



# The Compass

Newsletter of the Greater Southwest District United Women in Faith

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

**November 2023 Edition**

Five years ago I was elected by you to be President of the Greater Southwest District United Methodist Women. After that first year, our lives were turned upside down when the world was faced with a pandemic that would change us all. We had to cancel events, couldn't meet face to face, had to learn how to rely on Zoom, we had to make plans for events that could only be held virtually, and we did it all and survived. After a year we were ready to try meeting in person once again but had to adjust some of our ways of doing things. No longer did we ask units hosting an event to provide a home cooked meal. Instead we invited units to purchase sandwiches from local shops. The results have been quite favorable. Communion was another health concern but that was figured out as well.

We finally felt like we were moving forward after the pandemic crisis and then the national office of United Methodist Women decided it was time for a change. Change is good, right? So, we were rebranded as United Women in Faith in 2022. I see this as an opportunity rather than a problem. We can become more inclusive in our communities and still keep our purpose in the forefront of our hearts and minds. 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.

I was asked to serve for a fifth year by the Conference as we were getting ready to decrease the number of Districts from nine to seven. This happened at the Michigan Annual Conference in June of this year and then at our Michigan United Women in Faith Annual Conference Celebration this past October. The Greater Southwest District has welcomed 18 new churches into our District, and hopefully units also.

It has been an interesting time over the last 5 years with ups and downs, but always God has been good and walking alongside us. I have met a lot of wonderful, faithful women. We have struggled together to find our way as United Women in Faith. God is not finished with us, there is still lots of work to be done in our own churches, units, communities, states, and the world. I will continue to serve on your district team as the immediate past president and more importantly, as the chair of the nominating committee. I will be looking to fill several offices for 2025 so watch out!

In God's Service!

*Linda Burton Collier, President*

## ***Welcome to our new Co-Presidents!***

Welcome from one of your new co-presidents! My name is Laura Marlowe and I've been a part of the Greater Southwest District team for two years as the Reading Program and Education and Interpretation Leader. I have been installed as one of two co-presidents for the District starting in 2024. I'm currently the President of my local unit (Climax UWF) and I've been involved with the Climax United Methodist Church all of my life. (Thanks Mom and Dad!)

I'm a retired elementary school teacher, wife to Mark, mother of three and grandmother to four beautiful grandchildren. My husband and I just moved back to a condo so maybe I'll have a little more time to spend doing the things I love: reading, knitting, sewing, and playing the piano.

I'm looking forward to supporting your efforts and mission work as well as continuing to build relationships with the women of our District UWF local units.

Please feel free to contact me if you'd like a visit, have questions or need information about UWF.

May God bless your Holiday season!

Laura Marlowe, [mmarlowe33@att.net](mailto:mmarlowe33@att.net) or 269-929-7393

\* \* \* \* \*

Greetings from Union City! Many of you are familiar with me.....I've been around the Methodist Church for many years at Union City UMC. I served as President of the Albion District UMW when we were going through the redistricting process and here I am again as Co-President along with Laura Marlowe of the Greater Southwest District. We are planning some great things for United Women in Faith for 2024 and hope to see you at all or some of our events! I am happy to be of service to you, our members, so please tell me (or Laura) how I can help your unit. My phone number is (517) 741-3125 or email me at [seldominn@wowway.com](mailto:seldominn@wowway.com). I look forward to seeing you!

Cheryl Proctor, [seldominn@wowway.com](mailto:seldominn@wowway.com) or (517) 741-3125

### ***Mission Today Unit Objectives 2023***

How did your unit do with accomplishing objectives from the Mission Today Unit Objectives? These goals are not mandatory for you to accomplish as a unit but there are some great ideas on program resources and opportunities that your unit might like to explore. I've included the list for 2023 and if your unit chooses to participate, please send your forms to me after you finish in December 2023.

At this point there is not a Leader for Education and Interpretation for 2024 for our District. If you think you might be interested in joining our team, please get in touch with me and I'll give you information on what it involves. It is extremely rewarding to be a part of the Greater Southwest District Leadership Team. I've made many new friends and have learned so much! Please pray and consider being a part of our group.

Laura Marlowe  
2461 Hunters Pond, Kalamazoo, MI 49048 (new address)  
269-929-7393  
[mmarlowe33@att.net](mailto:mmarlowe33@att.net)

# 2023 Mission Today Unit Objectives

## United Women in Faith - Michigan Conference

*Please print clearly!*

Name of Unit \_\_\_\_\_ District \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name Telephone  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 City State Zip  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_

**A unit will receive a Certificate of Achievement upon completion of one of the following categories between January 1 through December 31, to be presented at their District Annual Meeting the following October. Check the numbers completed.**

\*Units completing any 8 or more objectives will be a “FAITH” unit.

\*Units completing 9 or more objectives, with 8 asterisks (\*) will be a “FAITH” “HOPE” unit.

\*Units completing 17 or more objectives, with 10 asterisks (\*) will be a “FAITH” “HOPE” “JOY” unit.

\*Units completing 25 or more objectives, with 12 asterisks (\*) will be a “FAITH” “HOPE” “JOY” “LOVE” unit.

### **Mission Giving**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. \*Made and met its Pledge to Mission.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \*Became a 5-Star Unit by contributing to all 5 channels of undesignated giving.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Donated to local women’s shelter or children’s/youth program.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Offered scholarships to *Mission u* and/or other United Women in Faith activities.

### **Spiritual Growth**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Observed a Call to Prayer and Self Denial.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Participated locally in a retreat, prayer vigil or Bible study.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Attended a District Retreat, Spiritual Day Apart, or Prayer Breakfast/Brunch.

### **Membership**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. \*Added one new member from women who have joined the church in the current year.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. \*Added one new member not included in above.

### **Attendance**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Invited a District or Conference officer (other than a member of the unit) to one meeting.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. Had a combined meeting with another United Women in Faith unit.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. Attended Church Women United or other ecumenical group activity.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. \*At least one member (other than conference or district officer) attended a conference *Mission u*.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. \*At least two members (other than conference or district officer) attended the conference or district annual meeting/celebration.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 15. \*At least one member (other than conference or district officer) attended the District Elected Leadership Training

## **Mission Education**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 16. \*Unit or circle conducted at least one *Mission Study*.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 17. \*Two members completed a *Reading Program Plan* and reported on one of the books.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 18. Participated in but did not complete the *Reading Program*.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 19. \*Used two programs from the *Program Book*.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 20. \*Used the *Prayer Calendar* regularly in the unit meetings.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 21. Communicated with five persons listed in the *Prayer Calendar*, one from Michigan Conference.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 22. \*Unit had two members reading **response** each month.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 23. \*Unit included a *response Moment* during its meeting using an article to tell our mission story.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 24. Unit had one *Social Action* program.

## **Mission Action**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 25. \*Participated in a District or Conference ingathering project.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 26. Had a member of United Women in Faith present a mission program for youth or children in the church.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 27. Had at least one member visit a United Women in Faith Project and report to the unit.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 28. \*Had at least one person receive and respond to legislative information from the United Women in Faith's Action Network.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 29. Unit or member participated in a workshop, seminar, or book study related to social concerns that stimulated and enriched the total community.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 30. \*Unit participated in the *Campaign for Children* in at least two ways. Possibilities are:
  - \* Co-sponsored with the local church, a Children's Sabbath.
  - \* Involved with mentoring, tutoring or "big sisters" programs.
  - \* Communicated with representatives advocating for children's issues.
  - \* Attended a school board meeting.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 31. Made a pledge to care for God's creation and worked to become a "green" United Women in Faith Unit.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 32. \*Implemented the Charter for Racial Justice policies in at least one way during the year.  
Possibilities include:
  - \* Read books and articles about another race or culture.
  - \* Sponsor an inter-ethnic event between two or more units.
  - \* Recruit women of color to be members or officers of the unit.
  - \* Correspond with elected representatives to support legislation affecting issues such as immigration, affirmative action, civil rights, and programs for low-income persons, etc.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 33. Sent this completed form to your **District Mission Coordinator** for Education and Interpretation by ***deadline date:*** February 1, 2024.

This year our Unit qualified as a Mission Today FAITH HOPE JOY LOVE unit.

(Circle all that apply)

## ***From the District Treasurer...***

We are in the last quarter of our fiscal year and it is time to get any last minute pledges sent in. I need to have my final report and remittance to the Conference Treasurer by mid-December so PLEASE get those pledges to me ASAP. My address is:

Mary Howard  
PO Box 114  
Hopkins, MI 49328

I know that fundraising continues to get more difficult for our units and we are all looking for new ways to raise money. Cheryl Rumery, our Conference Treasurer, provided a list of ideas for fundraising and I have included it for the newsletter. There are lots of quick, easy and fun ideas that could be tried by large or small units. Think outside the box. Try smaller and simpler activities and do one a month instead of relying on one large event. A simple thing like providing a meal after Sunday service and asking for a love offering can raise a surprising amount of money and is easy to plan. Thanks for all your hard work through the year and your support for the mission work of United Women in Faith

### ***Fundraising Ideas...***

**Bag and Basket Booth:** Sell baskets, handbags, gift boxes, tote bags, shopping bags, knitting bags, coin purses, cosmetic cases, book covers, hampers – everything used to hold and carry articles. Encourage members to assemble bags with items inside to sell in a booth at local craft fairs or events during the year.

**Bake Sales:** Tried and true fundraiser that can be held anytime of the year at any local or church event.

**Balloon Popping:** Each member who is giving or turns in a pledge form gets to choose a balloon with a prize written on a slip of paper inside. Prizes can be anything or your choosing including small UWF giveaways, inspirational bookmarks, gift cards to local businesses, etc.

**Book/Media Sale:** Ask for donations of gently used items. Set up a booth at local events or in your church with items for sale. Donate leftovers to local libraries or shelters.

**Chili Cook-off:** Ask members to cook a favorite chili recipe and have a cook off. Charge for tasting and voting with the chili raising the most money designated as the winner. Or ask a panel of “experts” to choose the winner after all the tasting is done.

**Cutest Pet Contest:** Everyone loves their pets! Place pictures of pets by jars and encourage donations to vote for the cutest. Whichever draws the most donations wins. This could be a church-wide contest that spans a month. Also, reverse donations by subtracting paper money donations from the total of change in a jar.

**Decorating Contest:** During a holiday season (can be any holiday) invite church families to “buy a table” to decorate in your church community space. During the month church members vote for their favorite table by putting donations in jars.

**Sell something:** There are many opportunities now on social media to hold a sale for your unit. Everything from Tupperware, Pampered Chef, Pizza or any other product can be set up as a sale party for your church and friends. A percentage of the sales would go toward your unit as the “host” of the party.

*Continued on next page*

**M&M/Jellybean Jar:** The classic guessing game fundraiser. Buy a guess for \$1. The person who guesses closest wins the jar. Again, this can be a church wide game that continues for a month. No limit on the number of guesses.

**Monday Night Football:** Ask a church or UWF member to host a tailgate at his/her home during football season. Charge \$10 to attend and serve hotdogs, wings, chips, etc. This is also just a fun way to gather together as a church family.

**Penny Wars:** Place a secure bucket in a prominent area in the church or community space where people can drop loose change. Decorate the container for a specific mission or with information about missions supported by UWF. Smaller churches can limit it to one container, larger churches can have families or groups (men vs. women, kids vs. adults) compete for raising the most money.

**Quilt Auction:** Do you have a quilter in your unit? Auction a donated quilt or decorated dish towels. This is another event that could be set up at a community event or as a silent auction.

**Silent Auction:** Expand the quilt auction to include other white elephant items, the gift baskets from the first suggestion on this list, gift cards from local businesses, food items, etc.

**Sucker Pull:** Quick and easy fundraiser for the church or community event such as the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Mark some suckers for prizes (ask for donations) and sell chances to pull a sucker.

**Talent Show:** Host a church or community talent show and charge for admittance.

#### **Other Ideas:**

Baby Picture Guessing Game  
Board Game Tournament  
Car Wash  
Craft Bazaar  
Dunk Tank  
Fun Run  
Halloween Costume Contest

Ice Cream Social  
Lunch and a Movie  
Lunch Box Auction  
Pie Throwing Contest  
Root Beer Float Sale  
Walk a Thon

Many of these ideas can be adapted for large or small churches and units. Use your imagination and find things that work for you. Pick several and change your fundraiser each month or quarter. Contact other units and ask what works for them. The traditional bazaar and pasty sales are becoming more difficult, especially for smaller units or older members so look for ways to make it easier for all to participate. Most importantly:

***HAVE FUN TOGETHER!***



#### ***Reading Program Wrap-up for 2023***

I hope you have enjoyed at least one of the books from this year's reading list. We have a new Reading Program Leader for 2024:

Jan Hedgcock from Union City UWF will be collecting your reading logs after you finish at the end of December 2023. Here is her contact information:

Email: [hsspedteach@yahoo.com](mailto:hsspedteach@yahoo.com), 517-741-3245

Address: 303 Calhoun St., Union City, MI 49094

Forms can be mailed or e-mailed to Jan.

I hope you've had a chance to see the new list of books for 2024. There are over a hundred!! Happy Reading!

Laura Marlowe

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

**OFFICERS**

**Co-Presidents**

Laura Marlowe  
2461 Hunters Pond, Kalamazoo 49048  
(269) 929-7393  
mmarlowe33@att.net

Cheryl Proctor  
104 Tuttle Park Drive, Sherwood 49089  
(517) 741-3125  
seldominn@wowway.com

**Vice President**

Open

**Treasurer**

Mary Howard  
PO Box 114, 209 Grant St., Hopkins 49328  
(269) 757-3011  
maryhowa@att.net

**Secretary**

Linda Luce  
104 N. Fiske Rd., Coldwater 49036  
(517) 178-8443  
lindaluce@msn.com

**MISSION COORDINATORS**

**Committee on Nominations Chair**

Linda Burton-Collier  
2574 127th Ave., Allegan 49010  
(269) 793-7340  
lindaburtoncollier@gmail.com

**Spiritual Growth Coordinator**

Mary Blashill  
07509 M-43, South Haven 49090  
(269) 767-6060  
maryblashill@gmail.com

**Education & Interpretation Coordinator**

Open

**Membership Nurture & Outreach  
Coordinator**

Cindy Thiele  
319 River St., Allegan 49010  
(269) 673-4514  
cindahthiele@gmail.com

**Social Action Coordinator**

Open

**Secretary of Program Resources**

Jan Hedgcock  
303 Calhoun St., Union City 49094  
(517) 741-3245  
hsspedteach@yahoo.com

**Communications Coordinator**

Beth Mitchell  
3813 Rockwood Dr., Kalamazoo 49004  
(269) 626-5241  
barmitch55@gmail.com

# 2023 Local Membership Census Form

## Greater Southwest District United Women in Faith

Local Unit Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Unit President: \_\_\_\_\_

Church Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Information reported by: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of members as of January 1, 2023:	
Number of new members added in 2023:	
Number of members lost by death or other reasons:	
Total members as of December 31, 2023:	

**Unit type:** Please circle the type of unit you are: (circle one)

Local      Cluster/charge      District      Online

**Instructions:** Please fill in the membership numbers for your local unit in the chart above. Also circle the type of unit that best describes your gatherings.

When your form is complete, please send it to the address listed below by February 15, 2024.

**Please mail completed forms by February 15, 2024 to:**

Cindy Thiele  
319 River Street  
Allegan, Michigan 49010  
(269) 673-4514

**Or e-mail: [cindahthiele@gmail.com](mailto:cindahthiele@gmail.com)**

**Thank you**



**2024 LOCAL UNIT OFFICERS IN GREATER SOUTHWEST DISTRICT****Please complete & return by Feb. 28, 2024**

Unit (Church) \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

Meetings Held: Day \_\_\_\_\_ week of month \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY OR TYPE**

	<b>NAME</b>	<b>ADDRESS</b>	<b>PHONE</b>	<b>E-MAIL</b>
<b>President</b>				
<b>Vice-President</b>				
<b>Secretary</b>				
<b>Treasurer</b>				
<b>Spiritual Growth</b>				
<b>Education &amp; Interpretation</b>				
<b>Social Action</b>				
<b>Membership, Nurture &amp; Outreach</b>				
<b>Program Resources</b>				
<b>Communica- tions Coordinator</b>				
<b>Nominations Chair</b>				
<b>Other</b>				

\_\_\_\_ We would like to learn more about hosting a District UWF event at our church

\_\_\_\_ We would like to have a District representative visit our church to discuss UWF.

\_\_\_\_ We would like to start a UWF unit. Please contact: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ We do not have a UWF unit at our church. Contact person &amp; #: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments or suggestions for upcoming District events: \_\_\_\_\_

**Send completed form to Beth Mitchell, 3813 Rockwood Drive, Kalamazoo, MI 49004****Or e-mail barmitch55@gmail.com**



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  
DEEPEN our relationship with God

NURTURE our souls through the strength of our sisterhood  
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



United  
Women  
in Faith

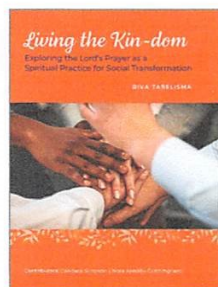


## Virtual Mission u

Thursday, January 4, 11, 18, 25  
6:30-9 PM

\$20.00

Register by December 18, 2023



### ADULT STUDY

*Living the Kin-dom* by Riva Tabelisma

This study gives fresh eyes to the Lord's Prayer. Often learned by rote, the Lord's Prayer is a rich guide for how we can live out God's kin-dom in our lives. Tabelisma invites participants in this study to step away from our automatic recitation of the prayer and dive deep into the meaning of each line over the course of eight one-hour sessions. Each of the sessions examines a section of the Lord's Prayer from Matthew 6:9–13 as it is recorded in the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Church: \_\_\_\_\_

District: \_\_\_\_\_

*Check all that apply:*

#### Information:

- |   |   |                                     |
|---|---|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> First time attending | <input type="checkbox"/> Study Leader                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Laity      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conference Officer   | <input type="checkbox"/> Paid online                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Missionary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> District Officer     | <input type="checkbox"/> Financial Assistance Applicant |                                     |

To pay with a check payable to:  
**Mission u**, send with registration  
**BEFORE December 18th** to:  
Sally Messner, 8543 7 Mile Road,  
Ewart MI 49631  
**mimissionu@gmail.com**

These books are available at: <https://uwfaith.org/events/mission-u/>

You can register for Mission u online at:

<https://michiganconferencemissionu.square.site/> or scan the QR Code



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

Presort Std.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Kalamazoo, MI  
Permit No. 384



### **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.

### **IMPORTANT 2024 DATES**

- Virtual Mission u, January 4, 11, 18 and 25—6:30-9:00 p.m.
- North Central Jurisdiction Meeting, May 30 — June 2 \* Indianapolis
  - Mission u, July 18 — 20 \* Mt. Pleasant First UMC
  - \* Greater Southwest District UWF Annual Meeting  
TBA
  - \* Conference Leadership Training for District Officers  
October 25 \* St. Luke's UMC in Essexville
  - \* Conference UWF Annual Celebration  
October 26 \* St. Luke's UMC in Essexville