the unit once a year.

On a personal note, I want to thank everyone for the support you have given me and for the commitment you have given to United Women in Faith at all the levels you may serve. **WE** couldn't make a difference in our world without you.

Many Blessings, Linda Lloyd, Education and Interpretation Coordinator

National President's Report

I think that I am still on a high from Assembly. Thanks so much to all who attended. It was awesome to know you were there and I could FEEL your support! I hope you got a lot out of it. I always come away energized by the networking, the music, the worship, and just being with my sisters in faith.

As a follow-up — we collected $426,000 offering at Assembly! I am not sure how much of that includes the Legacy Fund, but that is amazing! The Legacy Fund is SO CLOSE to reaching our $60-million-dollar-goal — we are now over 56 million. Don't stop now!! The Legacy Builder donations are so easy — you never miss that monthly donation — but it really adds up.

Did you see Sally Vonner's Thank You message? It is well-done and should be shared widely: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MlcmLMa8pq4 I even got my ONE second of fame! Don't' blink.

The Unstoppable Campaign is officially entering year 2, (August '26-July '27) and the theme is *Share the Good News Everywhere: Influence.* Our social justice priorities will be highlighted. Please consider asking all your unit leaders to attend the Unstoppable Member Growth Campaign on Thursday, Sept. 17th from 5-7 MT. Register at Leadership training—growing membership

I will be at the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women's Quincentennial Assembly in Auckland, New Zealand the last week of August. Hamu and Penny will be there as well! I am looking forward to learning more about my Methodist sisters and sharing information about United Women in Faith. I'll be presenting two 1-hour Soul Care Workshops and will be using content from the Assembly Soul Care experience (condensed into 1 hour). It is great material written by Ragghi Rain Calentine titled "The Basket of Stones, The Basket of Seeds."

I would love to meet with districts and local unit members. Please invite me and we can discuss what we can do. I could do a 1-hour soul care workshop! Or help discuss ideas for membership growth. I'd love to visit! Email me a JL.jones@outlook.com.

As always, thanks for all you do.

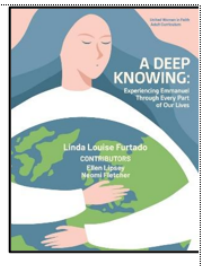
Your sister in Christ,

Jana Jones

EXPERIENCING EMMANUEL
Mission u 2026

JUST ADDED* - *LIVE

2026 Mission u in Cheyenne, WY



A DEEP KNOWING:
Experiencing Emmanuel
Through Every Part of Our Lives

Sponsored by Mountain Sky United Women in Faith
& Mountain Sky Mission Team

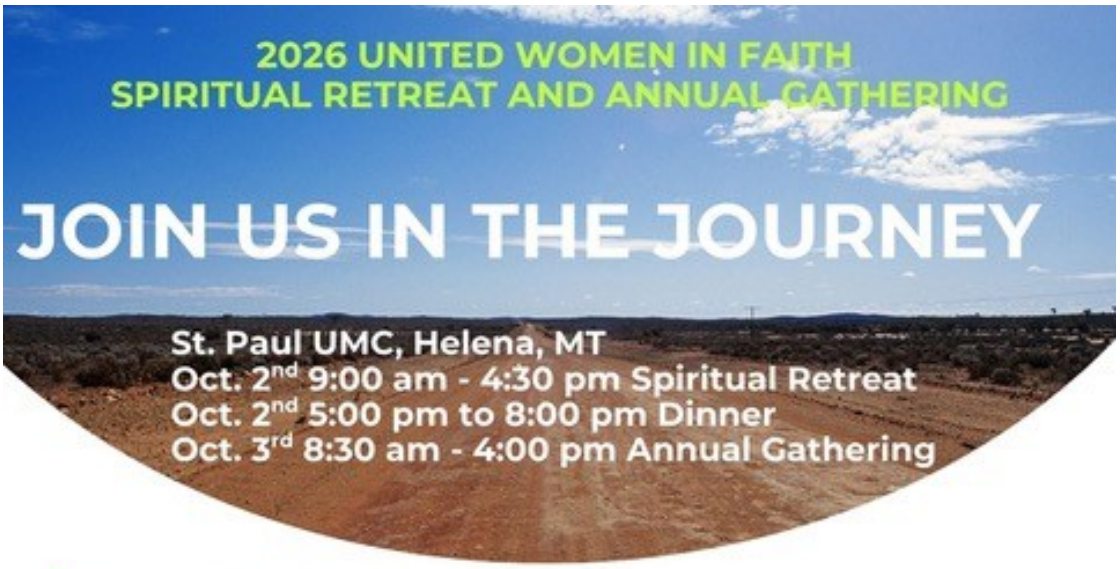
Open to all adults, clergy, and lay persons.

Study Description: Join us at Mission u as we explore the theme, Experiencing Emmanuel. Mission u participants will study the times in the Bible when people experienced Emmanuel, or "God with us." How do we discern God's presence and call on our lives in times of joy and in times of sadness, fear, or anxiety? What can we learn from these Emmanuel encounters in the Bible to help inform our discernment to faith, hope, and love in action?

The last live Mission u study for 2026 will be held on

Friday, October 16, 2 pm – 8 pm & Saturday, October 17, 8:30 am – 4 pm

Watch for the registration form coming soon



Hotel - Deadline September 1st

Comfort Suites, 406-495-0505, 3180 Washington St.
$159 plus tax two double beds.
Free shuttle to and from airport. 3 miles to St. Paul UMC.
https://www.choicehotels.com/reservations/groups/BU89S4

Registration - Deadline September 21st

Friday & Saturday - $80 (Includes 2 lunches & Friday dinner)
Friday night Only - $25
Zoom - $30

Camping, Room Share & Host Home

- There are numerous campgrounds to chose from, we will let you choose.
- If you need someone to share a room with email beth.e.mccorkle@gmail.com
- If you would like a host home contact Judy Nielsen at nielsenhca@hotmail.com

WORKSHOPS

Highlighting Area Missions

Registration: https://forms.gle/WKiUxrsGt8gmyB8R7

Click HERE for Registration

Click HERE for Motel Reservations
Deadline for motel is September 1

Conference and District Officers — Make sure you click on the Officer Tile when paying for your registration fee!!

An Update from the Conference Treasurer

Sometimes I get so focused on all my duties as the Conference Treasurer, that I forget to let all of you know how we are doing.

So, as of July 25,2026, we have sent in $62,753.36 toward our 2026 Pledge to Mission of $175,000. All of you are doing really well sending in your Pledge to Mission donations as well as getting Special Mission Recognition Pins, and giving donations for Gift in Memory and Gift to Mission Cards.

All of you are doing so well in your donations that Mountain Sky Conference received some extra kudos from Tamara Clark, the CFO of the National United Women in Faith. Tamara just recently released her stats as of June 30, 2026. As of June 30th, Mountain Sky Conference had submitted the 5th highest amount for Pledge to Mission out of all 51 Conferences. Way to go, Mountain Sky Conference!!!!

Also included in the stats released by Tamara Clark were the amounts of the Pledges from each of the 51 Conferences. Of the 51 Conferences, Mountain Sky Conference has the 7th highest Pledge to Mission for 2026. Another feather in our cap. All of you are helping to make our National President, Jana Jones, very proud of her home Conference.

Keep up the good work, Mountain Sky Conference!

Connie Pittenger, Conference Treasurer

2025 Expenditures Summary		
Category	**Budget**	**Actual**
INCOME		
Mission Giving Income	$215,580	$219,769
Supplementary Gifts / Projects	$0	$14,826
Other Receipts	$11,210	$10,535
TOTAL INCOME	**$226,790**	**$245,130**
EXPENSES		
Mission Giving Pledge	$170,000	$181,790
Supplementary Gifts / Projects	$0	$14,826
General Expenses: Audit, Newsletter, Website, ZOOM, Program Resources (50000)	$1,376	$1,097
District A & MD (50600)	$10,000	$7,800
Jurisdiction A & MD (50700)	$3,400	$3,400
Spiritual Retreat (60200)	$4,300	$2,417
Annual Gathering (60300)	$10,250	$13,276
Mission u (60400)	$0	$250
Annual Conference (60500)	$2,100	$1,045
Assembly (60600)	$4,000	$1,000
Officer Expenses (70000)	$4,900	$1,775
Other Expenses: VANCO, State Registrations (80000)	$20	$267
TOTAL EXPENSES	**$210,346**	**$228,943**

BUDGET SUMMARY		
Budget Category	**2026**	**2027**
INCOME		
Mission Giving Income	$225,000	$219,300
Other Receipts	$8,002	$7,687
TOTAL INCOME	**$233,002**	**$226,987**
EXPENSES		
Mission Giving Pledge	$175,000	$177,000
General Expenses: Audit, Newsletter, Website, ZOOM (50000)	$1,725	$1,541
District A & MD (50600)	$10,000	$10,000
Jurisdiction A & MD (50700)	$3,500	$3,540
Spiritual Retreat (60200)	$4,600	$2,700
Annual Gathering (60300)	$12,300	$14,625
Mission u (60400)	$1,800	$1,650
Annual Conference (60500)	$2,100	$2,350
Assembly (60600)	$16,715	$3,000
Western Jurisdiction (60700)	$1,000	$1,000
Officer Expenses (70000)	$4,050	$2,975
Other Expenses: VANCO, State Registrations (80000)	$710	$502
TOTAL EXPENSES	**$235,715**	**$220,893**

Book Exchange at Annual Gathering

There will be a free book exchange at our Annual Gathering in Helena. Bring books that are eligible in 2026 or 2027 on the UWFaith Reading List. Last year's exchange was so popular as a recycle opportunity that we were overwhelmed with leftover books. Therefore, please only bring books that will be eligible in this year or next year on the Reading List!!

Mountain Sky Conference United Women in Faith
Summary of Changes to the 2027 Standing Rules

Editor's Note — changes are shown in red lettering

1. The position title for Mission ~~Secretary~~ for Program Resources is changed to Mission Coordinator for Program Resources.

2. Article B. Committees
   5. Committee on Nominations
   b. Membership of the Committee on Nominations shall be elected in yearly classes and shall be installed with the other elected leadership at the Annual Gathering.

3. Article C: Meetings/Events
   6. UW Faith ~~breakfast~~ meal at Church Annual Conference

4. Article D: Funds
   8. Expense Reimbursement
   iv. Other events as requested and approved by the Leadership Team.
   A. Officer Registration fees for each of the above Conference meetings shall be paid by those attending. ~~in the specified attendance pattern.~~
   B. Electric Vehicles (EV) will be reimbursed at the same rate (as fuel vehicles). No gas receipts are required for EVs.
   E. Special meals may be catered and charged separate from event registration or clearly advertised in registration form.

Submitted by: Standing Rules Committee

Spiritual Retreat — "Traveling the Road of Forgiveness"

Join us on the road of forgiveness on October 2 at the Mountain Sky UWFaith Spiritual Retreat at St. Paul United Methodist Church in Helena, MT. We're calling it "road of forgiveness" as it's a two-way journey — forgiving others and asking for forgiveness. This one-day experience will address several Biblical verses on forgiveness but will also look at how we forgive ourselves. Breakout sessions will use readings from other sources such as **Everyday Ubuntu** and writings by Anne Lamott and other contemporary writers to see how forgiveness helps the forgiver as much as the forgiven. We'll also connect forgiveness with restorative justice, asking how truth-telling, accountability, and repair can help individuals and communities heal without forgetting the harm that was done.

The event is part of the Mountain Sky UWFaith Annual Gathering, but you can choose to only attend one day if you like. Membership in UWFaith is not required. Marcia Canter, Judy Scrimshire, and Cheryl Runyon will lead discussions during the event. Potential streaming options are being researched. Please contact Cheryl Runyon with questions — 303-494-0434 or cheryl.runyon@comcast.net

Mountain Sky Conference United Women in Faith
MINUTES Annual Gathering
Faith Not Fear – Acting Fearlessly
Montrose First UMC - Montrose, CO
October 17-18, 2025

Annual Gathering Bible verses: 2 Timothy 1:*7 For God has not given us the spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of sound mind.* (King James Version)

Welcome by Pastor Kevin Young & Montrose UW Faith President

Assembly video - introduce Conference Assembly Liaison – Beth McCorkle

Opening Music, Devotion, and Prayer

Keynote speaker Bishop Kristin Stoneking via virtual

Business Meeting, Part 1

The 2025 Conference Team was introduced.

Introduction of Mountain Sky Deaconesses and home-missioner.

Committee on Nominations report by Teresa Rivera:

Leadership Team for 2026:
President - Robin Ball, 2nd Term 1st Year
Treasurer - Connie Pittenger, 2nd Term 1st Year
Coordinator for Membership, Nurture and Outreach – Karen Waldren, 2nd Term, 1st Year
Coordinator for Program Resources – Sue Yeager, 1st Term 1st Year
Communication Coordinator - Linda Cockett, 2nd Term, 1st Year
Spiritual Growth Coordinator – Denise Logan, 2nd Term, 1st Year
Committee on Nominations, Chair - Judy Nielsen, 1st Term 1st Year
Committee on Nominations, W Mtn - Peg Plimpton, 2nd Term, 1st Year
Committee on Nominations, Big Horn - Robynn Wood, 2nd Term, 1st Year
Mission u Assistant Dean - Pattie Klein, 1st Term, 1st Year
Open positions – Mile High Metro, Southern CO
Committee for Nominations

Report from Secretary, Cindy Warren

Minutes from the 2024 Annual Gathering was previously distributed through Sky Lights – The Call on September 16, 2025, and posted at the Annual Gathering.

A motion was made by Judy Eichert and seconded by Mary Ann Watson and unanimously approved to accept the minutes as presented.

The modifications made to the Standing Rules Report was posted in the Sky Lights – The Call on September 16, 2025, and posted at the Annual Gathering. The changes and additions to the Standing Rules were reviewed. The Standing Rules were approved by committee and unanimously approved.

Minutes of 2025 Annual Gathering cont. on pg. 12

Minutes of 2025 Annual Gathering continued

Treasurer's Report & presentation of budget - Connie Pittenger, Treasurer

2024 Pledge to National was $170k Actual received $182k which is 110% of pledge

We got an award from National for exceeding our pledge, however, we did not get recognized for increasing our pledge.

Our pledge to National in 2025 is $170k. At the end of September, we have received 54% of our pledge and sent $91,887 into National. By the end of 2025, money should come in to meet our 2025 pledge. Money needs to be given to District Treasurer by Dec. 10th then they have 1 week to get it to conference treasurer.

We will raise our pledge to National for 2026 $175k. Assembly money is in our budget. We hold designated money in a savings account for assembly.

All 5 channels of mission giving, undesignated giving, make up our pledge. World Thank Offering boxes can be put out through-out the year. Gift of Mission cards are available to pick up. Pay when you use the cards at a suggested cost of $5 per card.

Think about the pledge service which is generally done in January. Change this to another month or do it twice a year.

Approve the budget – from the Finance Committee (does not need a motion or second). Unanimously approved.

Approve the pledge to National for 2026 of $175k – from the Finance Committee. Approved as presented.

Deaconess and Home Missioner – Lauri Fujinami

Information on Deaconess and Home Missioner. Discernment workshop is coming up on Oct. 25th via Zoom. Deaconess and Home Missioners are called to love justice and service. We do ministry through the church or out in the world. Examples of other callings are nurses, work with mental health and addiction, teachers, special education teachers, school principals, prison ministries, missionary. Contact Lauri is you are interested or have any questions. Her email address is Tlef13@msn.com

Laurie is on the Western Jurisdiction Nomination Committee. In search of leadership skills. "It takes work," The location and dates of the next Western Jurisdiction in 2028 will be announced at Assembly.

Assembly – Beth McCorkle

Video about assembly in 2026 May 15-17, 2026, in Indianapolis, ID. The theme is "Dream it!, Believe it!, Do it!" Goal is to have 126 ladies attend assembly from the Mtn Sky Conference Great speakers and workshops. Scholarships are available. We will be wearing a stole that indicates we are from the Mtn Sky Conference. Sign up for Soul Care, which is free for first time attendees (limited).

Reading Program – Cheryl Runyon and Sue Yeager

Copies of some of the books from the 2026 reading program. They are available for purchase.

Pledge Service and Offering

Workshops:

Crossroads Urban Center – Glenn Bailey
Membership Tool Kit – MNO Donna Parisi

Racial Justice Committee

Business Meeting, Part 2

Election of Officers for 2026, as listed on page 1 – Comes from Committee so does not need a motion and 2nd. Passed unanimously.

Leaving the conference team: Mary Ann Tabor, Pat Blaise, Teresa Rivera, Debra Bondie, Sandy Barton

Installation of Officers – Teresa Rivera

Minutes of 2025 Annual Gathering cont. on page 13

National Office – Hamu Chigwada

Goal is to have 500,000 members by 2029.
Tell the story of who we are.
We have more than 5,000 Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women (MMIW).
What can we do about it?
Inspire people, be bold and courageous.
Impact we are having in the world. Make a difference in someone else's life.
Be courageous and shine the light.
Young women will be inspired and want to be hands on. They will join us.

Video International Programs

Book give away – Cheryl Runyon and Sue Yeager
Leadership Development gave away "Social Principles of the United Methodist Church." Gave one to each of the Districts. A book from the Charter of Racial Justice given to each of the Districts.

Silent Auction winners announced – Judy Eichert

Workshops

Crossroads Urban Center – Glenn Bailey
Climate Justice – Debbie Peterson
Mission and Money – Connie Pittenger & Linda Lloyd

Memorial Service

Closing Worship and Communion—

The Annual Gathering of the Mountain Sky Conference was adjourned at 3:30 pm.

By: Cindy Warren, Secretary

Nominations Report

The Committee on Nominations of the Mountain Sky Conference United Methodist Women in Faith is pleased to present the following persons as Nominees for members of the MSC United Women in Faith Leadership Team for service term 2027:

President: Robin Ball, Pagosa Springs, CO — 2nd term, 2nd year

Vice-President: Laura Lundsford, Pagosa Springs, CO — 1st term, 1st year

Secretary: Margaret (Meg) Persavich, Hamilton, MT — 1st term, 1s year

Treasurer: Connie Pittenger, Montrose, CO — 2nd term, 2nd year

Coordinator for Membership Nurture and Outreach: Karen Waldron, Fort Collins, CO — 2nd term, 2nd year

Coordinator for Social Action and Justice: Judy Scrimshire, Longmont, CO — 2nd term, 1st year

Coordinator for Program Resources: Sue Yeager, Grand Junction, CO — 1st term, 2nd year

Coordinator for Education and Interpretation: Linda Lloyd, Highlands Ranch, CO — 2nd term, 1st year

Co-Coordinator for Education and Interpretation: Janet Ulrich, Kalispell, MT — 1st term, 1st year

Communications Coordinator: Linda Cockett, Torrington, WY — 2nd term, 2nd year

Spiritual Growth Coordinator: Denise Logan, Rocky Ford, CO — 2nd term, 2nd year

Committee on Nominations, Chair: Judy Nielsen, Helena, MT — 1st term, 2nd year

Committee on Nominations, Western Mountains: Peg Plimpton, Missoula, MT — 2nd term, 2nd year

Committee on Nominations, Big Horn: Robynn Wood, Fort Benton, MT — 2nd term, 2nd year

Committee on Nominations, Northern Colorado: Myrna Prentice, Broomfield, CO — 2nd term, 1st year

Committee on Nominations, Wyoming +1: Laura (Linda) Bogart, Cheyenne, WY — 1st term, 1st year

Committee on Nominations, Mile High Metro: vacant

Committee on Nominations, Southern Colorado: vacant

Committee on Nominations, Utah/Western CO: Robin Iles, Grand Junction, CO — 2nd term, 1st year

Dean of Mission u: vacant

Assistant Dean of Mission u: Pattie Klein, Estes Park, CO — 1st term, 2nd year

Biographies of those nominees joining the team in their 1st term, 1st year are on page 15

Biographies of 2027 Nominees

Vice-President, Laura Lunsford

My name is Laura Lunsford. I was raised in a multi-denominational church and attended Disciples of Christ and Presbyterian churches prior to retiring and moving to Pagosa Springs, CO in 2017. In Pagosa, I started attending Community United Methodist Church where I play in the Bell Choir and am active in our United Women in Faith unit. I love the connectionalism and mission outreach of the Methodist Church and UWFaith. I have served as my local unit Program Resources Coordinator, Communication Coordinator, and unit President. At the district level, I have previously served as the Utah/Western Colorado Secretary and President and presently am the Program Resources Coordinator. Last year out Pagosa Springs unit hosted the Utah/Western Colorado District Annual Celebration. I led the planning committee for that event and enjoyed integrating a cohesive program including speakers, food, music, and worship. I am honored to be considered for the position of Conference Vice-President.

Secretary, Margaret (Meg) Persavich

Meg was raised in the Congress St. Methodist Church in Portland, Maine and also attended a Congregational Church in Williston, Maine and a Methodist Church in Winslow, Maine. Meg is a Registered Nurse and has worked in various roles and hospitals across the country. Since moving to the Mountain Sky Conference, Meg has attended First United Methodist Church in Windsor, CO where she was involved in the missions team, trustees, administrative council, women's Bible study, and UWFaith. She served as the Program Resources Coordinator and as Secretary. She currently attends the Stevensville United Methodist Church in Stevensville, MT. She is currently secretary/treasurer of her local unit and serves on the SPR committee of the church. She has attended a couple of Western Mountain District meetings.

Janet Ulrich, Co-Coordinator Education and Interpretation

Janet has served in many capacities of United Women in Faith. She has been the District President of Western Mountain district. She has also just completed a term as Vice-President of the Conference Leadership team.

Linda Bogart, Nominating Committee, Wyoming +1 District

Linda Bogart is a dedicated candidate for the Nominating Committee, bringing long-standing commitment to Grace United Methodist Church (Cheyenne, WY), proven leadership in United Women in Faith, and a deep record of service to the church and community. She joined Grace UMC in 2002, and became a member of United Methodist Women (now United Women in Faith) in 2011. She has served as secretary and twice as president, and she received the Special Mission Recognition Award in 2024. Her service reflects consistent hands-on leadership and faithful presence. She has helped with COMEA breakfasts, made pillowcases for youth in the CASA program, collected and delivered donated produce to the VA, supported UWFaith fundraisers, stayed connected with shut-ins, helped with Social Action events, and remained actively present for UWFaith members and activities. Linda graduated from Southern Oregon University with a bachelor's degree in secondary education. She married, had two daughters, and moved to Cheyenne in 1980 with her husband, who was an officer at F.E. Warren Air Force Base. She worked for the Wyoming Girl Scout Council for 23 years, holding several positions and ultimately serving as Assistant Executive Director. After losing her husband in an accident in 1982, she raised two daughters as a single mother and became committed to creating a better world for women. She joined the Zonta Club, where she held several offices including president. After retiring from the Girl Scouts, she worked for the school district supporting students with disabilities. She is now a full-time grandmother and is blessed to have them living in Cheyenne.

Save the Date!

United Women in Faith

Western Jurisdiction Event

Centennial Hotel

Spokane, Washington

April 20-23, 2028

Follow us on Facebook:

https://www.facebook.com/wjuwf/

Check out our website:

https://www.wjumw.com/

For information on the Centennial Hotel:

https://www.davenporthotelcollection.com/the-centennial/

What Is a Jurisdiction Quadrennial Event?

Every four years, all United Women in Faith Jurisdictions hold an event whose primary purpose is to elect members to the Board of Directors. But the Events are much more than that! They have: worship, music, speakers, workshops, an experience hall, soul care, and often an outreach project. They are an opportunity to get together with old friends and make new ones. They may give you an opportunity to explore a community where you have never been before.

Our next Western Jurisdiction Quadrennial Event will be held in Spokane, Washington, at the Centennial Hotel from April 20-23, 2028.

For more information check out our Facebook page at: https://www.facebook.com/wjuwf/ or our website at https://www.wjumw.com/.

Follow the Facebook Prayer Guide

follow us on twitter

Find us on: facebook

From Mountain Sky to Mexico: Pat and Kim Lewis Live Into a Call to Mission

One year ago, Rev. Pat Lewis and Deaconess Kim Lewis left behind the familiar and crossed the border into Mexico with what they describe as "far more questions than answers." They sold, donated, packed, and let go of a life built over decades, stepping into a new chapter as Global Missionaries.

For these two members of the Mountain Sky Conference, that "yes" to God's call has become a life of ministry rooted in relationships, practical service, and the belief that lasting change happens when communities are equipped to care for one another.

Pat and Kim now serve as co-directors of **Give Ye Them to Eat (GYTTE)**, a ministry in partnership with the Methodist Church of Mexico and the General Board of Global Ministries. For five decades, GYTTE has worked alongside families in Central Mexico as they move from survival toward sustainability through community health, agriculture, training, and development.

One recent moment captures the heart of that ministry — In a small frontier village, three graduates of GYTTE's *More Than a Bandage* Community Health Promoters Program stood before nearly 80 children. They taught the importance of brushing teeth, demonstrated proper dental care, and applied fluoride treatments. Just 18 months earlier, those same women had been students sitting quietly in the back of a classroom, unsure whether they had anything to offer. Now they were trusted teachers and leaders in communities like their own.

That transformation is central to GYTTE's approach. Community health promoters are equipped with knowledge and practical skills they can carry back to their neighbors — teaching young mothers about pregnancy, helping families understand diabetes and heart disease, monitoring blood pressure, recognizing emergencies and providing health education in churches, schools, and community gatherings.

The work extends well beyond health care. This summer, communities have participated in workshops on composting, gardening, recycling and sustainable living. GYTTE's Livestock Development Program recently welcomed 20 new goats to help provide training, strengthen food security and create sustainable opportunities for families. A new "Hope on Wheels" trailer is also being prepared to support disaster response, construction projects, medical missions, and community health fairs.

At the Tree of Life Training Center, faith and farming also come together as families learn soil conservation, contour terracing, composting, drip irrigation, and other sustainable agricultural practices. For Pat and Kim, the work reflects a deeply biblical understanding of stewardship: caring for the land, water, animals and resources entrusted to us while helping communities build greater resilience for generations to come.

Pat and Kim's story continues on page 18

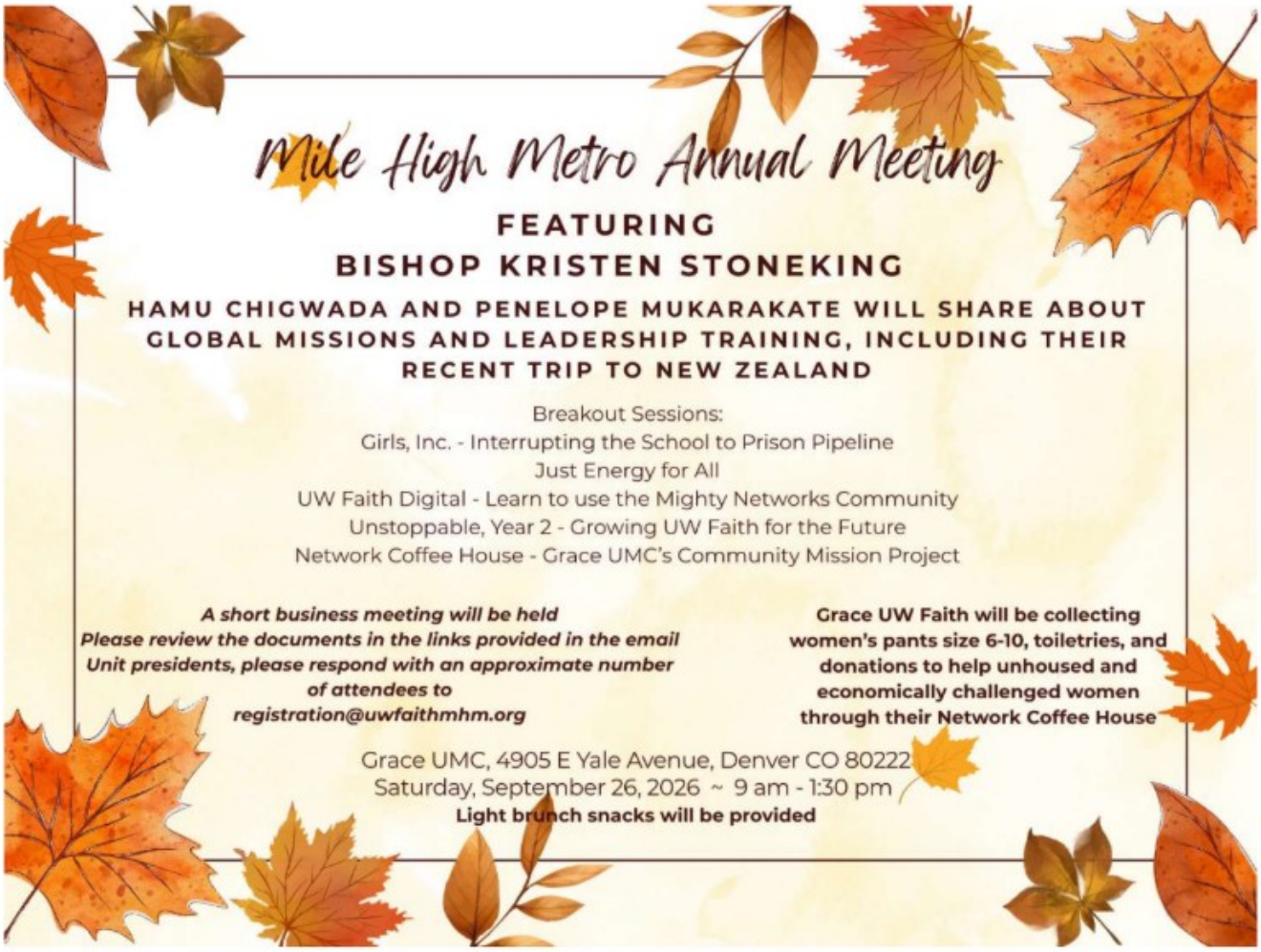
Pat and Kim's Story continued

Their first year in Mexico has also changed them. Pat and Kim write about navigating language barriers, paperwork, cultural humility, and the challenges of building a new life from the ground up. But they also describe discovering God in ordinary places — in shared meals, conversations, unexpected acts of kindness, working alongside colleagues, and serving communities. "We exchanged familiarity for uncertainty, comfort for calling, and certainty for faith," they wrote of their move. One year later, they say they can see God's faithfulness in every relationship formed, every lesson leaned, and every life touched.

The Mountain Sky Conference can be proud to have two of our own serving in this deeply connectional ministry. Their story is a reminder that mission is not simply about going somewhere to help. It is about walking alongside people, building relationships, and helping local leaders develop the knowledge, confidence, and resources to strengthen their own communities.

You can support Pat and Kim's ministry and the ongoing work of Give Ye Them to Eat through the official General Board of Global Ministries Advance #07629A.

This article used with permission of Mountain Sky Conference Communications.



UWF Western Mountains District Fall Meeting September 26, 2026

Epworth United Methodist Church, 329 2nd Avenue E, Kalispell, MT 59901
8:00am to 3:00pm, Saturday, September 26, 2026
Registration fee: $35 in-person or $10 zoom

Join your UWF sisters and friends as we gather to "Dream It, Believe It, Do it." Join us for a day of singing, praying and loving fellowship. Elect officers. Trade books. Donate to the Abbie Shelter in support of their services to survivors of violence and sexual assault. Continental Breakfast and lunch provided.

Register by September 18

On-line registration at https://form.jotform.com/Westernmountainsdistrictuwf/western-mountains-district-fall2026 or Click Here or email form to Claudia at westernmontainsdistrictuwf@gmail.com or mail this form to Claudia Davis, District Treasurer, 725 Middlemas Rd, Helena, MT 59602

Hotels: Red Lion Hotel Kalispell - 20 North Main Street (406) 751-5050
Kalispell Grand Hotel – 100 Main Street (406) 755-8100

Ubuntu service project: Donations for the Abbie Shelter. They need the following items: gift cards, women's and kids' underwear & socks, women's bras, adult coloring books, first aid supplies, pots & pans, eye masks, ear plugs, tampons, & deodorant.

Free Book Exchange: Exchange books you loved but no longer need for new-to-you books.

Legacy Fund donation station: Opportunity to help ensure the future of UWFaith and that our mission of caring for women and children will continue for many, many more years.

Western Mountains UWF District Meeting – Sept 26, 2026, Kalispell, MT

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Church or Unit: _____

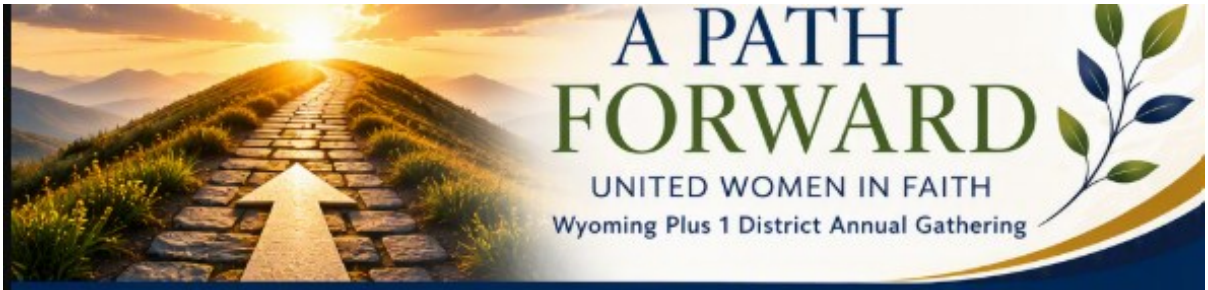
List any dietary restrictions: _____

_____

☐ In-Person $35

☐ Zoom $10 link will be sent 2 days prior.

We believe love in action can change the world.



A PATH FORWARD

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

Wyoming Plus 1 District Annual Gathering

September 19, 2026 | Registration: 9:30 AM | Program: 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM | Casper First United Methodist Church, Casper, Wyoming

Theme: A Path Forward | *Scripture: Psalm 143:8*

1. PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Local Unit / Church: _____

City: _____

2. EMERGENCY CONTACT

Name: _____

Relationship: _____

Primary Phone: _____

Alternate Phone (optional): _____

Medical Information / Allergies (optional):

_____

_____

3. EVENT DETAILS

- **Event:** Wyoming Plus 1 District Annual Gathering
- **Date:** September 19, 2026
- **Time:** 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM
- **Registration Begins:** 9:30 AM
- **Location:** Casper First United Methodist Church, Casper, Wyoming

LODGING INFORMATION

Best Western Downtown Casper Hotel
123 West E Street, Casper, WY
307-439-2074

☐ I plan to stay at this hotel.

Discounts Available:
- AARP
- Senior

Participants are responsible for making their own reservations.

4. REGISTRATION OPTIONS

RSVP Deadline: September 10, 2026

ATTENDANCE TYPE

☐ In-Person Registration ($25.00)

☐ Online via Zoom ($10.00)

LUNCH

☐ I plan to stay for lunch.

Free-will donations will be accepted to help offset meal costs.

DIETARY RESTRICTIONS / FOOD ALLERGIES

_____

ACCESSIBILITY OR SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

_____

5. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The morning will include the Reading Program. The afternoon will feature a spiritual program with guest speaker **Rev. Jessica Boyce.**

6. REGISTRATION FEE SUMMARY

OPTION	AMOUNT
In-Person Registration	$25.00
Online via Zoom	$10.00
AMOUNT ENCLOSED	$ _____

7. SIGNATURE

_____ Date: _____

"Show me the way I should go, for to you I entrust my life." Psalm 143:8

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US AS WE SEEK **A PATH FORWARD.**

Utah/Western Colorado District United Women in Faith's
Annual Celebration

"Hoppipola!"

September 18, 2026

The Village on San Juan Clubhouse
2500 E San Juan Avenue
Montrose, CO 81401

September 19, 2026

Montrose United Methodist Church
19 S Park Avenue
Montrose, CO 81401

Friday will be 4pm to 7:30pm, In Person Only
Saturday will be 9am to 5pm, In Person and Zoom
(Zoom information will be sent out closer to the event)

Registration Deadline: September 1st!

United Women in Faith

Southern Colorado District United Women in Faith

We believe love in action can change the world.

The Southern Colorado District United Women in Faith Leadership Team warmly invites you to the Southern Colorado District 2026 Annual Gathering on Saturday, September 19, 2026.

Event Details	Program Highlights
• **Date**: Saturday, September 19, 2026 • **Check-in**: 9:00 a.m. • **Program**: Begins at 9:30 a.m. • **Format**: Hybrid event. A Zoom link will be sent several times during the week of September 14, 2026.	• **Scripture**: Jeremiah 29:11 • **Theme**: Mapping Out Our Future • **Guest Speaker**: Linda Scholtz • **Mission Project**: Sarah's Home. • Please see the accompanying list of needed supplies.
Location: Fowler United Methodist Church 203 Main Street Fowler, Colorado 81039 • Directions from Hiway 50 turn South on Main Street. The church is on the corner of Main & 2nd Street.	**Registration** The registration fee is $15 and includes lunch and breakfast snacks. Please make checks payable to Fowler UWF. Payment is due at check-in. The Zoom link will sent several times during the week of September 14, 2026.

For registration information, please contact Elaine Allison at neallison72@gmail.com or 719-469-7394 (call/text)

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/

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.

Mountain Sky Conference
United Women in Faith
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Torrington, WY 82240

Place
Stamp
Here

SKY LIGHTS April 2026
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www.mtnskyumw.org

https://www.facebook.com/Mountain-Sky-United-Methodist-Women

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