



# The Compass

Newsletter of the Greater Southwest District United Women in Faith

## ***A note from your President***

**August 2023 Edition**

We are getting ready to have another change in our lives. As of July first we moved from 9 districts down to 7 and that means that the Greater Southwest District has expanded, adding on 18 churches and their United Women in Faith units. We will be welcoming the women from the following churches: Albion 1<sup>st</sup>, Bradley Indian Mission, Concord, Dorr Crosswind, Hasting 1<sup>st</sup>, Hasting Hope, Hasting Welcome Center, Lake Odessa, Lee Corner, Lyon Lake, Marshall, Nashville, Nashville Peace, North Parma, Quincy, Salem Indian Mission, Springport, and Wayland UMC. I think that is all. If I missed anyone, I apologize. I believe that we go to the east as far as Concord, Quincy, North Parma and Springport and as far west as Lake Michigan. We go as far south as the Indiana border and as far north as Saugatuck, Wayland, and Hastings.

It will take us a little longer to gather together but not as long as the people in the Upper Peninsula and Northern Michigan. Your mission team will start thinking outside the box about gathering places at our November planning meeting. Any and all suggestions are appreciated. Our new units are invited to our District Annual meeting on Sept 30<sup>th</sup> in South Haven.

Sometimes we get so used to looking back at the way things used to be that we forget that the world in front of us is not like the world behind us and we forget that change is inevitable. Our purpose as United Women in Faith is to improve the lives of woman, children, and youth and that may look different than it did 50 years ago or even 25. We are strong dedicated women and we can change where change is needed. But we will always be focusing on the mission that God has called us to. We are looking forward to growing and welcoming new members. God bless you all.

*Linda Burton Collier, President*

Greater Southwest District United Women in Faith

## **UWF Reading Program**

I hope you are continuing to read from the UWF Reading Program and trying to meet some of the Mission Objectives with your local unit! If you have any questions or need support, feel free to contact me.

Program Resources/Reading Program  
Laura Marlowe  
8018 Fawn Meadow Trail  
Galesburg, MI 49053  
[mmarlowe33@att.net](mailto:mmarlowe33@att.net)  
269-929-7393

## **Membership, Nurture & Outreach**

### **Attention Unit Presidents**

Don't forget to fill out the National survey on the United Women of Faith website! Here are the steps.

1. Go to the UW of Faith website
2. Type survey in search
3. Click Northcentral
4. Click Michigan
5. Fill out the basic info & go

If you are having troubles, ask your church secretary or a friend to help you navigate the website. Your voice matters! Get it done by August 30<sup>th</sup>. Thanks.

Do you have news about your Unit that you would like to share? Send a picture and a short description or announcement. I will try to post it on the Greater Southwest United Women of Faith website.

Cindy Thiele  
District Team Member, Nurture, & Outreach  
[cindahthiele@gmail.com](mailto:cindahthiele@gmail.com)



**Greater Southwest Michigan United Women in Faith**  
**Proposed Slate of Officers for 2024**

**Officers**

Co-Presidents

Laura Marlowe and Cheryl Proctor

Vice President

Laura Smith

Treasurer

Mary Howard

Secretary

Linda Luce

**Committees Chairs**

Committee on Nominations Chair

Linda Burton-Collier

Spiritual Growth Coordinator

Mary Blashill

Secretary of Program Resources

Open

Education & Interpretation  
Coordinator

Open

Membership Nurture & Outreach  
Coordinator

Cindy Thiele

Social Action Coordinator

Open

Communications Coordinator

Beth Mitchell

# *5th Annual Greater Southwest District*

## *United Women in Faith Celebration*

*Saturday, September 30, 2023*

*9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.*

*Senior Services of Van Buren County*

*8337 M-140 \* South Haven, MI 49090*

*269-637-3607*

*Registration and coffee begins at 8:30 a.m.*

### **"God's Not Done With Us"**

**Guest Speakers are Miriam Peralta and Cesar Garcia and they will speak on their work with migrant children in Southwest Michigan.**

**Hosted by Diane Rigozzi, Director of Senior Services of Van Buren County**

**Cost is \$15 per person and includes lunch**

*Child care is available, please bring a sack lunch for your child*

FREE WILL OFFERING WILL BE TAKEN TO BE DIVIDED  
BETWEEN UNITED METHODIST COMMUNITY HOUSE  
AND OUR DISTRICT PLEDGE TO MISSIONS

**Memorials**

**COMMUNION**

***A time for Singing – Celebrating – Welcoming***



## Memorials for United Women in Faith

Church name \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

Women's names:

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## 2024 UWF Unit Pledge to Missions

Pledge Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Unit Name

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## Registration for Annual Meeting Celebration

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Church \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Free childcare provided, please bring a sack lunch. Child(ren) must be pre-registered.

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

Age(s): \_\_\_\_\_

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Register with Mary Blashill:

Text: 269-767-6060

Email: maryblashill@gmail.com (enter "District Annual" in subject line)

You may pay at the registration table upon arrival by cash or checks payable to GSW UWF.

If you have questions, please text Mary at 269-767-6060



United  
Women  
in Faith

# Michigan UWF Conference

## 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebration

### October 28, 2023

## "Turn On - Tune In"

Holt United Methodist Church

2321 N Aurelius Road, Holt, MI

Registration opens @ 8:30 am

Keynote speaker:

# Bishop Bard



**Local Mission Guest – House of Promise**

*Engaged in community outreach & engagement to help survivors of human sex trafficking*

\* \* \* \* \*

Hotel rooms are available at: Causeway Bay, 6820 S. Cedar St., Lansing, MI 48911

Phone: 517-694-8123      Use Code: UWF-27

\* \* \* \* \*

Ingathering to benefit House of Promise: Gift Cards from Walmart, Meijer, fast food restaurants, Amazon, gas stations.

Register online by October 21st at:

<https://my-site-102740-102533.square.site/> or scan the QR Code



**Conference Annual Registration Form**  
**Registration Deadline is October 21, 2023**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please Check one: ☐ Local Officer ☐ District Officer ☐ Conference Officer

District \_\_\_\_\_ Office held \_\_\_\_\_

Home Church and City \_\_\_\_\_

Please check events attending:

☐ \$7.00 - Friday Officer Training/Leadership Development

☐ \$18.00 - Saturday Celebration

\_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL DUE (Make checks payable to: Michigan Conference UWF)

Dietary Restrictions: \_\_\_\_\_

Child care needed? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Names and ages of children: \_\_\_\_\_

Lodging is on your own. Hotel rooms are available at:

Causeway Bay, 6820 S. Cedar St., Lansing, MI 48911  
(517) 694-8123 Use Code: UWF-27

**Mail by October 21st with check payable to: Michigan Conference UWF to:**  
**Audrey Putman, 1931 Loraine Avenue, Lansing, MI 48910**  
**putman\_family@yahoo.com (517) 482-2023**

### ***From our Treasurer:***

It is hard to believe we are already in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of our fiscal year but in reality, District Celebration and Annual Conference are both right around the corner. The final quarter is always like a race for me, working to keep up to date with district remittances and close out the books for 2024.

As of the first of August, total remittances from local units are \$6,984.00. This is about average for this time of year, which is encouraging but our total pledge to mission is \$35,000 so we have a lot to make up in these final months. If your district has not sent its annual remittance, I encourage you to do so as soon as possible. My “drop dead” date for having remittances included in the 2023 overall budget is Monday December 11. Please make sure you have sent yours by that date and well before if possible.

Remittance should be sent to:

Mary Howard  
PO Box 114  
Hopkins, MI 49328

If you need to get in touch with me, I can be reached by email or phone at:

[maryhowa@att.net](mailto:maryhowa@att.net)  
269-757-3011





### ***News from the Committee on Nominations:***

Here we are in August, the dog days of summer, and this dog is tired from the unusual heat & humidity we've experienced this summer. I am fortunate to be able to find comfort in the air conditioning of my home and hope you are, as well. Let's not forget those not so fortunate and pray they are able to find relief in a cooling center, or a family or neighbor's home that is air conditioned.

As we draw nearer to the end of the year, it's time to think about year-end business of UWF and the District Team. Enclosed in this edition of "The Compass" is our Proposed Slate of Officers for 2024 and you can see the major Officer slots are filled and I applaud & thank those who stepped up to serve on the District Team. We do have a few vacancies and ask that you prayerfully consider stepping into our circle to fill out the team. Committee positions open are: Secretary of Program Resources, Social Action, and Education & Interpretation. The Committee on Nominations has a chair, but could use some additional members to round out the team. If you think you might like to serve in any of these capacities, please give me a call at 517-741-3125 to discuss what's involved in filling one of these spots. Thank you!

Cheryl Proctor, Chair of Committee on Nominations.—(517) 741-3125



United  
Women  
in Faith



It's time to get excited for our United Women in Faith North Central Jurisdiction Event 2024!

We will gather at the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel, 31 West Ohio Street, in Indianapolis, May 31<sup>st</sup> - June 2<sup>nd</sup>, beginning at 8:30 am on **Friday** and ending at approximately noon on **Sunday**. There will be an optional, pre-event Soul Care Retreat on Thursday, May 30<sup>th</sup> from noon until 9:00 pm.

## GET TOGETHER!

What does it mean to answer the call to "love one another"? (John 13:34) Come GET TOGETHER! to

FEEL the joy when faith-filled women unite

NURTURE our souls through the strength of our sisterhood

DEEPEN our relationship with God

EXPLORE the power of love to make a difference

**TOGETHER** we can do more. **TOGETHER** we can be more.

**TOGETHER** the power of love in action can change the world.

**SCRIPTURE:** The following scripture will provide the biblical foundation for our journey together: *John 13:34 (NRSV)*  
*I give you a new commandment that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.*



Keynote Speaker  
Deaconess  
Garlinda Burton

### WHAT'S HAPPENING at GET TOGETHER! 2024?

Pray: Community Gatherings, Worship

Listen: Discussion Groups, Multi-Media Presentations

Learn: Workshops, Conference Displays

Engage: Breakouts, Action Opportunities

Celebrate!: Saturday Night Fun Night!

Optional Soul Care Retreat: Focus on nurturing your mind, body and spirit while deepening your faith through spiritual practice and creating bonds of sisterhood (includes box dinner)



Music Director  
Amanda Powell

**SPREAD THE WORD!** Please go to the United Women in Faith North Central Jurisdiction Event website, <https://www.umwncj.org/> for programming updates and the latest information.

Special guest, Grace Musaka, Regional Missionary, will share a global perspective. One example of a workshop will feature Shannon Priddy and Dawn Armstrong who will challenge us in "Let's Talk Legacy". Breakouts will offer opportunities for activities with your sisters, connecting with friends - old and new. We will be electing Directors and Alternates for the National Board of United Women in Faith as well as the 2024-2028 NCJ Leadership Team.

How can we embrace and include everyone in a divided world? How can we confront injustice? How can we grow within ourselves and our faith? The answer is always the same. We can do it TOGETHER.

Come nurture your spirit TOGETHER    Come join in worship TOGETHER    Come make a difference TOGETHER

**REGISTRATION** will open **Sept. 1, 2023**

Early Online Registration closes	November 30, 2023 (Midnight EST)	\$225.00
Online Registration closes	April 30, 2024 (Midnight EDT)	\$265.00
Soul Care Retreat (optional)	Filled until capacity	\$75.00

A few pictures from Mission u. Emily Ritsema and LaShana Jones help out the speaker with a little role playing.



Some of the members of the Greater Southwest District United Women in Faith who attended Mission u on July 14 - 15, 2023. Not pictured, but also in attendance from our District were Emily Ritsema, Joyce Babbitt, Beth Mitchell and Cheryl Proctor.

Greater Southwest District United Women in Faith  
3813 Rockwood Drive  
Kalamazoo, MI 49004

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## **The PURPOSE of United Women in Faith:**

United Women in Faith shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

### **Greater Southwest District United Women in Faith — Event Dates for 2023**

**September 30<sup>th</sup> District Annual** at South Haven First United Methodist Church, 429 Michigan Ave., South Haven, MI.

**October 28<sup>th</sup> Michigan Conference Annual Celebration** at Holt United Methodist Church, 2321 Aurelius Rd., Holt, MI.