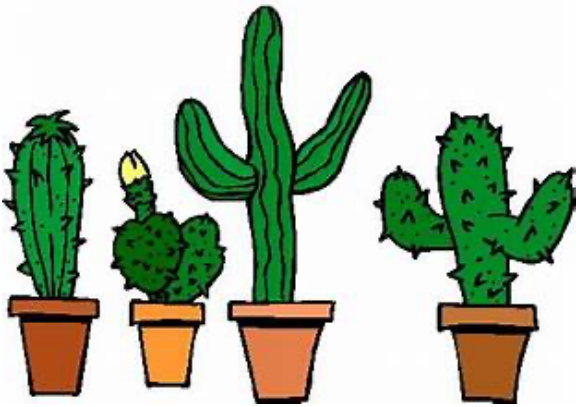


West District **Cactus Patch**



Praise God that during this **hot, hot** summer, we live in a state where the native plants don't need a lot of water! (TELL THAT TO MY FICUS TREES WHOSE LEAVES HAVE BURNED OFF) and the 'NEED NOT MUCH WATER' Succulents that died!!!!

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

Published for the United Methodist Women September 2023

United Women in Faith
New Song United Methodist Church
Surprise, Arizona
Submitted by Kimi Ivey, Communications

Hot Hot Hot is the only way to describe the summer of '23. We definitely lived up to the description "Valley of the Sun" for the last few months!

As usual many of our church members have fled the valley for cooler weather in somewhat far places. But that didn't mean all of us left. No, there were many of us who remained and took part in United Women of Faith events over the long, hot summer. One such event was a gathering of ladies for a luncheon at a local hibachi restaurant. This has become an annual event to keep in touch with those who are in town. The ladies had a great time and the food wasn't bad either!

Ongoing for the summer months also was the Prayer Shawl knit and crochet group. In an effort to support our homeless population through the Hemp Foundation, the group has committed to creating 100 soap sacks by the September meeting time.



Needless to say, when these ladies are challenged, they step up admirably. When others outside the group heard about the challenge, they added their efforts. As a result, the goal was easily reached in record time!

In addition to the above efforts, our ladies are supporting the homeless in the area with the creation of care packs. These packages are distributed to those who come to our church asking for assistance. The packages consist of a bottle of water, some small snacks, napkins, and a package of wipes. In another bag are several hygiene items. Both bags are put in another larger bag with handles.

The United Women in Faith supports this by making sure the food bags are kept current with items not out of date. All though the summer has been a sustained hot one, the ladies at New Song have been faithful in their caring for both our congregation and community. We look forward with excitement to the upcoming fall season and return of numerous members and the continuing support for our church family and surrounding neighborhoods of Surprise.



2024 positions for West District leadership team need candidates.. Don't leave Sandy and Cheryl and Vicki alone. We need President, Vice President, Secretary, (I will still do Cactus Patch unless someone else wants the job - I will also train.), Membership, Social Action, Nominations committee and Education on Mission.

SUMMER NEWS FROM SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS

Submitted by Sandy Bradley

Many in our group are away to cooler places, to other homes, to be with families. We pray they stay well and will return to Shepherd with new ideas and a feeling of urgency to get back to serving the women, children and youth in our area and in other places.

Those who remain here are enjoying the fellowship of "Let's Go to Lunch". A once a month get together at Betty's Rooste. In July, our new associate pastor, Pastor Daniel Gomez, joined the ladies with the purpose of getting to know us and learn about our many service projects and other activities that we participate in; and those in conjunction with the congregation such as our Mission Candle.

Summer is a good time for our members to participate in the UWF Reading Program. It's too hot to be outside, so why not pick up a good book and learn about many of the issues the national organization is striving to help with. There is a section in our library with books that are educational and also "good reads". We encourage all our members to read at least 5 books each year.

Our spring special offering for "Prayer and Self Denial", whose gifts this year supports our campaign to "Interrupt the School to Prison Pipeline" netted \$812. We thank all those that chose to support this important offering.

One summer project we are participating in, is the collecting of empty, clean, label-less pill bottles that will be sent to the Matthew 25 Ministries. The purpose of this organization is based on MATTHEW 25:40. It provides nutritional food to the hungry, clean water to the thirsty, clothing to the naked, affordable shelter to the homeless, medical care to the ill and humanitarian supplies to those in need. The pill bottles are for inclusion in shipments of medical supplies. It fulfills the dual needs of improving medical care in developing countries and caring for the environment.

We, at Shepherd, will keep our District Sisters in Christ in our prayers for cooler weather and safe travel, as so many of us will be returning to different homes and churches this fall.

Gila Mountain Women in Faith...
have been busy since our last newsletter.

"Wrapped in Love " is an outreach project where we distribute a tray of baked goods to different businesses in the community, such as fire houses, police and sheriff, fast food restaurants, small businesses, post offices and just anywhere we can say thank you for your services. They are always much appreciated and surprised.

Our "Wrapped in Love" project has also been very busy. This is our knitting, crochet, and sewing group. Our shawls, Afghans, seat belt covers, hats and most anything that is needed is distributed to the cancer center, hospitals, retirement homes and anyone in need. A new project recently was to use donated fabric samples from a furniture store into bags for the cancer patients to carry 6 bottles of nutrition home. They are much sturdier than plastic bags and can be reused. The project received recognition on a radio talk show and also made the front page of the local newspaper.

Six of our ladies attended the "A Day Apart" retreat in Payson. Some were first timers and they really enjoyed it. Three of us attended the Mission u weekend and came away with a better understanding of the Lord's Prayer.

We are missing a lot of snowbird members during the summer months and looking forward to having them back this fall.

Judie Lindeman
President, United Women in Faith

First United Church of Phoenix
United Women in Faith

Article submitted by Diane Gara-Weiner

"Banners made by Monte Kotrous" (article from Monte's own words)

Worship arts are a passion of mine. I believe that we all learn and worship in different ways and providing different mediums can help enrich the worship experience for everyone. My inspiration comes from various places. Sometimes I get a request for a specific need and other times the inspiration comes from nature. Prayer is always part of the process from

design to completion.

I like to design my banners around the liturgical calendar. The green banners are designed to be used during "ordinary time", the times where we aren't celebrating any particular church holiday. I wanted a simple but meaningful design that would be appropriate for most of the church year. Thus the cross and the fish are combined to put folks in mind of the early church.

These particular banners are four feet by twelve feet. The background and backing fabrics are a high quality quilting cotton. The symbols are cut from satin and appliquéd onto the background. The satin allows the banners to catch and reflect the light, making the symbols appear to almost glow. Once the front of the banner is complete, a backing is added to finish the edges and add bulk so that they will hang or drape well.

I appreciate that the First United Methodist Church staff and congregation has embraced my passion.

These are photos sent to the Cactus Patch by First United Methodist Church:



**Liberty United Women in Faith
Liberty United Methodist Church
Submitted by Jane Fricke, President United Women in Faith**

On April 4th, Street Light USA CEO JoHanna Burkle and Pastor Maria Lopez were hosted as speakers. Their organization takes in 13 y/o to 18 y/o off the streets from Sex Trafficking. We invited the whole church as we thought this was an important topic to discuss. We learned a lot about their process of getting the girls to realize their "worth" and back into society. If a group has not had them in previous years, we suggest they contact Streetlight USA as they are an exceptional organization. My personal opinion is that we tend to think it happens in other places and not in our own neighborhoods.

Throughout the summer, they also collected some items for the teachers at Liberty Elementary School.

This month through October 1st, we are collecting clothing for incarcerated women leaving prison. We are working with Billie Fidlin of our Conference staff.

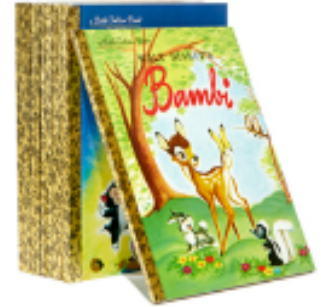
Pictures taken with Streetlight speakers and Liberty attendees:



News from BUCKEYE COMMUNITY CHURCH
UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH
Submitted by Barbara Lloyd

Books for Babies

Our Women's group (UWF) has been donating Little Golden books to Abrazo Hospital since November, 2016. This project was started to promote literacy, to advertise our church and to honor Alice Charman. Alice Charman (as some of you know) was a saint in our church who now resides in heaven. She was a retired school teacher who promoted God and our public libraries every chance she got. We place a sticker in each book with our church name and address, and says, "In Memory of Alice Charman".



These books are sent home with newborn babies. Or volunteers read to the babies using our books. In later years we decided there were many other little books that were educational and entertaining besides the Little Golden books. And many were less expensive. We frequent our local Dollar stores, sales at public libraries by Friends of the Library, garage sales, etc. for either new or gently used books.

We are a small group and, I am sure, don't reach every baby that is born at Abrazo Hospital. But we do reach some. So far we have donated 1,033 Books for Babies. You, too, can be a part of this project. Just bring your donations - either books or money to purchase books - to the church office (Tuesday - Thursday, 9am - noon) or to church with you on Sundays. I will take them to Abrazo Hospital at the end of each month. Thank you!



So...does
this look
familiar to
anyone?

Willowbrook United Women in Faith

In the Bright lights section of the response, there is an article on Willowbrook's project about feminine hygiene products that were assembled and shipped to UMCOR.

Willowbrook will be assembling Thanksgiving blessing bags of the sides for thanksgiving that will be donated to Valley View Food bank at their October meeting. The November meeting will have a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus who will talk about their ministry in visiting children.

The Carols of Christmas tea on December 1 will feature Mary Hollan as the guest entertainer. The proceeds from the tea are the main source of our mission contribution.

If you need more information on the Conference Annual celebration please refer to SW Winds. Submitted by Sue Marshall

"Goin's On" At

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, YUMA

Submitted by Debbie Pallack, President United Women In Faith

Our group has met over the summer only for lunches, as so many of our members leave Yuma during the summertime. We have gone to local restaurants in June, July and August. Our August lunch included several friends from Trinity United Methodist Church in Yuma as well, and we needed an overflow table! What a nice problem to have!

We are continuing with our regular every other month donations of feminine hygiene products to The Period Project at the Yuma Community Food Bank. Our other regular ongoing collection is for Roosevelt Elementary school, just a few blocks away from the church.

Our regular monthly meetings will resume in September. Planning is underway for our Annual Journey to Bethlehem event and a rummage sale for the upcoming year.

We had one member able to attend the In-Person Mission u event in Prescott, and one able to attend the virtual Youth Mission u study. Both are excellent studies!



I want to thank all of the women who sent me articles after my plea to the units for articles to put in the September Cactus Patch. In spite of not having a full roster of District leaders, our West District units are still busy, working to better the lives of our women, youth and babies. AWESOME!!!!!!!

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH
MARYVALE BRIDGE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Submitted by Susan QuareQuio, President

Our United Women in Faith group at Maryvale Bridge UMC has been sewing bibs to donate to Church Women United's layette collection this summer. The items collected are distributed to the Phoenix Indian Hospital, the Tanner American Methodist Episcopal Church's layette program, and other programs for new mothers in need.

Church Women United of Phoenix is meeting regularly on the first Friday of each month. It is a non-denominational group composed of Christian women who espouse similar goals to those of United Women in Faith. Meetings usually include fellowship time, a speaker, and a potluck lunch. For example, the speaker at the October 6th meeting will be presenting a program on DUET's program to assist care-givers of family members with dementia. The locations change, but meetings are currently being held on the east side of Phoenix at various participating churches. Those interested in attending should contact Marilyn Seese (the president) at 602-327-1353 or Suzanne Hartley at 602-885-3689. Suzanne is the communications person who sends out information on email about upcoming meetings and other events. Her email address is loafer.suzanne@gmail.com.

Around the West Valley

First United Methodist Church of Glendale:

- Glendale First United Women in Faith have a rummage and craft sale scheduled for 10/15/23. We are looking for vendors. They can contact Treasa Birchett or Linda Biggar for further information at tbirchett54@gmail.com

Trinity United Women in Faith

Following an end of the year outstanding program done by our Mother/Daughter team of Melonie/Amanda Leach, our Unit of United Women in Faith went into summer with a June Sing-a-long and catch-up time regarding all we have been doing this year and reminders of all that we are still working on this summer while not actually meeting!

Our fundraisers (Our very popular Christmas and Easter bake sales and our creative "All Kinds of Baskets") raised money for our missions as well as a special mission of to create a new space for Counseling of new folks in the country. The Baskets were created and donated by so many of our gals and in some cases their family members who got excited about what we were doing. And our wonderful congregation bought them all and even made extra donations for them. We were able to give extra this past year to each of our regular mission commitments.

For this summer we still were bringing things to church to share with women and children. We collected feminine hygiene products for UMOM; We collected used prescription bottles with the labels removed to send to Hope Ignited's Sacre Coure, the Children's Hospital in west Africa. Our church had also committed to supporting the Lab technician for a year at there, so we reminded our Women United in Faith group to continue to do their part through the summer. And for the past month we brought backpacks and school supplies for the start of school for our children and those in the Congolese congregation.

Our Unit has grown this year in spite of the loss of some of our precious members who have gone to be with Jesus

NEWS FROM YOUR LEADERSHIP TEAM!!!!

West District Committee on Nominations (CON) Cactus Patch Article

August 2023

My article is going to be short and to the point.

Since it is almost Election time (usually held during the October Annual meeting); I am asking for volunteers to be officers for 2024. If we get any volunteers, the existing board will work to figure out how voting will take place.

If you feel a calling; let me know! If you know someone who may be considering it; reach out to them and me. This includes members who might not be able to travel for leadership team meetings. We will address meeting after elections. We will work hard to find a way to conduct the District business even if the entire leadership team has to meet virtually...including training.

Vicki Keel

Chair of West District Committee on Nominations

Vkeel55@gmail.com

602-617-8028

Southwest Winds

If you aren't receiving the Conference newsletter by email, contact Linda Borton, editor: Email: lindajborton@gmail.com. The most recent issue was a special issue listing Social Action Opportunities. Thank you to Deaconess Maria Hase for putting together this vital issue.

SUMMER NEWS FROM YOUR DISTRICT TREASURER

Greetings from Show Low! I have been blessed to be up here enjoying the White Mountains, away from the heat of the Valley. My major accomplishment over the past few weeks, was to create a District Budget for 2024. With the help of June Hansen (the Conference Secretary), and great recording keeping by the previous treasurer, Michele Justice, we managed to put some figures down on paper and we will share them with you after the Conference Finance meeting this month.

Income is down and it is difficult to evaluate District expenses because it has been so long since we all got together for an "Annual Celebration" or District Training" event. I am pleased that at least half of you have sent in "Pledge to Mission" monies and based on what you all predicted you could afford this year in 2023, we based our proposed 2024 pledge income.

I know things get quiet in the summer for Unit functions because of the large number of "snow birds" in each congregation. But as your members return and you begin to meet more regularly, I am hoping you can put down some numbers as a Unit and let me know what your budget will actually look like next year.

Our focus is always to support women, children and youth around the world and we do this with our "Pledge to Mission" dollars and other special fund monies sent to the National Office.

There is so much need and we are so blessed living where we do and having all we have. Please consider generously supporting our National Organization of United Women in Faith.

Your sister in Christ,
Sandy Bradley

PS: Sandy has the budget done for 2024 but I am having trouble fitting it into the Cactus Patch. I know this has to be voted on by the membership so Sandy and I will work on a way to get the budget to you for a vote. We usually do this at our Annual Meeting = since we aren't having our usual annual meeting, we will have to come up with an alternative method of voting. The problem is that the Conference finance team meets very soon. - Cheryl

FROM WEST DISTRICT SECRETARY'S KITCHEN TABLE
(CHERYL'S OFFICE IS WAY TOO MESSY!)

What a summer. I am convinced that the heat has melted the keys of my computer together since I have been having problems with word processing all summer long.

I apologize for not being able to keep up with all of the secretarial duties of my West District position. Learning what it is to try to focus on those responsibilities and be a caregiver for a family member.

If we are to keep West District alive and vital, it is important to get support from local units. We do not wish to see the West District fold, but our churches have got to step up and take part in leadership roles. We are trying to come up with ways to meet virtually so that women do not have to travel long distances to meet. I know that this is not the best way to form bonds or have fellowship with other district officers and last year we had a West District officer resign because she hated virtual meetings. I asked units to make suggestions that would encourage participation and got absolutely no responses.

I know we women want to continue our support of women, youth and children so please poll your members for suggestions for ways to be able to continue to have West District leadership.

I am available to talk with any of you but please text me first to let me know you will be calling as my husband and I screen all calls.

Also, if you have not done so, please send me information for your new directory and make sure the email addresses are correct. I will begin working on the new directory as soon as I put this Cactus Patch to bed (newspaper talk).

West District Secretary and Communications Director, Cheryl Buchholtz
Text messages (623-285-5244). westsecbuchholtz@yahoo.com

How many of you have PATIENT PORTAL at your doctor's office? Well, hang onto your hats because we can now set up a Member Portal for yourself. (see information below on the benefits of a (free) portal account for yourself.

Kathy Schrock tells us how:

Go to uwfaith.org and click on "**Member Log In**" at the top. Here you can set up your account. Once the email and password are submitted, you will be in the Member Portal.

MEMBER
PORTAL

MEMBER
PORTAL

MEMBER
PORTAL

MEMBER
PORTAL

MEMBER
PORTAL



You're Invited

adies: ***Welcome to the New Members & Leaders Portal!***

The Members & Leaders Portal is a new special section of our website FOR MEMBERS ONLY!

Create your FREE account today

- Gain easy access to sisterhood experience
- Find quick links to member resources
- Read stories of members and partners boldly putting love in action to inspire, influence, and make an impact in our communities and the world.

If not all of your members get the Cactus Patch on the computer, please run off several copies and see that they get a copy. This is one way we can continue to serve our older or computer-illiterate church women.
SHARE, SHARE, SHARE, SHARE, SHARE, SHARE

Read: **Bishop Escobedo-Frank's
Pastoral Letter on Fires (in Maui)**



<https://westernjurisdictionumc.org/bishop-escobedo-franks-pastoral-letter-on-fires/>

Remember to send in list of members who have passed since last year for the Conference Memorial service. Send to:

smarshall92@cox.net (By Sept.15)

Please join the Conference United Women in Faith for the Annual meeting. Information below.

<https://dscumc.org/event/united-women-in-faith-annual-celebration/>

"Pouring New Wine"

Saturday, October 29, 2022 9:00 AM- 3:00 PM

**Breakfast with Deaconesses at 8:30 AM
Virtual Meeting - no registration fee**

Featured Speaker Katie Pryor Executive for Membership Nurture and Development

**Social Action Workshop
Melanie Beikman Arizona Interfaith Power and Light**

Prayer Walk and labyrinth meditation

Love to share Reading List book Discussion

Mission Project of birthday bags In kind donation of

Cake mix

Frosting

Paper plates/napkins for child's birthday

Sprinkles

Muffin cups

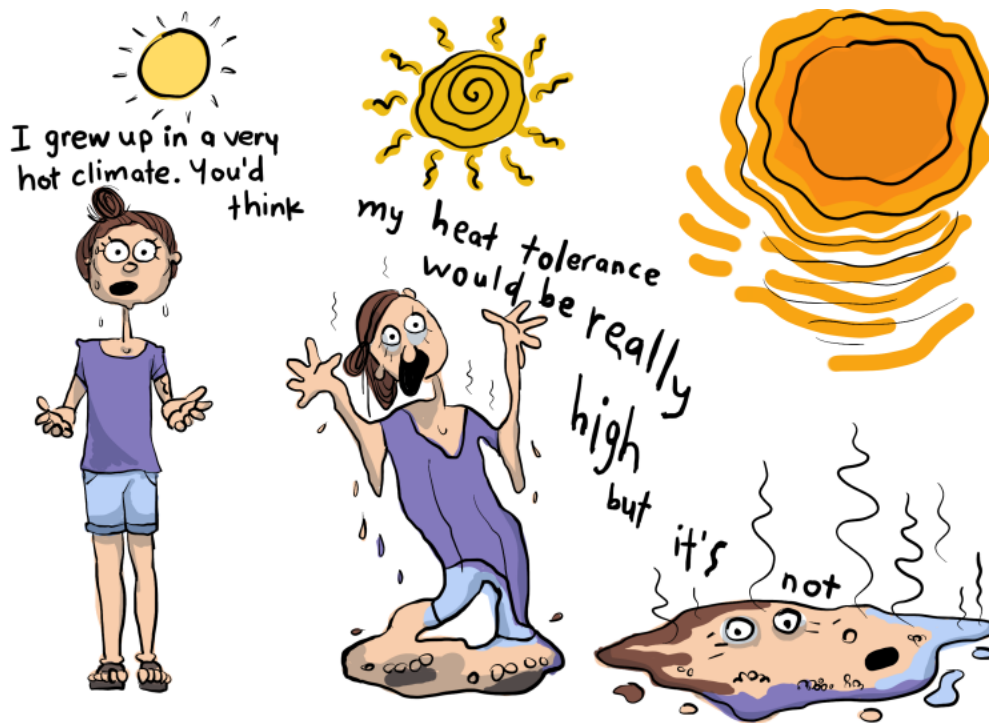
Register Now!

https://dscumc.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_zpNxJIUXRXu97-Z6cOiBvw

We are encouraging everyone to participate and share in the celebration!

This is the link to submit your registration for the in-person attendance. October 6 is the deadline for this registration.

<https://dscumc.org/event/united-women-in-faith-annual-celebration-2/>



WWW.RUNSONCOFFEECOMIC.COM

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COTTONWOOD MT. VIEW
UNITED WOMEN OF FAITH

The sizzling days of summer are about gone. We are ready to jump into our fall calendar of activities!

September 17th is the day we return to the Sanctuary for our Sunday morning worship service. Due to extensive roof and interior damage from an early summer microburst we have been meeting in Verde Hall. Following worship on the 17th we will celebrate this happy occasion with balloons, cake and refreshments.

September 19th will be our United Women of Faith general meeting. It will be a "happy to be together again" theme. Anyone who would like to share an unusual or especially fun summer experience will have the opportunity to do so.

October 28th and 29th our faithful Angel's Attic ladies will hold their craft show. They work for most of the year preparing for this much looked forward to annual event. The proceeds benefit Mt. View's non-budgeted surprise expenses.

May you welcome autumn with many blessings and joys.

Thank you to all of you beautiful ladies for helping me pull together the September issue of the Cactus Patch. Your grateful editor,
Cheryl Kay!

The first page of the West District 2024 budget:

EXPENSES:			
	5-Star Mission Giving		
	Pledge to Mission (Pledge to Conf)	\$22,000	30,000.00
	Special Mission Recognition	\$400	300.00
	Gift to Missions	\$200	100.00
	Event Offering	\$400	300.00
	Gift in Memory	\$200	340.00
	World Thank Offering	\$1,500	2,100.00
	Total 5-Star Mission Giving - Est Giving to Conf		24,700.00 33,140.00
	Savings to Conference		
	Assembly Savings	500.00	500.00
	Jurisdiction savings	500.00	500.00
	Total Savings to Conference		1,000.00 1,000.00
	Contract Services		
	Audit Review Fee	\$250	75.00
	Total Contract Services		250.00 75.00
	Designated Mission Giving (in-out)		
	Call to Prayer	\$1,000	1,150.00
	Legacy Fund	\$100	700.00
	UMCOR	\$100	500.00
	Others		-
	Total Designated Mission Giving		1,200.00 2,350.00
	District Officer Expenses		
	Computer supplies & Maintenance	\$100	200.00
	Local Unit Mileage	\$200	200.00
	Meals	\$300	350.00
	Mileage	\$450	450.00
	Name Badges	-	140.00
	Postage	\$70	160.00
	President to UMC Annual Conference	\$100	600.00
	President's Pin	\$100	160.00
	Printing	\$200	215.00
	Registration Fees	\$0	280.00
	Officer UWF Resources (bundle)	\$100	-
	Supplies	\$175	175.00
	Total District officer Expenses		1,795.00 2,930.00
	Event Expenses		

The second page of the 2024 West District budget.

	AB	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M				
1	UMF - WEST DISTRICT 2024 PROPOSED BUDGET									2024 Proposal	Sub-totals	2023 Budget				
2	ORDINARY INCOME/EXPENSES															
3	INCOME															
4			Designated Giving (Not 5-Star in/out)													
5				Call to Prayer & Self Denial											1,000.00	1,150.00
6				Legacy Fund											100.00	700.00
7				UMCOR											100.00	500.00
8				Misc												
9			Total Designated Giving (not 5-Star)											1,200.00	2,350.00	
10			District Income													
11				A&MD											8,000.00	8,000.00
12				Mission u Scholarship Reimbursement											200.00	120.00
13			Total District Income											8,200.00	8,120.00	
14			Events Income													
15				Assembly Reimbursement (1in4 Yrs)											Not 2024	
16				Jurisdiction rec'd from Conf (1in4 Yrs)											2,000.00	905.00
17				Registration Fee (5x40x\$15												
18				Annual WD Meeting											\$600	750.00
19				LDD Training											\$300	750.00
20				Total Registration Fees												1,500.00
21			Total Events Income											2,900.00	2,405.00	
22			Event Offerings													
23				Annual Meeting Offering											\$300	300.00
24				LDD Offering											\$100	-
25			Total Event Offerings											400.00	300.00	
26			Mission Giving (5-Star Estimate)(In/Out)													
27				Unit Pe ledges											\$22,000	30,000.00
28				SMR Pins											\$200	100.00
29				Gift to Mission											\$200	100.00
30				Gift in Memory											\$200	340.00
31				World Thank Offering											\$1,500	2,100.00
32			Total 5-Star Mission Giving											24,100.00	32,640.00	
33			Miscellaneous Income													
34	TOTAL INCOME									-	36,800.00	45,815.00				
35																
36	EXPENSES:															
37																
F:\Data\Finance\District																
Sheet1 Sheet2 +																
Accessibility: Investigate																

The third page of the 2024 West District Budget:

Event Expenses			
	UWF Conference Social Action Event	\$200	200.00
	UWF Conference Spiritual Retreat	-	
	District Social Action Expenses	-	225.00
	UWF Conference Annual Meeting		
	conference annual registration	\$200	600.00
	conference annual mileage	\$400	800.00
	conference annual lodging	\$400	750.00
	conference annual meals	\$200	200.00
	Total UWF Conference Annual Meeting		1,400.00 2,350.00
	WD Annual Celebration		
	meals for Team	\$120	120.00
	meals paid 1to Unit	\$600	700.00
	Church fees	\$200	-
	Mileage	\$220	220.00
	Total WD Annual Celebration		1,140.00 1,040.00
	LDD Training for Local Units		
	Mileage	\$210	600.00
	Lodging	\$400	700.00
	Meals	\$260	260.00
	Postage	\$10	10.00
	Speaker/Planist/Child Care	\$75	75.00
	Honorariums/ GTM	-	-
	Supplies	\$175	175.00
	Total of LDD Training Expenses		1,130.00 1,820.00
	Mission u		
	Books/Materials	\$60	60.00
	Lodging	\$100	75.00
	Mileage	\$50	50.00
	Registration Fees	\$300	300.00
	Scholarship - local	\$200	200.00
	Total Mission u Expenses		710.00 685.00
	Assembly Expenses	Not in 2024	
	Jurisdictional Expenses	\$2,000.00	
	Total Jurisdictional Expenses		2,000.00
	Miscellaneous Expenses	\$1,475	\$1,475
108	TOTAL EXPENSES		36,800.00 45,390.00