



United
Women
in Faith

North Country Breezes

North District United Women in Faith
Desert Southwest Conference

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President's Message

Karen Dallatore
North District President

For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given...
and his name shall be called



*Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God,
Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace.*

Isaiah 9:6

November has flown by so quickly, I can hardly believe we are already well into the Advent season! The first week of November I went to Texas to attend my nephew's wedding. It was a blessing to be with my sister for this wonderful event as well as our siblings from Omaha and Chicago. Seldom have we all been together for a joyous occasion!

North District's annual celebration was held on October 15th. I am so grateful to Green Valley United Methodist Church for hosting! We had a labyrinth presentation by Scott Hemsley and the opportunity to meditate as we walked the portable labyrinth. Our speakers, Allie Lakey and Eileen Guillermo were outstanding in their inspiring and informative talks. We honored our sisters who have gone on to their eternal home. Perhaps best of all, we voted on leadership roles for North District

2023. Jane Ann Murray was elected President, Karen Dallatore was elected Treasurer, Pamela Huff will continue as Communications Coordinator and Sandra Garlick from Green Valley United Women in Faith was elected to serve as Program Resources Chairperson. Thank you, Sandra, for saying "YES"! North District needs a secretary, vice president, and spiritual growth leader. Please pray for the right people to step up with a desire to fill these positions. One thing I love about United Women in Faith is the leadership training that is always available, so if you are considering saying "YES" to any of these vacancies, please know that you will have abundant resources to help you succeed!

Have a blessed Advent and Christmas Season!

Karen Dallatore



North District President, Karen Dallatore, and her husband, David

Inside this issue:

President's
Message 1

Desert Spring UMC 2

Reading Program 2

Strengthening
Relationships 3

Climate Crisis 4



Gracie Campbell (left), Desert Southwest United Women in Faith president, speaking to attendants of the North District United Women in Faith Annual Celebration October 2022 (above).

Desert Spring United Methodist Church

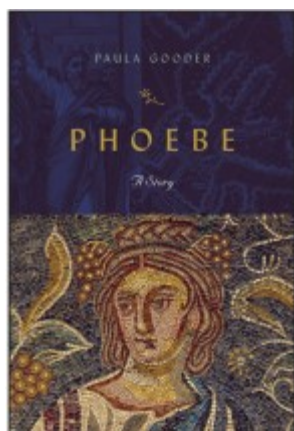
Alison Kerr, President

On a beautiful November day, Desert Spring Church held it's Fall Festival. As part of the celebration, our UWF unit had a candy and bake goods sale. It was one of our most successful fundraisers in 2022! The women in our unit are known for delicious homemade candy, breads, cookies, fruitcakes, and more!



United Women in Faith Reading Program

As seen on the [United Women in Faith website](#)



PHOEBE: A STORY – NOVEL PAULA GOODER INTERVARSITY PRESS (2018)

When the apostle Paul wrote to the church in Rome around 56 AD, he entrusted his letter to Phoebe, the deacon of the church at Cenchreae. But who was this remarkable woman? In her debut novel, biblical scholar Paula Gooder tells Phoebe's story—who she was, the life she lived, and her first-century faith—and in doing so opens up Paul's theology, giving a sense of the cultural and historical pressures that shaped Paul's thinking, and the faith of the early church.

To access the United Women in Faith Reading Program, [click here](https://uwfaith.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/20/ReadingProgramCatalog2023.pdf) or paste or type the following address into your browser:
<https://uwfaith.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/20/ReadingProgramCatalog2023.pdf>



Strengthening Relationships

Written by Maryann Verghese, Interim managing editor of Response Magazine. First seen in [Nov/Dec 2022 edition of Response Magazine](#)



United Women in Faith gives \$250,000 grant to Girls Embracing Mothers to help women and girls impacted by the criminal justice system.

Girls Embracing Mothers supports women and girls impacted by the criminal justice system through empowerment-based programs that strengthen the relationship between young girls and incarcerated mothers. The Dallas-based organization also offers reentry-based training for mothers who are incarcerated. GEM's goal is to break the cycle of incarceration and support girls and women in their efforts to lead healthy, healed and whole lives.

Ending mass incarceration and interrupting the school-to-prison pipeline has been a priority issue for United Women in Faith since 2016.

"We are so grateful for United Women in Faith's generous donation to help us further our work serving women and girls impacted by maternal incarceration," said Brittany Barnett, founder of GEM. "As the daughter of a formerly incarcerated mother, I know firsthand how mass incarceration devastates families and entire communities. This grant will empower GEM to continue to make transformational

change in reducing the trauma women and girls experience by the criminal justice system. Therefore, enriching the lives of those most marginalized, and ultimately, breaking the cycle of incarceration."

Emily Jones, United Women in Faith executive for racial justice, celebrates the new partnership.

"Incarceration can be devastating for both mother and daughter. GEM helps maintain the mother-daughter connection while supporting girls and women to fully live into their own best selves," she said.

The Sentencing Project reported that between 1980 and 2020, the number of incarcerated women increased more than 475 percent, rising from 26,326 to 152,854.

"Part of our work as Christian women is to intervene in situations that could derail women and girls from fulfilling their life's calling," said Khia Shaw, United Women in

Continued on page 5

Op-Ed: When It Comes To The Climate Crisis, My Community Grounds Me; My Faith Calls Me To Action

We must do everything in our power to care for creation and bring justice and reparations to frontline communities.

Written by Ilka Vega, the economic and environmental justice lead for United Women in Faith. First published November 10, 2022 on the website [NEWSONE](#).



Source: Sean Gallup / Getty

While I am attending the 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference ([COP27](#)) in Egypt, marginalized communities are with me in spirit and thought. I am holding our struggles and the struggles of those we need to stand in solidarity with. As a young Latina from El Paso, Texas, I understand that [the climate crisis](#) has a disproportionate impact on people of color and it affects the physical and political landscape of our borderlands. I am clear that communities of color are least responsible for the climate crisis but suffer disproportionately because of it.

As a woman, I understand that the climate crisis has an outsized impact on women and children. Women and girls are more likely to suffer gender-based violence in the wake of weather emergencies. But women and children are also more likely to be displaced following major weather events. This should concern us all.

To be clear, the climate crisis' impact on women and children is pronounced, and it is unrelenting. Women are more likely to be heads of households in the U.S.,

and women feel every weather event that destroys communities. While attending the climate convening at COP27, I am keenly aware that this is a moment in which the people most impacted by weather emergencies – people of color, persons living in poverty, and women and children – must be included as solutions are considered and discussed. It is critical that the voices of frontline communities are uplifted in the broader debate around climate and environmental justice.

But this issue concerns me for another reason. The climate crisis is an issue of faith as people of faith are called to care for creation. Christians are called to be good stewards of creation, human and non-human. We have a responsibility to steward creation as an act of love, not control. We have a responsibility to stand in solidarity with those that have been marginalized, to fight for Indigenous people's rights and sovereignty, to advocate for gender justice and gender-informed solutions, and to lift the voices of those disproportionately affected by the climate crisis.

What we must all appreciate is that all of creation is suffering from human-caused climate change. The window for addressing it is rapidly closing, endangering those least responsible and those already in vulnerable situations. My Christian faith compels me to heed the biblical command and serve people as well as steward the planet. Therefore, fighting for climate justice is advancing God's

Continued on page 5

Strengthening Relationships

Continued from page 3

Faith director for membership and engagement. “We also take seriously the biblical mandate in Romans 12:5 to ‘rejoice with those who rejoice and to mourn with those who mourn.’ That is why we are so pleased to be able to stand alongside GEM and support them.”

The Sentencing Project also reported that the imprisonment rate for African American women is more than 1.7 times the rate of imprisonment for white women. Hispanic women are imprisoned at 1.3 times the rate of white women. In addition, one of every 15 women is serving life in prison, and women serving life without parole increased 43 percent, compared to a 29 percent increase among men, between 2008 and 2020.

“We know that girls of color face intersecting oppressions of gender, race, identity and class,” Shaw said. “Coupled with the impacts of having an incarcerated parent, girls of color are uniquely vulnerable. It is incumbent upon us and other women of faith to see girls of color and offer support to groups on the frontlines of supporting these young people.”

Op-Ed: When It Comes To The Climate Crisis...

Continued from page 4

work.

At United Women in Faith, we believe this so deeply that our Just Energy 4 All campaign mobilizes members and communities to take action to support 100% clean, renewable energy and a just energy transition, which prioritizes investments, opportunities and participation from frontline communities in decision-making processes.

We know that communities across the country are suffering. And suffering outlasts a news cycle. While no longer in the headlines, our neighbors and friends in Mississippi remain in dire straits following a water crisis there. When I visited the Bethlehem Center in Jackson, Mississippi in October, staff told me that they had been boiling water before drinking it for the past four to five years. We took water to them, knowing that we are responsible for so much more.

In Florida, seniors and people of color have been

hard hit by a climate crisis that recently ushered in one of the deadliest hurricanes in decades. The loss and damage, not only of infrastructure but of people’s lives and lifestyles, are immeasurable. It will take years to recover, and some people may never recover. This is clearly a period of much suffering and fear, but we must remain faithful in organizing to tackle the climate crisis and mobilizing not only individual actions but collective efforts to ensure systemic change.

I know that not all can travel to Egypt for COP27. But we can all have a presence by [tuning in virtually](#) since the urgency of the climate crisis demands unprecedented change and action. We must do everything in our power to care for creation and bring justice and reparations to frontline communities. It starts with knowing why we do this work and how it impacts all whom we hold dear. Our push for systemic change and to make our governments and institutions responsive to our pleas must never cease.



United
Women
in Faith

Purpose: We are 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 community and to expand concepts of mission through participation of the global ministries of the church.