



United  
Women  
in Faith

# NORTHERN SKIES DISTRICT MICHIGAN CONFERENCE

Fall—Winter 2023

## PRESIDENT



United Women in Faith!!  
Greetings in the name of our  
Lord, and Savior, Jesus Christ!

What a wonderful Celebration we had in Crystal Falls in May. No snowstorm was going to keep US from celebrating what we've done for women, children and youth in the name of Jesus!! Camp Michigamme was most appreciative of the truckload of supplies we gathered for them along with the very generous monetary donation. The Crystal Falls United Women in Faith worked very hard to make sure the Celebration ran smoothly! Well done!!

As we move into a new larger district, still called Northern Skies, we know that we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us, right? We face challenges of filling the offices of President and Vice-President. I hope if you feel God leading you, you'll contact me. Julia Hulka and I will help you!!!

Keep doing what you're doing in your community, the UP, Michigan, the USA, and the World! Heaven knows our love, work, and money is needed now more than ever!

Have a good and Godly fall!

Patti Steinberg, President

pattisteinberg@gmail.com

(906) 367-2128

## VICE PRESIDENT



Hello and Happy Summer to all! This is my last submission to the Northern Skies

Newsletter and I want to thank everyone who made this journey enjoyable, enlightening and easier with your help for the past years--starting in Gwinn with Barb Merlo and their entire group who wore matching T-shirts. They did a wonderful job as hosts as did Pastor Vicky Prewitt who was our speaker. In 2020 we skipped our celebration due to "you know what!" In 2021 Menominee was our host and Rev. Beth Galbreath the speaker. They provided a wonderful meal and the message was inspiring. In 2022 my home team of St. Ignace UMC hosted; and Rev. Faith Fowler spoke, mentioning she appreciated our new name, "United Women in Faith," being named after her! And last but not least, Crystal Falls welcomed us with Janeve Helmbold sharing her journey "From Buddhist to Christian" which everyone enjoyed.

Thank you again to all the churches, Pastors, staff, our leadership team and all the fantastic women (and men) of our Northern Skies District. A special thank you to Patti Steinberg for co-directing our 2023 celebration. Love you Patti. You are the greatest!

Peace and God's Blessings to all!

Judy Misner

auxchenes2@gmail.com

906-643-7191



## SECRETARY

Even though there were fewer at the 2023 Annual Celebration than past years, those of us in attendance had a great time. The

“Camping for Jesus” theme added to the fun.

Janeve Helmbold’s program “From Buddhist to Christian” highlighted the central themes of our faith, especially acceptance and forgiveness.

Hard to believe but it will soon be time to submit your **Local Unit Officers Form** for 2024. You will find the form in this newsletter. It is important to also indicate the number of members in your group. Also double check the accuracy of e-mail addresses so that newsletters can be sent. If nothing has changed, let me know that as well.

Thanks in advance for getting the information to me. Hope you had an enjoyable summer and Autumn is a blessing to you and yours. Changing of the seasons, especially in our part of the country, gives us the opportunity to appreciate all the wonders of God’s creation.

Bobbi Sundquist  
bobbiannolsen@aol.com  
906-864-9337



## TREASURER

Due to the restructuring of the Michigan Conference Districts, this will be my final report as treasurer of the Northern Skies

District. It has been a blessing to serve along with the other members of the board, and I will treasure the friendships we have developed as we worked and laughed and prayed together!

I have been repeatedly amazed over the past few years that I have been treasurer by the generosity of the members of all the units in our district. Once again, we met our pledge in 2022, contributing \$11,983 through the 5 channels of

giving, plus an additional \$2803.77 in designated supplemental giving. Well done, everyone!

And once again we have given generously to the in-gathering and offering at our district celebration. This year the focus was on Camp Michigamme, and there was a pickup truck full of supplies for the camp plus an offering of \$1281.10.

As we finish out the year, I just want to remind you that any giving must be in my hands by the end of November, because I have to send everything to the conference treasurer by December 5 so she can close out her records for the year. So please keep that deadline in mind as you make plans for the fall.

As always, feel free to contact me-- (906) 863-7387 or vlnpno@gmail.com-- if you have any questions or need help finding the right form to send in.

Barb Akins  
vlnpno@gmail.com  
906-863-7387

## SPIRITUAL GROWTH



Is this what you see for a perfect summer day?

Or, are you a ‘do-er’ in the summer because you can’t get out and get it done in the winter?

Hopefully, a balanced combination of both!

Rest is not idle, is not wasteful. Sometimes rest is the most productive thing you can do for body and soul. (Erica Layne “The Simplicity Habit”)

I hope we are all caring for our body, mind and spirit this season. Quiet time is a help to me. Quiet in the morning to read a devotion and just be still and rest on the fact God is there. Maybe music would grab your soul? Poetry? Coloring a mandala? Find an inspiration to spark yourself to

calm and nurture yourself. I think UWF has several self helps available. The reading program definitely has inspirational books and I have enjoyed the Faith Talks and the Community Gatherings on UWF Digital Mighty Network. I encourage you to check both of these areas out. Faith Talks are on [uwfaith.org](http://uwfaith.org) and the digital network is at [uwfaith.mn.co](http://uwfaith.mn.co) which also has Faith Talks.

And, UWF SOUL Care events focus on nurturing your mind, body and spirit while deepening your faith through spiritual practice and creating bonds of sisterhood. We can't ignore the fact that our mind, body, and soul are all connected. The way we care for each of these areas in our lives will affect the other two.

I spoke with one of the United Women in Faith Soul Care Coordinators recently at Mission U about possibly presenting info on Soul Care at our Spiritual Growth Retreat I hope to have next spring. Either that or another topic but we plan on continuing the Spiritual Growth Retreat with the new Northern Skies District area added. (An extra 40 or so churches added!)

In the meantime, keep your personal spiritual growth in the forefront and watch for news on a Retreat.

Exciting news!! Mission U 2023 in Mt. Pleasant was well attended both in person and online. There were 87 adults in person, 15 youth, and 12 virtual for the hybrid event. The exciting news is, if you missed Mission U there will be an intentional virtual only of this same study in January 2024. The study will be held over four Thursday nights – Jan. 4, 11, 18, 25 for 2 ½ hours each at 6:30 eastern; 5:30 central at a cost of only \$20.

The study is from the book "Living the Kin-dom. Exploring the Lord's Prayer as a Spiritual Practice for Social Transformation." It can be purchased at the UWF website but it's not required to participate.

Many in the District have attended Mission U of the North and a couple have participated in a virtual only session. With our distance from Mt. Pleasant, where it was this year and where it will be next year, it's a wonderful opportunity to be able to participate from the comfort of your own home or maybe gather as a UWF circle or just a group of friends. What a great way to start the new year.

Watch for details and registration form to come.

Blessings,

Jane Yaeger  
jyaeger210@gmail.com  
906-290-1884



Happy summer!!! We hope you are enjoying it. The two main social issues are: JUSTICE ENERGY FOR ALL & ENDING MASS INCARCATION.

You can get more information at [unitedwomeninfaith.org](http://unitedwomeninfaith.org). There you will be able to sign up for the newsletter for other social justice issues.

At the same website, we would encourage you to check out the Faith Talks. Information you get from these talks will give you valuable information. You can use them as a group or by yourself. *Response* magazine is now available online. Also you should explore getting the magazine in print to share with others.

If you have any questions, we will try to help.

Beth Clark  
clarkbb616@gmail.com  
715-696-3773

Moira Cowling  
moira5130@hotmail.com  
906-774-5130



## MEMBERSHIP, NURTURE, & OUTREACH

Please keep track of the women in your unit who pass away during 2023 as well as any new members. We will need this info for the 2024 Celebration.

Wendy Mulka  
picup8@gmail.com  
906-774-8387



## PROGRAM RESOURCES

*Greetings from the western U.P.  
We've adjusted to the change of our  
district's name to Northern Skies.*

*Now we are doing another "new thing." My name is Bonnie Picotte. I've been serving on the district Nominations Committee. But now I am the new Secretary of Program Resources. I was told that it will be a simplified version of what this position has been in the past. All of the details will be worked out during this period of transition.*

The reading plans, 1-4, will be essentially the same as previous years.

\*Plan 1: Read 5 books each year. (1 book from each category)

\*Plan 2: Read 10 books each year. (2 books from each category)

\*Plan 3: Read 15 books each year. (2 books from each category, plus 5 additional books from any category)

\*Plan 4: Read 20 books each year. (2 books from each category, plus 10 additional books from any category)

\*Regular reading of Response magazine is suggested for each of the reading plans.

\*Bonus books are credited toward the reading plan as the equivalent of 2 books.

\*Faith Talks podcasts: Listening to 2 episodes of Faith Talks counts as the equivalent of 1 book. Listen to 3 Faith Talks podcasts and it will count as 2 books in the category of Spiritual Growth.

The reading list for 2023 includes books from the 2018 list through the 2023 list.

There are still the same 5 categories of books. I will give recommendations with each one.

Education for mission: *Phoebe: A Story* by Paula Gooder; *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek* by Kim Michele Richardson.

Leadership Development: *On the Come Up* by Angie Thomas; *Becoming* by Michelle Obama

Nurturing for Community: *The Hidden Life - Awakened* by Kitty Crenshaw and Cathy Snapp, PhD; *Fire Keeper's Daughter* by Angeline Boulley.

Social Action: *Caste* (Bonus book) by Isabel Wilkerson; *The Four Winds* by Kristin Hannah.

Spiritual Growth: *Sleep, Pray, Heal: a path to wholeness and well-being* by Donna Fado Ivery; *The Big Deal of Taking Small Steps to Move Closer to GOD* by Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie.

In our district library we have new books for sale and many other books for borrowing. If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions, please contact me. My address is: Bonnie Picotte, 36870 Stroud Rd., Ontonagon, MI 49953. e-mail: yogibo@spectrum.net.

Bonnie Picotte  
yogibo@spectrum.net  
906-884-4523



## NOMINATIONS

On October 28, all of the districts' slate of officers and budgets will be voted on at our Conference Celebration in Holt, Michigan.

### **2024 Northern Skies United Women in Faith Proposed Slate of Officers:**

Past Presidents: Julia Hulka, Patti Steinberg

President:

Vice-President:

Treasurer: Beth Pelkey

Secretary: Nancy Goodyear

Program Resources: Bonnie Picotte

Spiritual Growth: Jane Yaeger

Membership:

Social Action:

Nominations Chair: Carol Kingsley, Charlene Sutherby,

Nominations Member: Susan Wirgau

Newsletter Coordinator:



## NEWSLETTER COORDINATOR

As I put the finishing touches on this newsletter, I'm trying to think of something profound to leave you with as this is my last newsletter. But the inspiration won't come. I have enjoyed my time on the District Board. United Women in Faith is a crucial organization for the world as it serves women, youth and children. I have been inspired by the amount of items and monies raised for our

in-gathering projects through the years as well as the many speakers we've hosted. With the expansion of our District and the continuing health decline of my husband, I don't feel I can continue. But I encourage all women to think and pray about serving on the Board. It is worthwhile and fun! Such a great group of faithful women I've served with. I thank God for all of you!

Judy Rost  
jrost@alphacomm.net  
906-788-4771



*2023 UWF Northern Skies District Celebration at Crystal Falls UMC*

## 2023 NORTHERN SKIES DISTRICT CELEBRATION



*The Crystal Falls UWF Unit Hosted the 2023 Celebration*



*Northern Skies District Officers attending the 2023 Celebration*



*Speaker Janeve Helmbold Inspired us with her Personal Story*



*Janeve with her Husband's Aunt Janet Helmbold*



*FROG (Fully Rely on God)*



*Barb & Bonnie at the Registration Table*



*Rev. Vicky Prewitt Blesses the In-Gathering Donations*



*In-Gathering Donations for Camp Michigamme*



*Wendy Conducts the Memorial Service*



*Bobbi Takes Roll*

## 2023 UMW NORTHERN SKIES DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TEAM

**Honorary President:** Bron Harmon, cell 906-420-2943, dfebron@gmail.com

**Past President:** Bobbie Clift, 225 W. Michigan St. #1, Marquette, MI 49855, 906-361-2234, bblouclift@gmail.com

**President:** Patti Steinberg, 142 Indian Lake Dr, Crystal Falls, MI 49920, 906-367-2128, pattisteinberg@gmail.com

**Vice President:** Judy Misner, W2573 Association Rd, St Ignace, MI 49781, 906-643-7191, cell 906-630-0303, auxchenes2@gmail.com

**Secretary:** Bobbi Sundquist, N2708 State Highway M-35, Menominee, MI 49858, 906-864-9337, cell 906-290-0114, bobbiannolsen@aol.com

**Treasurer:** Barb Akins, 717 - 14<sup>th</sup> Ave, Menominee, MI 49858, 906-863-7387, vlnpno@gmail.com

**Spiritual growth:** Jane Yaeger, 1610 - 36<sup>th</sup> Ave, Apt #6, Menominee, MI 49858, cell 906-290-1884, ज्याेगेर210@gmail.com

**Social Action/Education & Interpretation:** Beth Clark, 446 Lake Anna Rd., Florence, WI 54121 715-696-3773, clarkbb616@gmail.com

Moira Cowling, W8321 Spring Lake Lane, Iron Mountain, MI 49801, 906-774-5130 cell 906-221-9311, moira5130@hotmail.com

**Membership, Nurture & Outreach:** Wendy Mulka, 580 N Riverhills Rd, Kingsford, MI 49802, 906-774-8387, cell 906-396-0405, picup8@gmail.com

**Program Resources:** Bonnie Picotte, 36870 Stroud Rd, Ontonagon, MI 49953, 906-884-4523, yogibo@spectrum.net

**Newsletter:** Judy Rost, W4768 No. 14.5 Lane, Wallace, MI 49893, 906-788-4771, jrost@alphacomm.net

**Nominations Chairperson:** OPEN

**Nominations Committee:**

Bonnie Picotte, 36870 Stroud Rd, Ontonagon, MI 49953, 906-884-4523, yogibo@spectrum.net  
Linda Chappa, 739 Klomen Ave, Republic, MI 49875, 906-371-9051, sircuddlycakes@gmail.com

**Conference Nominating Committee:** Patti Steinberg & Jane Yaeger (see info above)



**NORTHERN SKIES DISTRICT UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**

**2024 Local Unit Officers**

**Due: October 31, 2023**

Name of Church & Location \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Members as of September 1, 2023 \_\_\_\_\_

**\*PLEASE INCLUDE AS MANY EMAIL ADDRESSES AS POSSIBLE TO AVOID POSTAGE COSTS.**

**President:**

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email (for newsletter) \_\_\_\_\_

**Vice President:**

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email (for newsletter) \_\_\_\_\_

**Treasurer:**

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email (for newsletter) \_\_\_\_\_

**Secretary:**

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email (for newsletter) \_\_\_\_\_

**Nominations:**

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email (for newsletter) \_\_\_\_\_

**Program Resources:**

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email (for newsletter) \_\_\_\_\_

**Mission Coordinators**

**Spiritual Growth:**

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email (for newsletter) \_\_\_\_\_

**Social Action:**

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email (for newsletter) \_\_\_\_\_

**Education and Interpretation:**

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email (for newsletter) \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Nurture & Outreach:**

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email (for newsletter) \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return by October 31, 2023 (or after your first Fall Meeting)**

**to:**

**Bobbi Sundquist**

**N2708 State Hwy M-35**

**Menominee, MI 49858**

**bobbiannolsen@aol.com**

**Thank you so much for taking the time to fill this out!**

# NORTHERN SKIES DISTRICT UWF 2023 MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Please return the names of new and deceased members no later than April 15, 2024 to:

Wendy Mulka, Membership/Nurture and Outreach Coordinator  
580 N Riverhills Rd  
Kingsford, MI 49802  
906-774-8387

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_

Person Submitting Information: \_\_\_\_\_

Members deceased between January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023

Name	
Name	
Name	
Name	
Name	
Name	

New members acquired between January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023

Name	
Name	
Name	
Name	
Name	
Name	



**United Women in Faith**  
**Northern Skies District**  
c/o Judy Rost  
W4768 14.5 Lane  
Wallace, MI 49893

## **2023 NORTHERN SKIES DISTRICT UMW CALENDAR**

September 30	Deadline to register for Northern Waters District UWF Annual Celebration
October 7	Northern Waters District UWF Annual Celebration in Mancelona, MI
October 21	Deadline to register for Michigan UWF Conference Annual Celebration
October 28	Michigan UWF Conference Annual Celebration at Holt UMC
October 31	2023 Local Unit Officers due to Bobbi Sundquist
November 23	Thanksgiving
November 30	Deadline for early online registration for North Central Jurisdiction Event 2024
November 30	Record of Giving due to Barb Akins
December 25	Christmas Day
January 15, 2024	Newsletter Deadline
January 31, 2024	2023 Reading Program reports due to Bonnie Picotte
April 15, 2024	2023 New & Deceased Membership List due to Wendy Mulka
April 30, 2024	Deadline for online registration for North Central Jurisdiction Event 2024
May 31 – June 2, 2024	UWF North Central Jurisdiction Event