

Cola Hill, editor



Catch A Wave

Greetings, Gatherings, Good-byes, and More!

President's Message



Julia Hulka

Here we are, going out after five years as Northern Waters District with heads held high and arms extended to our new district friends, Northern Skies UWF and Western Waters UWF. Not everything is in place yet, nor will it probably ever be, but here we go!

At a special NSD/NWD breakfast, during Annual Conference, on the 17th floor of the Grand Traverse Resort (yes, I was there at 6:30 am!) we were told by DS Rev. Scott Harmon that the new Northern Skies District

(NSD) will be an 8½ drive from northwest to southeast and will be 62% of the land mass of the state of Michigan. Pretty big, eh? Special challenges, but we'll get there with a little encouragement, anticipation, trepidation and probably a little frustration, too.

Some things we do know – NSD needs a president and vice-president! Patti Steinberg and I are finished 'plus' a year or two extra, but we will both be there as past presidents to encourage new leadership and offer advice, suggestions or alternatives. Could one of those needed leaders be YOU??? We have most of the supporting officers already, so that is encouraging. Come join us and make a difference!

Our budget and 2024 officers will be voted on at the Conference Annual Celebration in Holt Oct. 28 instead of our NWD Annual Celebration in Mancelona. Bishop Bard will be our keynote speaker. Please come!

And speaking of Annual Celebrations, come to the Fifth and Final NWD Annual Celebration Oct. 7 in Mancelona! Nancy will have a flyer with all the information you need in this last issue of Catch a Wave. Please come to hear our speaker, Tara DeGroot, talk about homelessness in northern Michigan. Receive your unit awards, enjoy fellowship, and help us go out, as I said earlier, with our heads held high and our arms extended to our new districts, Northern Skies and Western Waters!

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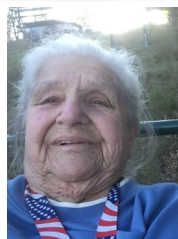
**United
Women
in Faith**

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Bring your Pledge to Mission and a gift for The Legacy Endowment Fund and prepare to go out in style! We've 'Done Good' for 154 years and counting! Wonder what's ahead???

See you at Mission u July 13-15!

Membership, Nurture & Outreach



Kaye Porter

Please send me any obits or new members that your unit has had since our annual meeting in Grayling last fall.

Send to:
RR.RANCHPORTERLADY@GMAIL.COM

or

Kaye Porter
4104 Clara Rd.
Onaway, MI 49765



Treasurer



Ruth Corwin

Greetings! The good news: God loves us! The bad news: we are only at about 20% of our projected Mission Pledge for 2023 and we're at the half-year point. I want to encourage all units to seri-

ously consider adding fundraisers (bakeless bake sales, rummage sales, etc.) to your summer and fall schedules...or even an individual pledge.

We have many important ministries that need our support.

Yours in Christ.

Vice-President



Nancy Goodyear

Greetings from your Vice President!!! I have been working very hard with the wonderful ladies at Mancelona United Methodist Church to create an inspiring Annual Celebration for all of you.

This will be our last Celebration as Northern Waters District. At the end of the year, we will become either part of Western Waters District or Northern Skies District, depending on where your church is located. Let's make our last Celebration together the best one yet!!

Our theme is around youth homelessness and poverty and what we can do to be the right hand of God to help. Our speaker is Tara DeGroot from Traverse City UMC. Our mission focus will be the Iron Vault at

Mancelona High School that provides needed supplies to students, including shower facilities (See more details below).

Plan now to bring a car load of women from your church to celebrate! There is a registration form included in this newsletter (p. 3). Please share it with your church women and register soon.

I'll see you there!!

* * * * *

The Iron Vault

The Iron Vault at Mancelona High School provides free basic needs for students such as clothing, toiletries, and food. The store has been running completely off of community donations. The store helps eliminate physical barriers that might otherwise interfere with socialization, education, and success.

One section of the store has a locker for men, and another for the ladies, and each has a supply of toothbrushes, toothpaste, mouthwash, soap, shampoo, antiperspirant and other toiletries.

Clothing selections available in the store include pants, shirts, sweaters, sweatshirts, dresses, coats, and undergarments. Dresses and formal men's wear for school dances and the prom are also offered. Some clothing is brand new and gently-used clothing is also available.

A food shelf of healthy snacks and individual meals
(cont. on page 4)



United
Women
in Faith

*Northern Waters District
Annual Celebration and Business Meeting*

Saturday, October 7, 2023

Registration/continental breakfast/bookstore 9:15 a.m.; Program 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Mancelona United Methodist Church, 217 N. Williams St., Mancelona, MI 49659

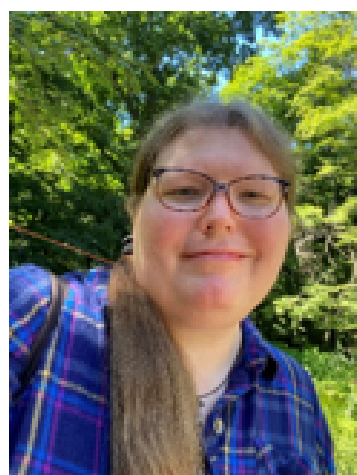
Park in back of the church and enter through the ramp

Registration fee is \$15 (includes breakfast and lunch); Zoom registration fee is \$15

Registration deadline is September 30, 2023

Theme: "We Are the Right Hand of God"

*Speaker Tara DeGroot, Youth Coordinator Traverse City Central UMC
Former Regional Community Systems Liaison for Coalition to End Homelessness*



Tara Tennie DeGroot is a graduate of GVSU and a native of Traverse City, Michigan. She has been a regional leader in efforts to end youth homelessness. Ending youth homelessness is her greatest passion, and her passion is fierce. She helped start a non-profit in Anchorage, Alaska, designed to help homeless youth identifying as LGBTQ find safe families to live with. She worked for the largest youth homeless charity in the country, the Catholic charity Covenant House with locations across North America. Locally, she was the Program Coordinator for Pete's Place Youth Homeless Shelter for two years and recently worked for Goodwill and the Coalition to End Homelessness as their regional Community Systems Liaison. Tara is now pursuing ministry as she seeks religious education in seminary. She attends Traverse City Central United Methodist Church, participating as the youth group coordinator, and is a volunteer for their homeless outreach breakfast and the committee that runs it.

Mission Focus: Iron Vault at Mancelona High School

Bring shampoo, conditioner, dry shampoo, deodorant, lip balm, feminine products, granola bars, juice boxes, bulk and individually wrapped snack items

Offering: Will be split between the NWD Pledge to Mission and UWF National Legacy Endowment Fund

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Email (required for Zoom meeting) _____

Home Church _____

Local Unit Officer Position _____

Mail registration form and payment (checks made out to NWD United Women in Faith) to:

Cola Hill, Communications Coordinator, 7299 Reynolds Rd., Elmira, MI 49730

northernwatersdistrictumw@gmail.com

ensures students have the nutrition they need. Granola bars, fruit packs, pasta and sauce, soup, canned vegetables, and juice are just some of the foods incorporated in the Iron Vault.

Items that are currently in short supply include: shampoo, cream rinse, dry shampoo, deodorant, chapstick, female products, granola bars, juice boxes, bulk snack items, and individually wrapped snack items of any kind.

Thank you for supporting the Iron Vault! Come visit sometime. It is open during the school year on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm.

Education & Interpretation



Karen Genson

As your district Education & Interpretation coordinator, I am supposed to help district members of United Women in Faith to understand where the dollars given to United Women in Faith go. If you are like me, many ladies in my local unit are torn between giving mission dollars to local missions where they SEE it being used vs to UWFaith mission giving where they don't necessarily see where it goes.

United Women in Faith financial gifts:

- Support programs in the US and globally that improve life for women, children, and youth and their communities.
- Dollars are given to partner church, ecumenical, and grassroots projects through a granting process overseen by a member-chosen (25 members) Board of Directors that are United Women in Faith members.

These UWF Pledge to Mission gifts goes to:

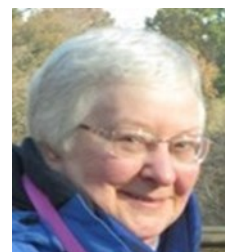
National Mission Institutions which are community centers, colleges, and residences providing vital services in vulnerable communities, and advocate for the women, children, youth and families in the communities they serve. Our Michigan example is UM Community House, Inc. in Grand Rapids!

International Missions – which include skills building workshops, leadership development, economic empowerment, advocacy work, emergency grants, scholarships, free loans, etc to help women and youth to become more financially independent, support their families, and transform their communities.

Remember, meeting the objectives in all areas on the Mission Today Unit Objective form ensures balanced participation in missions (education, action, and giv-

ing) as well as encouraging Spiritual growth, membership, and attendance at district and conference UWF meetings. Let's work hard to continue our **154 year legacy** of supporting UWF missions in places we likely will never see. Let's challenge ourselves to make generous personal contributions, as well as holding successful fundraisers to enable us to continue generous support of UWF Pledge to Mission, in addition to supporting the local causes that we see making such a difference for vulnerable women, youth, and children in our own communities. With God's help and ideas from fellow UWF members we can do it!

Program Resources



Linda Pitts

Can you believe that 2023 is half over? Let's hope you have more of your projects completed than I have which include your reading program selections! Amidst all the changes we are going through again ... God is with us always!

Many of you have been diligent and submitted your Reading Program reports
□ Linda Matchett from **Bar-**

nard (Charlevoix] ... from **East Jordan** are Sherry Pursel, Linda Gocha, and Luanne Reed ... **Empire UMC** has Jean Petersen ... **Petoskey UMC** has Pam Moyer ... **Boyne Area** has Judy Gasco. Congratulations to all! (No official report from Julia Hulka, **Grayling Michelson UMC** but she obviously has completed the required reading and more!)

Remember this would be your readings from 2022. There's still time but please have your reports to me by **August 1** so they can be submitted in time for printing in the program for our District Conference. That also gives me time to produce your Reading Program Certificates. Reports can be sent to me via email pitspalace62@frontier.com or ona-wayumc@gmail.com or they can be mailed to Linda Pitts, PO Box 394, Onaway, MI 49765. Telephoning is difficult for my bad ears to understand.

If you can participate in the Faith Talks, they count as one book in Spiritual Growth, three Faith Talks count as two books. The Prayer Calendar is now the Daily Prayer Guide and is available on Facebook and the National website. The Program Book is now Program Resources and is for two years. Some of these resources will be available to download free online at

www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/downloads. Reading Program books from 2016 on count. Contacts include: estore: umwmissionresources.org; phone: 800-305-9857 or 972-905-0827; email: cs@missionresources.org; Response magazine by phone 877-881-2385.

When printing your Reading Program Titles lists be sure to check what you are getting before you hit print or you just might get all 65 pages of it!

Hope to see you in person at Mancelona UMC this October. Meanwhile, God bless!

Social Action



Jean Petersen

United Women of Faith is too "Out of my Comfort Zone" as Jesus is to the Samaritans/Women

At the District Officers meeting in Mancelona on June 10th we commented on how few people attend the Day of Bold social action events and how hard it is to convince some units to include mission giving on the

district, conference and worldwide level as opposed to "I prefer to keep our giving local". And that's when the title of this article popped into my head.

Staying where we are "comfortable" is nothing new or endemic to the times in which we now live. We avoid the UWF reading program because they choose books that present us with hard truths with which we don't want to wrestle. We stop listening to a broad range of news sources because we don't agree with what some of them tell us and don't like feeling angry. We refuse responsibility for things that happened "before our time" thereby denying they still happen. We deny we have any effect on climate, or we complain about words and phrases we have used all our lives being called racist, and sneer at "politically correct speech."

Did not Jesus present such hard truths to his disciples and the crowds that listened to him? Were they shocked to hear his "jaw dropping" declaration that the Good Samaritan was their neighbor whom they should love? (Politically correct speech; Neighbor rather than Samari-

tan?) We know the disciple's reaction when they return to the well to find Jesus having a theological discussion with a "gasp" *Samaritan woman!* And Jesus commends Mary for listening to him rather than being in her place "in the kitchen". (A hard truth; women are equal to men?). Healing the Phoenician woman's daughter (definitely not local).

It is precisely by stretching our comfort zones; wrestling with hard truths, having difficult, grace-filled discussions with those with whom we really disagree, considering why our words might be received harshly by someone different from us, that we grow spiritually beginning to gain new insights into Jesus' teaching and the Way he showed us how to live.

Let us take up the hard work Jesus asks us to do by feeding the hungry, housing the homeless, listening to our friends AND opponents, opening our hearts to uncomfortable information, loving all our neighbors, welcoming the stranger, pursuing justice, and gathering together to learn, stretch, accept, and grow.Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven....." Amen

National United Women in Faith

has announced that Sally Vonner will be our new General Secretary/CEO. She assumed office June 1, after the retirement of Harriett Jane Olson. Sally has a long history with UMW/UWF & will be a great leader for us!



Installation of Sally Vonner as CEO of United Women in Faith is Saturday, July 29 at 3 p.m. CT with the service held at
Lovers Lane United Methodist Church
9200 Inwood Rd, Dallas, TX 75220
and will also be available online. You must register to attend in person or online.

Committee on Nominations



Carol Kingsley



Charlene Sutherby

Seeking Your Gift of Leadership

It's that time of year when we would like to invite you to participate in the newly formed Northern Skies or Western Waters Districts as an officer. Opportunities await you to put your talents to use by serving as an officer, meeting new people, working together with women from all over the state, and learning more about United Women in Faith from the National level.

The positions will begin January 1, 2024. Nominations will be confirmed at the Conference Annual Celebration at Holt UMC on Oct 28.

If you are unable to serve, please share this request with those in your faith community that you feel would make an excellent leadership contribution.

May your summer be filled with peace, love, and time to reflect on God's beautiful world!

Northern Skies District

We are seeking positions for: President; Vice President; Communications Coordinator; Program Resources and Spiritual Growth for the Northern Lower Peninsula; Social Action, Education, and Interpretation; Membership; Nurture, and Outreach.

Please join the following people who have agreed to serve. Nancy Goodyear, Grayling Michelson Memorial (previously served as Vice President, NWD); Beth Pelkey, Ossineke, Treasurer; Bonnie Picotte will only serve for Program Resources in the UP; and Jane Yeager Spiritual Growth only in UP. Carol Kingsley and Charlene Sutherby will continue on the Nominating Committee. Julia Hulka will serve as Past President from Northern Waters District and Patti Steinberg from Northern Skies District.

Please contact Carol or Charlene if you would like to accept the nomination or have a contact that you would like us to make.

Carol at 231.360.9029 phone or text; email: carolkingsley62@gmail.com

Charlene at 248.978.8262 phone or text; email: cksutherby@gmail.com



Western Waters District

We are seeking positions for: Vice President, Membership, Nurture and Outreach (MN&O), Secretary of Program Resources, and Nominations.

The following is a list of potential officers that have agreed to serve already: President-Jean Sherman, Fremont UMC, President; Ann Scott, Cedar Springs UMC, Secretary; Penny Brubaker, Hart UMC, Treasurer; Karen Genson, Ludington UMC, Education and Interpretation; Jean Petersen, Empire UMC, Social Action; Robyn Daane, Church of the Dunes, Grand Haven, Spiritual Growth; Sara Wolfson, Fremont UMC, Communications; Jody Pratt and Sue Rietman, Middleville UMC, Registrars.

Midwest/Western Waters District Annual Celebration

Saturday, September 16, 2023 from 9:30am – 12:30pm

Hart UMC, 308 S State St. Hart MI

Theme - Make a Joyful Noise (as we join together)

Speaker - Shannon Priddy, United Women in Faith Executive for Development, National Office

We would like those who will be in the new Western Waters District to attend. We want to get to know each other. If you are a part of Western Waters District and would like to be a district officer please let me know. Western Waters United Women in Faith needs to represent the whole district, not just part of it.

I would like to visit the United Women in Faith Units to the north of me. Please give me a call or send me an email.

Jean Sherman

Midwest/Western Waters District President

sherdairy1@gmail.com

231-519-2542

Northern Waters District UWFaith
Cola Hill, Communications Coordinator
7299 Reynolds Rd
Elmira, MI 49730

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JULY 2023

LOOKING AHEAD!

Midwest (Western Waters) District Annual Celebration

Saturday, September 16, 2023 (9:30–12:30)

Hart UMC

308 S State St., Hart, MI 49420

Northern Waters District Annual Celebration

Saturday, October 7, 2023

Mancelona UMC,

117 Hinman St, Mancelona, MI 49659

Michigan Conference UMF Annual

Saturday, October 28, 2023

Holt UMC

2321 N Aurelius Rd, Holt, MI 48842



The Purpose: United Methodist Women 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.

NOTE: This is our last edition of Catch A Wave.