

WEST DISTRICT CACTUS PATCH

President: Colleen Becker

December 2022

Only Arizona residents will recognize this tree that "mysteriously" gets decorated every year. This Christmas tree is located near Sunset Point on I-17.



As we ready our homes, families, friends and churches for the arrival of the "Babe in the Manger", let us all take time to remember and help those less fortunate than ourselves.



"Behold, the virgin shall be with child and shall bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel," which translated means, "God with us." ~ Matthew 1:23

2023 CALENDAR

All of these events are dependent upon decisions made by the leadership of the Desert Southwest Conference according to the current pandemic conditions.

West District LDD TRAINING (TBD) Jan. - Feb. 2023

National LDD TRAINING for conference officers, District presidents and Vice-Presidents (Virtual) Jan 19 - 21, 2023

Registration:

<https://na.eventscloud.com/ereg/ve2/index.php?eventid=719932&categoryid=4674165>

Cactus Patch articles due Feb. 15, 2023

West District Leadership Team meeting. Location/date TBA Feb. 2023

Finance meeting with Conference Mar.11, 2023

Day of Giving Mar. 23, 2023

Spiritual Growth Retreat for East and West Districts Apr. 21-22, 2023

Cactus Patch articles due May 15, 2023

West District Leadership Team meeting May 2023

Annual DSC Conference (District & Conference Presidents) Jun. 8-11, 2023

Mission u Prescott (in person) Jul. 21 & 22 (both 7 hours a day)

Online (4 sessions - 2 hr. each) Aug. 24 & 31; Sept. 7 & 14

Cactus Patch articles due Aug 15, 2023

West District Leadership Team meeting Aug. 2023

District finance meeting to plan budget presentation for Annual meeting

Aug. 23. 2023

West District Annual Celebration (TBD)

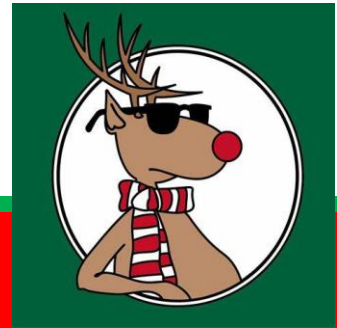
Conference Training of District Officers (virtual) Oct. 27. 2023

DSC Annual Celebration Daysprings UMC Oct. 28, 2023

West District Leadership Team meeting . Nov. 2023

Stuff from Cheryl

West District Secretary and Communications Coordinator



Hi and greetings from the pen, paper and computer of your District Secretary. In case you don't recognize me. This is me...in cognito...this is my "I'm cool" disguise, I'm trying to look cool thinking about what lies ahead of us this next year.

As many of you know, West District has no President, Vice President and most of the committees have no leader. So, I'm trying to look "cool" knowing that our activities and goals could be difficult to achieve this year.

Not only am I asking - on behalf of the leadership team and West District United Women of Faith - for those of you who are able... to step up and help us out. We welcome your fellowship, your experience, and your love of all we stand for in today's world.

We are entering an unknown phase of leadership. Please consider this plea and I promise between the District and Desert Southwest United Women in Faith, we will see that you have the training you need and plenty of laughs and friendship along the way.

You'll be "cool, too",

Blessings, Cheryl



By now. We should be used to having to say goodbye to friends and family. Today's issue of the Cactus Patch has the last articles that our retiring West District team have submitted.

We shall miss Colleen. Christine, Michele, Jen, Susan, Janet, and Barbara. We shall miss their input, experience and articles. Most of all we shall miss their fellowship, sense of humor and loving Christian approach to life. Bless all of these fantastic women.



Colleen Becker

West District President

Mission u in 2014 was a 2 ½ day meeting for East and West District combined. We gathered on Thursday afternoon and had sessions until Saturday afternoon. I was fortunate enough to receive the Marilyn Jean Chapman scholarship. A retired deaconess, Ethel Malone, from our church and I attended together. On Friday afternoon during free time Sally Dorrell, West District President, called a group meeting for all West District Attendees. She said there were a few vacancies for officers for 2015. One of the vacancies was for membership. I thought to myself I am good in math and membership would deal with numbers. I was sitting with Lynn Koan from Willowbrook and Sharon Weber from First Glendale. They convinced me I should volunteer for the membership position. Never did I realize that would be the beginning of 8 wonderful years of serving with so many talented and dedicated ladies. I was treasurer for one year, program resources for 3 years, and president for 3 years. Some of those years I did double duty and also was Coordinator for Social Action. In those early years we did three LDD trainings in January and February. We went north to Sedona or Chino Valley, west to Yuma and held one training in the Phoenix area. Such a difference then to now when some of our meetings are on zoom. I must say I much prefer the in-person meetings. Virtual meetings are very difficult to develop lasting friendships but we must be understanding about the possible dangers to our members when

they are needlessly exposed.

At this time there are many open positions on the West District team. I trust that several of you ladies will heed the calling to step forward and volunteer. Any and all of you are very capable to serve. You don't have to commit to more than one year at a time. But once you are on the team you will see how much fun we have. Also, you will have a real sense of satisfaction.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all of you.

Colleen Becker, West District President



Michele Justice

West District United Women in Faith

Treasurer

November 2, 2022

Dear West District United Women in Faith! . It has been my pleasure to serve as your treasurer and now it is time for me to hand over the Treasurer Duties to Sandy Bradley of She has already completed 4 training sessions and is well qualified to step into this roll as your West District Treasurer. Welcome aboard Sandy and many thanks for your commitment to the United Women in Faith!

As I am writing this, Sandy and I have just finished the Bank Reconciliation for October and I will say our treasury is looking VERY Thin!

Even though we have received wo checks over the pledged amount from two of our Units, (thank you Shepherd of the Hills and Willowbrook), it is going to be very tight for us to be able to fulfill our pledged commitment amount to the conference this year.

Please, if your unit has any extra funds, (an amount over what you will need to start off 2023 after paying your complete pledge amount for 2022) consider sending in an extra pledge amount to the District with a note on your completed Remittance form.

A sincere and grateful note of thanks to Prescott United Women in Faith for being such tremendous hosts for the West District Annual Celebration. These wonderful women, (and a couple of fellas) ensured that it went off without a "hitch". The music was lovely, the lunch was delicious and the ladies even laughed at our skit presentation! Thank you again Prescott United Women in Faith! You are Awesome!

So, I leave you with this thought:

*"We must let go of the life we have planned
so as to accept the one that is waiting for us."*

Your sister in Christ,
Michele Justice
Treasurer
West District UMW



Meet Sandy
Bradley, of
Shepherd of
the Hills our
new West
District
Treasurer



West District Committee on Nominations (CON) Cactus Patch Article November 2022

As this year comes to a close; it's time to reflect. The West District is saying goodbye to most of our officers.

When people use phrase like it was a privilege to serve with someone it sounds like a cliché; The ladies in leadership for West were inspiring and it was, quite simply, a joy to have been able to work with them.

Retiring President Colleen knew how to run a meeting and report on conference meetings in an informative and engaging way. She did so many little things and stayed on top of everything! She had so many other positions previously - serving 8 years. Thank you. Christine Jones as Vice President was a tech guru. It was a blessing to have Michele Justice as our treasurer. Jen Kistler, Spiritual Growth, Janet Rummel, Reading Program, Barbara Kelton, Membership Care, and Susan Briner, Missions, are also not returning. They each brought unique perspectives and joy to the team. They will be missed. Saying thanks is not enough.

It was bittersweet at the West District's annual Celebration knowing that next year they won't be with us. I was glad to meet some more of you amazing women. I look forward to more in person times next year.

Two new officers, Carolyn Lodge, Spiritual Growth and Sandy Bradley, Treasurer. The continuing officers and I are looking forward to them joining the team. I so appreciate them accepting their new roles.

My excitement is tempered by the needs still to be met - filling the other vacancies. If you haven't been asked and are thinking you would like to be an officer; reach out to me. Know someone who would be good, has a passion and even a feeling that they could help; ask them.

I and the continuing team want West District to thrive and succeed.

Thinking that you may want to be part of the team, give me a call or email me so we can discuss it. Concerned that you will struggle if you decide to accept a position; the former officers and the continuing officers are here to help! I can't say this enough - look around and even ask around; often all it takes for someone to step forward is for someone to ask.

Consider accepting a position by accepting for one year instead of the usual two year obligation

Your Nominations committee will still be calling and asking! Vicki



From outgoing Program Resources chair, Janet Rummel

Hi ladies,

December 10 will be here before you know it. Did you know the reading lists must be turned in to me by Dec. 10. Hoping you have had some readers.

The 2023 Reading Catalog is now on line. Before things get too hectic you may want to look at it and get an idea of what books you would like to order for next year. There are several children's books on the list. You may be interested in purchasing one of the children's books for a grandchild.

Also, check your local library to see if they have any of the books on the list.

If so, you may want to encourage your ladies to get their book from the library.

Let's make this a banner year for books read.

Janet

Jen Kistler - West District Spiritual Growth

It has been a blessing and an honor to serve on the West District Leadership team. It has been a highlight of my own spiritual journey. God has blessed me with many new friendships and a better understanding of how important it is to not only support our outreach work with funding but also prayers.

Please know that I plan to continue my involvement in my local United Women of Faith and I pray that each of you will find some way to help support the missions of United Women in Faith. Blessings to you all.

Membership Care ~ Submitted by Barbara Kelton

The three years I have spent as Membership Care Director have been very enjoyable. Unfortunately. My time was hampered by the pandemic and I was not a fan of virtual meetings. I totally enjoyed meeting my fellow Christian sisters in person. I so enjoyed the trips to Yuma and the Annual meeting in Prescott. The District meetings held four times a year in our church were informative and again, I enjoyed the face to face.

The United Women in Faith unit at my church has almost been depleted. No one wants to take charge. They enjoy the programs others bring in but they take no initiative for more programs. Meeting with the other units, I have learned that this is problem in other units, too. Stay strong ladies.

United Women in Faith Photo Gallery

October 2022 West District Annual Celebration







Christmas news from around the West District

Prescott United Women in Faith

With the West District Annual Celebration on the books, we just want to share with you some pictures and send love to all who attended. It was so fun to get to know others, dinner with a few the night before and just take time to recognize our importance to each other and our mission as a group. Thank you to the WD Board for your generosity and kindness, and for becoming new friends in our journey together!

We are very proud to have achieved the Unit of the Year again. Thank you for recognizing us. And we certainly appreciate the 5-Star award as well. As a group, we are proud of the work we do in the community, for our mission projects and with each other in fellowship. Our net to donate after the WD Celebration, after expenses, and dollars trickled in after, amounted to a total of \$707.35 to Women in New Recovery (WINR) and \$857.35 to the Prescott Community Food for families in need. Remarkable!

We'll have our annual fundraiser, the Cookie Bake, the first weekend in December. It is a 3-day event where the church members bake right along with us and donate dozens that we bag, weigh and box for sale that weekend. Hard to describe the cookies and candies that are really, really good, and this nets funds we are able to do even more for our mission projects. Not to mention how much fun it is and yummy for everyone!

I close this year with this, I am honored to have been the President of the PUMC UMW/UWF for the past two years. Our membership has grown to 31 at this writing. That's more than double over this time period. The board has worked so very hard together side-by-side with our membership; we've included so many new programs and projects along with many fun activities and speakers, as well as a field trip that really was a highlight. It takes a village to grow and sustain a loving, working group like this. The new board coming in January is already successful in the planning they've done for 2023. PUMC UWF is in good hands going forward. Come visit us anytime if you are in Prescott for a UWF weekend!

Happy holidays to all and Peace Out my Sisters in Christ!

Respectfully submitted and blessings,
Cheri Hull, President
PUMC UWF

What's Happening at First United Methodist Church, Phoenix

United Women in Faith - December 2023



"The Rachel and Eve Circles from FUMC, Phoenix, met at UMOM for a delightful box lunch served at the Helpings Cafe followed by a tour of the UMOM facility. Chaplain Patricia Maygar and Gordon Sims, Associate Director of Development, explained how UMOM works and provides for many of those who need temporary assistance. It was a great update experience on how UMOM is developing and coordinating with other agencies in the valley.

We all agreed it was well worth our time and enjoyed the lunch as well."

"UWF at FUMC, Phoenix, also sponsored a speaker on the Ukraine. John Harapiak, a fellow church member, of Ukrainian descent, spoke on his family's background and the current situation. This tied in well with the Global Ministries and District Southwest Conference of United Methodist Church's request to set aside November 6th as a Day of Prayer for Ukraine. Because of the high interest of this topic, all members of the church were invited to attend."

"FUMC Phoenix held its first annual bake sale after a three-year hiatus. Participation from our members as well as non-members who brought baked goods was overwhelming. We netted a profit of \$646.00, which was more than our expectations."

Diane Gara-Weiner
602-266-1732

United Women in Faith
Dining at UMOM!





UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH PHOENIX

It's been a very busy year for Trinity United Women in Faith. Our Vice-President Deb Herrmann, has not only been busy planning our Unit activities but she and Sandy Munro have stayed on top of communication with ill members, loss of family and church members and prayers in general. This is much more than Membership Care (of United Women in Faith) - it is Membership Care of our entire church.

Right now, mixers are mixing up cookie dough, icing and sprinkles are making a mess on the table, cabinets and floors. Dogs are hanging around hoping the cooks drop

crumbs and scraps on the floor. Such a great time to be alive!!!!

Many of the Arizona Units find that cookie sales at Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter are a great way to make money for missions - at Trinity, we have also found that handmade prayer beads, jewelry and sewn/crocheted items are also popular. This year, if time....I am going to copy our United Women in Faith in the northern part of the district and try making some dog bisquits.

We are a multicultural church and recently, the children of our Congolese congregation joined others to sing in church. It was wonderful. We also joined together for a service and covered dish dinner after church.

We were highly entertained in December by Sherry Kapoot, from the Phoenix Art Museum with our yearly art slide show which ties in art work, scriptures and the Christmas Story. A salad luncheon was enjoyed by all.



to our new West Distict Officers: Treasurer: Sandy Bradley, Shepherd of the Hills UMC and Spiritual Growth Coordinator, Carolyn Lodge, Gila Mountain, Yuma

Greetings from Shepherd of the Hills United Women in Faith

Submitted by Gayle Urban, Coordinator of Education in Mission

This is the season of thankfulness, and a time for us all to count our many blessings.

Our monthly luncheon in November, included a program on "Quilts". There was a colorful assortment of quilts and quilted items which women brought, and each shared "the story" of their quilt. During devotion time we were reminded of how our lives are a little bit like quilts, as God is at work weaving the various parts of our lives into something unique and special.

Our monthly UWF luncheons at the church, are an opportunity for members as well as guests to gather together in Christian fellowship, and it is always nice to see newcomers in attendance.

Many of our members have been busy this month helping before, during, or after the church's annual Rummage Sale. One of our UWF activities is selling fritters and coffee each morning at the event, and this is a fundraiser that allows us to provide support in many ways. Being there bright and early also allows our ladies to give a warm welcome to the customers, many of whom are at the church for the first time as they come to the sale.

In December our unit will again collect books and puzzles for children. This is always a highlight as we see the generosity of donations come in, and we look forward to being able to give these books and puzzles to community locations where the children can receive a new gift.

May your holidays be merry and bright!

Gayle

LOOKING BACK

Willowbrook had their annual Christmas Tea on December 2 with 160 in attendance. Mary Hollan provided inspirational Christmas music. This is our main fundraiser for our mission pledge. Besides ticket sales, we generated over \$1,200 in sales from our raffle drawing, our best total ever. With this we were able to add to our 2022 pledge for mission.

LOOKING AHEAD

Willowbrook will be hosting A Day Apart retreat on March 18. The location will be at Lake Pleasant Outdoor Recreation Center, a beautiful facility overlooking Lake Pleasant. Our theme is "Just Breathe" and will be led by Mary Hollan. The cost is \$45 and we will send invitations to churches after the New Year.

