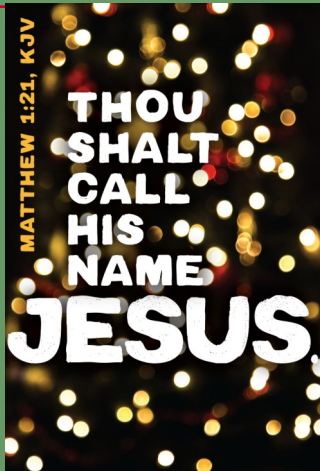




United
Women
in Faith

Our purpose is to 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.



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North Country Breezes

North District United Women in Faith
Desert Southwest Conference

Volume 37, Issue 4

December 2023

President's Message

Jane Ann Murray
North District President

Greetings from your current president of the North District United Women in Faith.

It's the most wonderful time of the year as we embrace the Advent season. I think about the brilliant light at Christmas that guides us to the manger. That brilliant light in the sky that night at the birth of Jesus Christ. Those shepherds that were dirty and tired and out-cast that nobody wanted to be around were looking to the heavens and saw that

great light. Ordinary individuals that did extraordinary things that night, and followed where God was leading them. Their action that night that brought them to the manger, and has impact far beyond the holiday season. As your units start the new year, I will think of you being that guiding light throughout God's kingdom.

Blessings to each and every one of you!

Peace and Grace,
Jane Ann Murray



North District President,
Jane Ann Murray

"As your units start the new year, I will think of you being that guiding light throughout God's kingdom."



Journey United Methodist Church

Allie Lakey
Vice-President

Journey United Women in Faith Partners with Neighborhood School

Kirk Adams Elementary School is within a few blocks of Journey UMC, so it was logical to visit with school staff to see how Journey United Women in Faith could be a good neighbor. Debora Hodler and Barbara Johnson, co-presidents, visited with the principal, LeNora Bredsguard, and learned of events and activities we could take part in.



Sixty-three years ago, on November 14, 1960, Ruby Bridges, just six years old, walked to William Frantz Elementary School, New Orleans, LA escorted by four federal marshals as a White mob hurled insults at her.

On November 14, we partnered with staff, teachers, and students of Kirk Adams Elementary School as they commemorated Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day.

We set up a table at the curb in front of the church and gave bottled water to the students and coffee to the parents walking with them. Here is a fun photo of Principal LeNora Bredsguard and Rev. Jaycee Salangsang, Journey's pastor.



The parents and students continued on from Journey to their school. Journey UWFaith gave nearly 60 students colorful pencils at the end of their walk, and congratulated them for learning about the brave first grader, Ruby Bridges, who walked to school more than sixty years ago to help desegregate her elementary school.

We'll tell you more of our activities with Kirk Adams Elementary School in future editions. Contact Journey UWFaith if you would like more details of this or other events in partnership with our local school.

Green Valley United Methodist Church

Meryl Ahart
Unit President

Green Valley United Women in Faith chose to support the Shoebox Ministry for our Christmas mission project. That includes filling boxes for children and youth 2-14 years of age with clothes, toys, and other children's items. We are so pleased to share that we filled 23 shoe boxes.



St. Michaels United Methodist Church

Judy Schnoebelen
Membership Nurture and Outreach

Welcome to Delightful December! How can it be December? I was just talking about how hot it was.

Our December Gathering will be December 12, 2023 @ 11:30 AM (notice time change) in the Fellowship Hall. We will be singing Christmas songs, accompanying Cece. The slate of officers for 2024 will be voted on then. Please come if you are able.

Just a few things that we will be doing in the first part of 2024. In January, Chris from Christine's Crafty-Life will be coming and showing us all the things she has made by hand. She does great work and you may find many of our ladies wearing the shirts that she has made. Also, fund raisers for 2024 include a tea and our 2nd Annual Easter Breakfast. We are busy ladies.

Our donation for the Food Bank for December will be INSTANT POTATOES, GRAVY AND VEGETABLES, ANYTHING THAT COULD WORK AS A SIDE DISH ON CHRISTMAS. Our donations for November were wonderful, so good that the gentleman that takes the food to the Food Bank had to make 2 trips. Thank you all for being so giving.

Welcome back to our snowbirds and to new people just seeking the Word of God. Our bake sale at the Vendor/Craft Fair was a success. Many thanks for the ladies who gave of their time and all the bake goods.

Remember: JESUS is the reason for the season. I pray you all have a safe and joyous holiday season.

Editor's Note: There were pictures that were meant to be included with this article, but due to gremlins living in my computer, they were not included. We will attempt to put them in the next edition. Please accept my apologies.



Annual Celebration 2023 Desert Southwest Conference United Women in Faith

Sharon Scobie
Treasurer, Desert Spring UMC

Invite, Excite, Ignite.

Friends, I attended the Desert Southwest Conference United Women in Faith Annual Celebration on October 28 at Dayspring UMC in Tempe, AZ. The theme was “Invite, Excite, Ignite.”

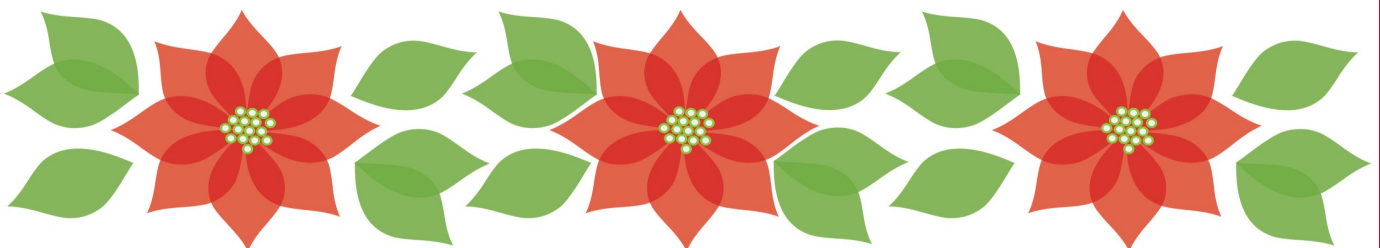
Reverend Rosemary Anderson, an ordained deacon in the church, was the guest speaker. Her message included the statement, “What does God require of me?” I remember wondering, when I was in my last year as Mission u Dean, where God was going to use me next. The words “melt me, mold me, fill me, use me” from the song, “Spirit of the Living God” kept going through my mind. Plus, little clues from people and events pointed me in the direction of becoming Director of United Methodist Social Ministry in Las Vegas. I wasn’t sure I was the one for this position, but I did feel a calling and knew that God would help me in my weak areas.

Is God calling you for some type of ministry? Are you feeling the nudge to get involved?

After the dreaded year of Covid many units are struggling. However, we can get back on track by **Inviting, Exciting, and Igniting** the women in our churches. We are being called to action to bring our units back to action. This includes being a part of our North District United Women in Faith and supporting its programs. The district officers and volunteers are planning an event on **Saturday, January 27 at Desert Spring UMC from 9:30-2:00. Please put this on your calendar now.** You will be hearing more about it as our plans develop. **Invite** others to come with you, **Excite** them to be part of more than the local unit, and we will **Ignite** them into action.

My Desert Spring unit conducted a survey among its members asking what brought them to United Women in Faith. Many answers were “**a personal invitation.**” Fits right into that theme, doesn’t it? I know we put meeting times in the bulletins and newsletters, but that **personal invitation** means more. It means someone cares about me and wants me to be part of her life. Once that person comes, it is important to get them **excited** about what United Women in Faith is all about. Our purpose, caring for women, children, and youth is important to most women. It is what we do all our lives, caring for our children, nieces, nephews, and family, those who have a special place in our hearts. The **Ignite** part is when we are called to action. To take that step forward knowing that God will be there with us whenever we say “yes.” It is important to work locally within our units, but we also need to be more supportive of our United Women in Faith District, Conference, and National connection. Hope to see you January 27.

Continued on page 7



Annual Celebration 2023 North District United Women in Faith

Allie Lakey, Vice-President
Journey UMC UWFaith

*“Iron sharpens iron, and one person sharpens the wits of another.”
Proverbs 27:17*

**Women from across the district came together on October 21st
at Advent UMC to celebrate our work as United Women in Faith.**



In keeping with the theme of the event, the first photo shows Eileen Guillermo sharpening the gathered women with information about the United Women in Faith Western Jurisdiction meeting in Anchorage, Alaska. Eileen is on the Committee on Nominations for the Western Jurisdiction United Women in Faith team.

The second photo features North District United Women in Faith president, Jane Ann Murray, in conversation with Bebe Brechner.

In the next photo, you see Clair Hart, keynote speaker, sharing her message. She incorporated familiar hymns in her inspirational presentation. Clair's way of talking, leading us in singing and praying during her message was a highlight of the day.

The final photo shows Gracie Campbell, Desert Southwest Conference UWFaith president, in conversation with Pam Huff, current North District UWFaith communications coordinator.

Yes, as the Proverbs verse says – **“As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens the wits of another”** – North District Annual Celebration found faithful leaders sharpening other faithful leaders as we visited, listened, approved the budget, and elected officers.

Until the next time we gather – January 27, 2024 – for North District Leadership Development Day, keep that wise proverb in mind!





United
Women
in Faith

REGISTRATION FORM

North District United Women in Faith

Enrichment and Leadership Development Event

January 27, 2023 9:30 AM—1:30 PM

Desert Spring United Methodist Church

120 Pavilion Center Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89144

The enrichment session is for anyone who would like to attend and be informed and inspired. The leadership development session is designed to give all officers - new and continuing - an overview of how each position works in cooperation with all other positions and the unit membership to fulfill our Purpose.

Registration Fee—\$10.00 if paid by January 15, and includes lunch.

Late registration is \$15.00.

-----cut here -----save top portion for your information -----cut here-----

Complete a registration form for each person.

If a unit pays, please submit check with registration forms.

Please make checks payable to North District United Methodist Women

Send to Karen Dallatore, Registrar

301 W. Leslie St., Pahrump, NV 89060

NAME OF PERSON ATTENDING

IDENTIFY WHICH SESSION YOU WILL ATTEND

DO YOU HOLD A LEADERSHIP ROLE IN YOUR UNIT? _____ IF SO, WHAT POSITION? _____

ADDRESS _____

Street

City

State

Zip Code

Phone

CHURCH _____

CHECK # _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT _____

Name

Relationship

Phone

Do you give permission to be photographed and authorize photos to be used in United Women in Faith newsletters and other publications, promotional material and/or social media? ___Yes___No

Do you need dependent care? ___Yes___No

Do you need child care? ___Yes___No Number of children?___ Age(s)_____

Any dietary restrictions? ___No___Yes

If yes, please describe dietary restrictions:_____

Annual Celebration 2023 Desert Southwest Conference United Women in Faith

Continued from page 5

Sharon Scobie
Treasurer, Desert Spring UMC

Invite, Excite, Ignite.



Wanted to share one more bit of information regarding the conference Annual Celebration. Rev. Steve Marshall prepared us for communion with a sermon and the above drawing he made in stages throughout the presentation. This is the second time I have heard his message and seen his drawings and they are wonderful. Here is what he did at that meeting.

“We Believe that Love in Action Can Change the World”

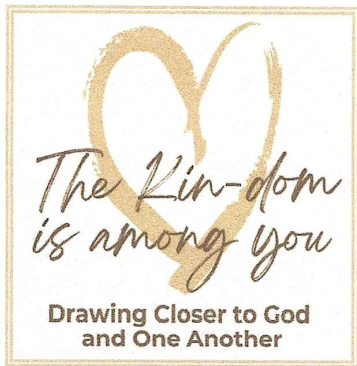
There are so many wonderful events to look forward to in 2024! In this edition of the North Country Breezes, we have included some of the things we have to look forward to in the coming months: an Enrichment and Training event in January, a Western Jurisdictional event in Alaska in May, an all new Mission u in June and August, with many more exciting get-togethers yet to be planned! Please check them all out and join us for as many as you can.

I would like to personally thank all of you who have read this newsletter over the past few years and sent in articles about the activities your units have participated in and the people who support the Mission of the United Women in Faith. I have loved reading them myself, and have felt privileged to have brought them before our "Sisterhood of Grace" to encourage and inspire us all.

Please take a look at the vacancies in the slate of North District Officers on page 10 and consider whether your gifts and talents might lend themselves to serving on this Leadership Team. If you have any questions about what the duties entail, I will be happy to email you a description of the duties involved.

This will be my last edition of the North Country Breezes as editor, but will be passing this joy on to Bebe Brechner as the new communications coordinator for the North District. Please look for the next newsletter in March, and send your articles to her at sbrechner@gmail.com. I will be staying on with the North District Leadership Team as president. You can reach me at pamela.huff.uwf@gmail.com. Have a beautiful Christmas and a joyous New Year!

Pamela Huff, Communications Coordinator



Mission u 2024



United
Women
in Faith

Join us at **Mission u** as we explore what it means to draw closer to God and one another.

Jesus told his followers the kin-dom was among them (Luke 17:21). What does that mean? Who does Jesus say will inherit the kin-dom? How do we transform ourselves and our communities in ways that bring us closer to the kin-dom and the kin-dom closer to us? Dive into these questions and more at Mission u 2024 as we examine Scripture together and join in worship, fellowship, and action.

Mission u 2024 offers three exciting curricula on this theme:
Order your copy here: uwfaithresources.org

Adult — *Welcome Home* by Neomi Fletcher

The adult curriculum uses the image of home to explore how living in close proximity to the kin-dom is like making a home with God. Participants are invited to develop practices for building healthy, welcoming communities as a result of being anchored in the abiding love of God.

Youth — *Cultivating Symbiosis: The Nature of God's Kin-dom* by Nica Sy

In Creation, we see the power of symbiosis, or interdependent relationship. The youth curriculum explores the idea of symbiosis between our relationships with one another and our relationship with God. By drawing closer to one another and our world, we draw closer to the kin-dom.

Children — *Me in the Kin-dom* by Kathy Cook

The children's curriculum uses the Lord's Prayer as a lens to help us see that we are all members of the family of God. Children will begin to understand that the kin-dom is living with Christ and one another on earth as in heaven.

Join us!

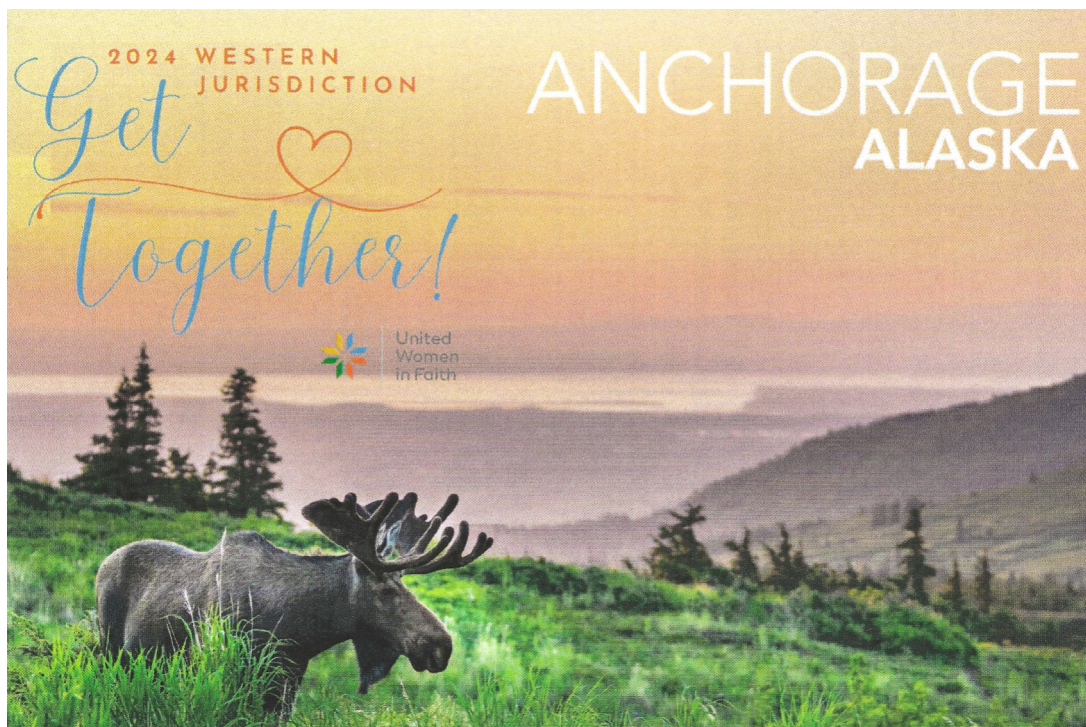
dates/times:

June 23-24, 2024 and July 21-22 in person, Prescott, AZ

August, 2024 virtual (date to be announced)

RSVP: To be published at a later date

Come learn together for the transformation of the world!



JOIN US IN ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

WESTERN JURISDICTION
QUADRENNIAL EVENT

May 9-11, 2024

Hotel Captain Cook

spirited worship

engaging workshops

motivating speakers

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

wjumw.com

[Facebook.com/wjumw](https://www.facebook.com/wjumw)

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VACANT**

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**Nominating Committee
VACANT**