

# West District **Cactus Patch**



UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

Published for the United Methodist Women

June 2023

I have a **SURPRISE!** for you!

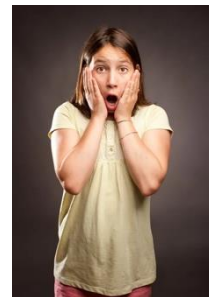


Normally, the unit submissions are at the end of the **SURPRISE!**

am putting those articles first. be an index, so you must read what is going on. Good luck and enjoy the challenge.



Cactus Patch. This month I There will not the entire issue to find out



Keep up with the Conference by subscribing to their newsletter. They have all of the information important to us as members of the Desert Southwest Conference.

I want managing to busy and during a



to personally thank each and every one of you for keep our West District United Women's in Faith groups relevant for women, youth and children. Good job challenging year.

From the pen of Gayle Urban:

## Shepherd of the Hills United Women in Faith

2023 is here, and we look forward to the opportunities to served as United Women in Faith, here in the West District.

We continue to do our best in making a positive difference in the lives of women, children, and youth through our financial giving, our prayers, and our donations. Colorful Easter baskets filled with items for children, will be put together by unit members as well as members of the congregation who want to participate; these will be a reminder of God's love for the little ones, during the Easter season. Many items of journals, pens and pencils, and stationery items have been collected, and these items will be given to those at UMOM, as a help for those needing assistance.

Our monthly luncheons are a wonderful time for members, friends, and guests to get together and enjoy lunch, and a program. Recently, we heard pertinent information about how to recognize various scams, and what to do if you have experienced this. During the year we hear of a variety of topics and ministries, and we are inspired to learn of ways to support them. This spring we look forward to hearing a speaker from the Valley View Food Bank, and will become more aware of the needs that they respond to. Helping others through the generosity our unit has received is a blessing, and we want to pass it on.

It is exciting to know that we'll celebrate "United Women in Faith Sunday", with Rev. Melissa Rynders, the district superintendent of the East District bringing the sermon message for the worship services that weekend. Our UWF will be active as ushers, greeters, liturgists, "mission moment", and hospitality, and we hope to have a photo display which will let the congregation know more about the meaningful focus of United Women in Faith. It has been a joy to welcome new officers to our UWF Team, and to have the dedication and support from those who continue to serve.

Spring will soon be here! Look for the blessings that God will shower upon you!

Gayle Urban

Shepherd of the Hills UMC

# The Bridge United Women of Faith

We are a small, but mighty, group of women (less than 10 members) dedicated to the purpose of United Women in Faith. Each year, we spend time making greeting cards at our meeting in July. We produce enough cards to send out to the church members and friends who need a lift in their spirits and/or good wishes for healing during the entire year. We also have an annual summer sewing project which will be donated to a charity, such as DUET, Church Women United's "Layette Project," etc. Last fall, we donated 100 burp pads to CWU's project. We also donated 17 hand-made blue caps to #HatsNotHate. This August, we will be making bibs for Church Women United's layettes.

## Southwest Winds Archives

Southwest Winds is the newsletter of the Desert Southwest Conference United Women in Faith. The newsletter is sent via email once a month. If you wish to be added to the distribution of the Southwest Winds send a request

to [umwomen@dscumc.org](mailto:umwomen@dscumc.org).

Newsletters are archived for one year. Previous issues are available by contacting the United Methodist Women Conference Communications Coordinator, [umwomen@dscumc.org](mailto:umwomen@dscumc.org).

A pretty face gets older.

A nice body  
will change.

But a good  
woman will  
always be a  
good woman...



# Yuma United Women in Faith

Yuma First UWF had guest speakers from the Arizona-California Humanitarian Coalition at our April meeting. The ACHC has been providing basic humanitarian needs and advocacy at our border with Mexico for the past nearly 3 years. They provide water, food, a welcoming human presence and information to those who cross the U.S. - Mexico border to seek asylum. Seven of us accompanied ACHC staff to the border the following week, and helped to hand out water, make sandwiches, clean up trash, and take blankets home to be washed. A couple of us have continued to go out to the border weekly to assist ACHC in their work. We have met people from every walk of life and from so many different countries. The migrant's journeys have many times been dangerous, and some had been traveling for months. Now that Title 42 has ended and new policies are in place, it is uncertain what the needs will be going forward.

We also partnered with the Yuma Salvation Army in December to make and deliver 3 meals a day, 7 days a week to asylum seekers who had to stay overnight in a hotel pending their transport arrangements. Some had to stay longer if someone in their family tested positive for Covid or had to be hospitalized. We even got to help prepare Christmas dinner for the asylum seekers - a real blessing!

For Mother's Day we collected gently used purses, jewelry, and new lotions, nail polish and self care treats for the Crossroads Mission Family Shelter. The Mission has a celebration event, and the women at the shelter get to choose something special just for themselves.

There was a lot of interest in the Days for Girls washable products, but we found no new sewists to help with the effort.

On months that we do not collect products for the Yuma Period project, we collect classroom supplies for Roosevelt School. Roosevelt



■ elementary school in our church neighborhood. They are always so happy to see our deliveries - especially since there are always special yummy treats just for the teachers and staff too.

■ During the summer we will be getting together monthly at local restaurants for fellowship, but no program.

■ The following pictures were submitted with Yuma First's Cactus Patch article.







What a great job the Yuma Team is doing to care for women, youth and children.

*United Women in Faith*  
***New Song United Methodist Church***

Spring has definitely sprung here at New Song as the United Women in Faith have been very busy with involvement in our community and our church on several fronts.

At our church, the ladies sponsored what has become an annual event -family fun day. Members of the church were encouraged to come out and play. Numerous games were available, and a good crowd came to enjoy playing cards, table games and even some corn hole with fellow members and guests.

In ongoing community efforts, the United Women in Faith sponsored a special guest at our April meeting - a speaker from Arizona Sunshine angels came to give more information on how we

as a church can become involved with this agency. We found out where to make specific donations of needed items to assist in setting up a home after the client has aged out. This had been the group our church assisted in March with a last minute clothing drive for a local Key Club, and made a monetary donation the first of the year. The drive was so successful, we decided to find out how we can become more involved. Our President, Sally Hamill and our Secretary, Paulette Holler attended a graduation luncheon for scholarship recipients on May 25.

This was just one of the community groups we have become involved with. The second is A New Leaf Housing and Shelter. This organization will open a housing assistance center in Surprise in June of this year. Our group has decided to assist with a coffee club and will provide coffee, cups, sugar, creamer and gallon water bottles to make the coffee on an ongoing basis. We are also setting up a physical tour of the building so we can see what and where our donations are going for.

Even with all of this, the best part of the quarter came in May, as the United Women in Faith sponsored a concert by our church accompanist Honzu Guo and her new husband Leon Jin. The pair delighted the audience with their music selections. One was especially touching, as it had been created for our former Music Director. Afterwards everyone got to meet and greet the performers as refreshments were served. It was a truly delightful time.

So, even though our fantastic weather will come to an end and the desert temps will rise, the ladies of New Song United Women in Faith will find warm ways to share Christ's love in our church and community.

Submitted by Kimi Ivy, Communications



United Women in Faith sponsored a concert by our church accompanist Honzu Guo and her new husband Leon Jin.

(New Song United Methodist Church)

## First United Methodist Church ~ Phoenix

The March meetings of our Circles hosted speakers from United Methodist Outreach Ministries (UMOM). Gordon Sims and Katie Andrea brought us an update of their work.

After that we were pleased to present them with a plaque of a poem written by the Rev. DeWayne Zimmerman, beloved former minister at FUMC Phoenix. This paper copy of the poem was noticed on the wall at UMOM by a member of Rachel Circle on our October 2022 field trip to UMOM. It was decided that we should give it a proper framing to be placed in Zimmerman Chapel.

This is the story behind the new plaque in Zimmerman Chapel. The next time your circle(s) go to UMOM for lunch and tour, please be sure to stop by the Zimmerman Chapel and see it."

Submitted by Diane Gara-Weiner, President





# Gila Mountain United Women in Faith

The ladies of our unit have been very involved in service. This year has been busy with many projects. Among the projects that we have adopted are donations to Amberley's Place, ( A Casa related group) in the form of children's clothing, pajamas, socks, underwear, ect. We also donated \$300.00 as their funding has been cut.

In January two donation boxes were set up in the narthex for Jessie's Closet, and Blessing Bags. Jessie's Closet has to do with foster children and we collected clothing and toys for children in foster care. The blessing bag project consisted of collecting articles for the homeless. Such as soap, shampoo, towel and wash rag, tooth brush and paste, easy open canned food products. We also included knit hats and socks. Articles were put into a bag for people to keep in their car to be given out when we saw a need. Most products were purchased at a dollar store. This was a very rewarding project. We continue these two projects all year. We also continue to donate to the local food bank.

A very sad note was the passing of a very dear long time member, Joyce Snay, in December. She was very involved in all aspects of United Women of Faith for many years.

A long time member, Nancy Iverson, was able to attend the assembly in Florida and returned with a lot of information for our unit.

So far this year we have welcomed three new members. It is so nice to have new faces. In April one of the new members, Julia Salinas, offered to do a monthly newsletter for us. The first one was very well received and we hope that it will keep the snowbirds informed while they are away from us. New member, Kim Foster, has volunteered to chair the Abigail Circle. Deb Ward, our third new member is busy with many aspects of our church, including the choir. We welcome all the ladies to United Women of Faith.

I am happy to report that we had six members attend the " A Day Apart", District retreat in Payson. It was a wonderful time for all. At least three members are planning to attend the Mission U. meeting in July. I am so proud to lead these wonderful, busy, and caring women.

Submitter by Judi Lindeman

Submitted by Judie Lindeman

PS: ~ Cheryl says Great report - great activities - great devotion

# West District United Women in Faith Leadership Team Reports

- This is a reprint of an earlier CON article. Nothing has changed so we are reprinting it.

## West District Committee on Nominations (CON)

The West District leadership team is lean but mighty with returning officers are Cheryl Buchholtz and myself. New officers are Carolyn Lodge, Spiritual Growth and Sandy Bradley, Treasurer. Paula Sallas, a Nominations Committee member is going to be an committee chair once she and I determine the best fit. Since we missing some top leadership if you need anything, please reach out to Cheryl. We want the West District to thrive and succeed; so if you feel a calling; let me know! Paula and I will be reaching out to the Presidents to check in. Look forward to hearing from us.

Since we don't have a Secretary of Program Resources; I want to devote the rest of my article something near and dear to my heart - the reading program. Maybe someone at your unit already has shared with you that some of the eligible books can be found at the local library. I want to share a couple of the books (available from Phoenix Public Library) I read that also impact one of our other tenants - Social Justice.

The name of the books are No justice : one white police officer, one black family, and how one bullet ripped us apart by Robbie Tolan and Rest in power : the enduring life of Trayvon Martin by Sybrina Fulton. Robbie Tolan was shot by the Police and lived to tell his story. It is gripping and powerful account of his physical and mental recovery as he takes us along on his journey to get justice (or some form of it). Sybrina Fulton and her ex-husband Tracy Martin, Trayvon's parents also take us on their journey for justice. These first -hand accounts are sobering. Participating in the Reading program is expected of us but I hope that all of you feel that by doing so we become more informed, compassionate and are able to better to help our communities.

Vicki Keel, Chair of West District Committee on Nominations  
[Vkeel55@gmail.com](mailto:Vkeel55@gmail.com), 602-617-8028

## West District Spiritual Growth – Carolyn Lodge

With this newsletter, we continue into the seven spiritual gifts described by Paul in the book of Romans. Today, we are going to look at the spiritual gifts of teaching and exhortation.

A person with the motivational gift of teaching is passionate about discovering and validating truth. A teacher is particularly concerned with the accuracy of information, especially church doctrine, and is often gifted with research abilities. Once again, from The United Methodist Church website on the spiritual gift of teaching: The gift of teaching allows people to transform data and information into life-changing knowledge. Teachers do not have to stand in front of a class to teach. Often, gifted teachers communicate best in informal, one-on-one settings. Teachers have the uncanny knack of helping people learn effortlessly. **People internalize and retain the knowledge and learning they receive from gifted teachers. Good teachers transform more than they inform. Think of teachers in your life that have changed the path of your existence. Are you grateful for them – even now?**

Exhortation sounds like an imperious term, but it's really not. When you exhort, you are emphatically encouraging someone to do something. From our UMC website: The gift of exhortation is manifest in people who offer encouragement, wise counsel, unflagging support, and empowerment. (I still remember the day a wise person said to me: "Don't let that negative person live in your head rent-free!!") Those who exhort stay focused on helping people maximize their own potential and live from their own gifts and skills. Exhorters help people feel good about themselves, build confidence, and not grow discouraged. Often, those with the gift of exhortation make others feel good just by being present. What is the difference between exhortation and advice? **As nouns, the difference between exhortation and advice** is that **exhortation** is the act or practice of inciting to laudable deeds; incitement to that which is good or commendable, while **advice** is an opinion recommended or offered, as worthy to be followed; in other words, counsel. I found a website called "Made of Still," written by a young black Christian female. I like the way she summarizes exhortation:



"Exhorters can discern the spiritual gifts of others and help them use those gifts for the glory of God. They also have a knack for discerning which teachings are from God and which ones are from man. This gift helps them to guide people in their spiritual growth." Has your life ever been touched by a Christian with the spiritual gift of exhortation? Was it a parent, a teacher, a boss, or a friend?



One of United Women in Faith's main concerns and action issue is Social Action. Our Conference Chair of Social Action, Maria Hase. Here is a link to her Social Action Newsletter:

Here it is: <https://www.smores.com/k64vm>

## CONFERENCE SOCIAL ACTION NEWSLETTER

### *West District Secretary - Cheryl Buchholtz*

They say "no news is good news" but not always. As I have said in the past I am here to help you. If any of you need job descriptions for local units, I have worked with Vick Keel, the Chair on Nominations for West District, to streamline the local job descriptions and have them available to anyone who needs them. Just send me an e-mail and I will fire it your

Way. If you are a secretary for your local and you need assistance please call - cell: 623-285-5244 or email me at [westsecbuchholtz@yahoo.com](mailto:westsecbuchholtz@yahoo.com) for personalized and individual training. Sometimes if members know exactly what is expected of them when they accept a position in United Women in Faith, they are more likely to say "yes" to a position. Let me know if you need help. ~ Cheryl





## West District Treasurer – Sandy Bradley

Just a reminder to all our units that Sandy is ready and available to answer any questions and to accept and deposit any pledges sent to her. You can contact her by email or phone. Please don't wait until the last minute in December to submit your funds to her. There is a lot of paperwork that needs to be done before the end of the year.

Mission u 2023



LIVING THE GOOD NEWS

Reflecting God's Love

## Mission u 2023 Register for Virtual!

The date for the Study is fast approaching and  
We are Looking for YOU!

The Adult Virtual Mission u  
“What did Jesus mean by Kin-dom?”  
The study uses Matthew, Mark & Luke  
Opens Friday, June 23, at 5:00 pm

and  
Saturday, June 24, at 9:00 am  
on Zoom with NEW MUSIC AND WORSHIP!  
REGISTER HERE NOW:

<https://dscumc.org/secure/2023-mission-u-virtual-adults/>

**SEE Y'ALL THERE**

Billie Larime, Dean

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***EXCITEMENT TO COME***

Save the date for the Annual Celebration

October 28, 2024 Dayspring United Methodist Church  
Tempe, AZ

***Come see old friends, meet new friends, enjoy one another in creative fellowship. More details to follow soon.***



# United Women in Faith

Staying in touch without leaving your chair:

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<https://uwfaith.org/press/2022/united-methodist-women-is-now-united-women-in-faith/>

Cactus Patch (includes archives):

<https://dscumc.org/uwfaith/newsletters/>

Women of the UMC (national and local levels):

<https://www.umc.org/en/who-we-are/our-people/women-in-the-umc>

Resource UMC: United Women in Faith:

<https://www.resourceumc.org/en/agencies/united-methodist-women>

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**You tube videos on United Women in Faith:**

**[\*\*=\*\*](https://video.search.yahoo.com/search/video?fr=mcafee&ei=UTF</a></u></b></p></div><div data-bbox=)**

**[8&p=online+United+women+in+Faith&type=E211US1494G0#id=4&vid=09fdeb9b5ef7e07c9d755409b00319f7&action=click](https://video.search.yahoo.com/search/video?fr=mcafee&ei=UTF&p=online+United+women+in+Faith&type=E211US1494G0#id=4&vid=09fdeb9b5ef7e07c9d755409b00319f7&action=click)**

**There are a wide variety of United Women in Faith short videos on all topics that we support. Check them out.**

**To subscribe to the Southwest Winds Conference newsletter - see an earlier page in this newsletter.**