



United
Women
in Faith

North Country Breezes

North District United Women in Faith
Desert Southwest Conference

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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March 2024

President's Message

When I think of United Women in Faith (UWFaith), I see groups of determined, strong, principled women around the world who are the "boots on the ground," aiding those who often need a hand up or an advocate, so they have the ability to care for themselves and their families. Whether it is a vote for medical leave initiatives, a scholarship to enable a woman to escape a life of poverty, or a clinic where a mother-to-be can receive the medical care she needs, UWFaith is a true "Sisterhood of Grace." We believe every person should be treated with dignity and respect. We believe the earth should be treated with dignity and respect.

What a blessing to have been chosen to be the North District president! I have had the distinct pleasure of meeting many of the members in our district, and the dedication of the women in each unit inspires me. There are so many loving activities that serve the communities in which they worship, and their dedication to the mission of the UWFaith is so evident.

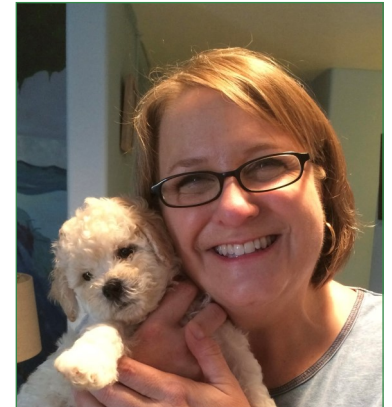
UWFaith is an organization after my own heart, and the vision of "turning faith, hope, and love into action on behalf of women,

children, and youth around the world" strikes a strong chord in me, as it probably does in you. Our mission focus of racial justice, particularly in stopping the school-to-prison pipeline, and climate justice, preserving God's creation, could not be more vital to show our faithfulness to that vision.

If you haven't already explored UWFaith's new website (uwfaith.org), take a look. You can find podcasts, webinars, response Magazine, and so many resources such as Mission u materials, program resources, prayer guides, bible studies, and so much more! Just about any resource you need to participate in UWFaith activities is there for downloading.

The district leadership team is comprised of wonderful members, some new, some who have served for a few years, and some in different positions. We are still searching for people to fill the Educating Members for Mission, Program Resources, Social Action, and Nominating Committee positions. If you or anyone you know might be interested, please reach out to me. All training is provided, and we would love to have you join us! We are here to help you in

Pamela Huff



your units, so please let us know if we can be of any assistance.

Our theme this year is "Invite, Excite, Ignite!" We would like to share this wonderful sisterhood of grace with those women outside the four walls of our churches, women who have the same heart we embody. Invite a neighbor, friend, cousin, or coworker to a UWFaith activity, circle meeting, or event. See the excitement spread, and experience how it ignites everyone, and the entire sisterhood says, "We believe love in action can change the world!"

In Christ,
Pamela Huff
pamela.huff.uwf@gmail.com



2024 North District Enrichment & Leadership Development Event

January 27 was a very special day. Not only was it a day of leadership development training for new United Women in Faith (UWFaith) officers in the North District, it was also a day of enrichment, fellowship, and inspiration for all who attended. The theme, "Invite, Excite, Ignite," turned out to be quite literal, as the speakers lit candles to remind us of how God works within us, and we share his fire with others in our lives.



Front—Pamela Huff. Left to right: Clair Hart, Sharon Scobie, Gracie Campbell, Marsha Williams



Clair Hart

Clair Hart led songs to help inspire our hearts and brought a message of how the flame was ignited in God's people's hearts in the Bible, and how important it is to allow Him to do that with us today as we share His Word and the work of UWFaith locally and around the world.



Gathering at Desert Spring UMC

Marsha Williams, through her vast experience mentoring young women in the juvenile justice system, gave us an inside look at how the School to Prison Pipeline can occur through the eyes of a typical young woman with few choices in her life. She gave us some alarming statistics on how these children are often mistreated and what their lives look like while they are confined. Whatever we can do to help educate ourselves and others to avoid the mistreatment given to young people, particularly those of color, that leads to incarceration, we must!

Continued on page 3

2024 North District Enrichment & Leadership Development Event *continued*

Julie Hart presented "Kindle the Fire," a multi-faceted program allowing us to take a look at our spiritual gifts, talents, skills, and abilities, and those of others, allowing us to unite those gifts, enabling us to go forth and set the world on fire! She showed us how to assess our fire; stir, kindle, or revive the flame; and restart it if necessary by blowing life back into it. I know I was inspired to look at my abilities and gifts to see where I can utilize them for the mission and marry them with those of my sisters.

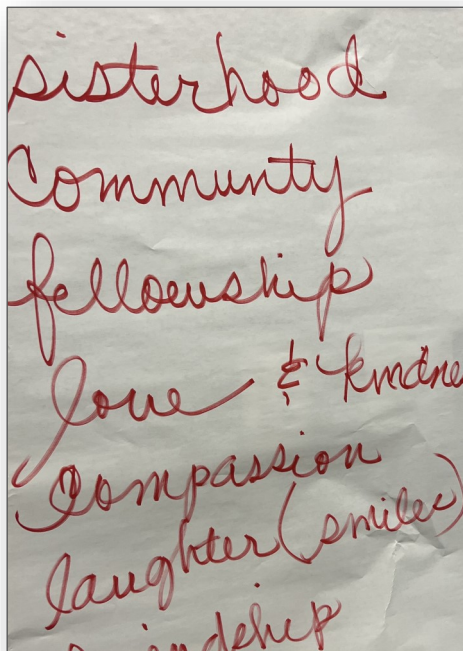
The group broke out into tables to learn more about their positions within their units, and about the mission and potential for serving within UWFaith.

Clair closed the event with music, inspiration, and a beautiful farewell ritual, allowing us to show our appreciation for our sisters.

The women of Desert Spring Church showed us true hospitality with a lovely lunch, and decorations that reaffirmed the theme of the day. We had a memorable day of worship, fellowship, enrichment, and learning, which I will long treasure.

I encourage everyone, member or not, officer or not, to attend the upcoming events throughout the year. It is well worth the effort to be so inspired!

Pamela Huff



Julie Hart was dressed to *Kindle the Fire*! Her inspiring presentation is available. [Download](#)

The Spiritual Gifts Inventory used in her presentation is a wonderful way to discern your gifts to use in service. [Download](#)

News from Mesquite



On December 2, 2023, the United Women in Faith from the Mesquite United Methodist Church held a Mini Mart and a Bake Sale. They sold 15 tables at \$25 each to local vendors and crafters to sell Christmas items to the community. The money made from the sale of tables, the Bake Sale, and items sold at their own two booths went to support mission projects for the women's group. The United Methodist Men had a hot dog stand to help support their own treasury and feed the vendors, shoppers, and crafters there for the day. Many members of the church came for lunch to support the men's group, too. It was a lovely day for everyone shopping for Christmas crafts and a fun way to make money (\$1,300) for the United Women in Faith!

We have a larger OUTDOOR MARKET on April 20, 2024, out in our parking lot where we sell a parking space for \$25 to raise money for our mission projects. It is always a hit with the community.

Sue Compton, President, United Women in Faith at Mesquite UMC



News from St. Michael's

Hello from St Michael's United Women in Faith. We are a small but mighty group. We support our local Food Bank all year long and Operation Christmas Child and all the missions through conference.

A Valentine's Tea was given by our unit. There were 47 in attendance. Five of us worked very hard to put the tea together. All but one of the delicacies served were homemade. Everyone one had a good time.



L to R: Cyndy Montgomomery, Judy Schnoebelen, Jill Wolffe, Louise Hartwell, Barbara Licari, Judy Pletting (not pictured)

Our next project is a breakfast on Easter right after the sunrise service.

Judy Schnoebelen
President, United Women in Faith, St. Michael's UMC

News from Desert Spring UMC

DESERT SPRING UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH RAISE FUNDS THROUGH POINSETTIA SALES



Left to right: Lynn Bain, Dorothy Goerke, Ann Nichols, Marianne Case

The Desert Spring unit had another successful Poinsettia Sale for Christmas 2023. The congregation purchases poinsettia plants which are used to decorate the Sanctuary during the Christmas services. When they buy a plant, it is published in the Christmas bulletin, either "in Memory of" or "in Honor" of someone special to them. Our annual event grows every year and helps support our pledge to missions.

Alison Kerr, UWFaith at Desert Spring UMC

Invitation from United Women in Faith at Desert Spring UMC

Save the Date
May 4th
Noon to Two-Thirty



Social Justice Conversations ***Tea and Light Refreshments***

at Desert Spring UMC, Las Vegas

Contact: Yvonne Daniely

702-869-6318 or 916-719-9309

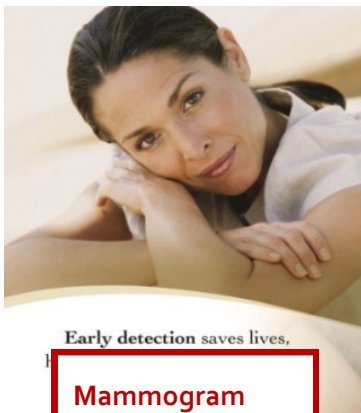
yvonedaniely@gmail.com

News from Wesley Community & Health Centers



"Together We Empower Change"

Maria Luz Saldana, Youth Services Director, reports a variety of programs available and upcoming, such as the children's Spring Break week, Youth Summer program, classes for ESL (English as a Second Language), a Blood Drive, Financial Literacy, and more:



Early detection saves lives.

Mammogram Screenings



Get your taxes done for free!

Wesley Community & Health Center, Golden Gate is partnering with AARP Foundation Tax-Aide to make sure you get every tax credit and deduction you've earned. The program is open to taxpayers and volunteers.

Tax Preparation

Comunidad de Autismo

Grupo de apoyo en español

4to viernes de cada mes

Hora: 9:00 - 11 AM

Dónde: Wesley Community & Health Centers:

Golden Gate

Autism Spanish Support Group

Find out more at <https://wesleychc.org/community-center-programs/>

Get to know your North District board members:

Vice President Marsha Meacham Williams

Marsha Meacham Williams is a member of Desert Spring United Methodist, United Women in Faith.



I am an active member of the Board of Directors at Desert Spring UMC and serve as Ruth Circle Chair. I recently, January 2024, accepted the Position of North District Vice President.

My passion is Social Justice in particular, "Breaking the School to Prison Pipeline," one of our National initiatives. Every other Friday, with a small team of ladies we mentor young girls ages 12-16 who are incarcerated at the Juvenile Justice Detention Center in Las Vegas, NV. We discuss etiquette, job development skills, job retention skills, personal grooming and voting rights; all approved by the center's administration.

Also, Ruth Circle, with the support of the unit at Desert Spring, supports Shade Tree residents quarterly with donations of personal toiletries. Shade Tree is a facility that houses women who have experienced domestic violence and are being housed with their children until a permanent safe residence can be found for them.

I look forward to working with our President and the entire district this coming program year.

President Pamela Huff



I enjoy writing immensely, but writing about myself is probably the most difficult thing for me to do. I can write about people I love or admire or things I enjoy doing, but, maybe because of lack of self-awareness or just the way I was brought up, I have difficulty talking about myself.

I will tell you that I have volunteered in one position or another from the time I was old enough to do so, and my daughter and her son have followed in that tradition. I began volunteering as a candy striper at the county hospital where I grew up in Corpus Christi, Texas, and continued volunteering for the Red Cross for many years after that. I ran a thrift shop at a military installation which funded college scholarships, as well as other organizations along the way. I have to admit, though that volunteering with *United Women in Faith* is the most gratifying work that I have ever done, as the goals and mission this organization accomplishes the most good globally, and is the most in line with Biblical principles that I have ever been part of.

I was a military spouse for many years, and worked in government, nonprofit, corporate, academia, and even had a small antique shop. Wherever I moved, had an opportunity to work in a different field and meet incredible people. The last few years, I have had the privilege of caring for in-laws and parents during the last part of their journey here on earth. I have been blessed with time spent with them and the opportunity to show and receive boundless love.

My husband, Steve, and I have a mischievous, but cuddly pup who fills our lives with so much entertainment. We share six children, eight grandchildren, and four great grandchildren who I wish we could see more often, as they live scattered across the country.

My goal in the position as president of the North District is to ensure that each unit is equipped with the support and resources it needs to "Invite, Excite, and Ignite" each of its members so they can grow and flourish in the love and joy of God.

North District Leadership Team 2024

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NOMINATING COMMITTEE VACANT





NORTH to ALASKA! Greetings to all United Women in Faith Sisters!

We welcome this new year with much Faith, Hope and Love and much excitement as our much anticipated “Get Together” of the United Women in Faith - Western Jurisdiction Quadrennial Event in Anchorage, Alaska at the Hotel Captain Cook on May 9-11, 2024 will be taking place in a few months. **(Register at wjumw.com).**

We hope you join us in this event where you will be able to participate and/or witness voting delegates elect our region’s representatives to serve on the national Board of Directors. Our Desert Southwest nominees for national director are Alberta Farnsworth and Kathy Schock.

In addition, many activities planned includes Worship, Music, Legacy Dinner, Workshops*, Ubuntu Experience*, Fellowship, Meditation Room, Displays of National Mission Institutions, Art Work, Alaskan Native Heritage, Tours, Presentations from Inspirational Speakers on topics: Climate Change, Racial Justice, Soul Care. (*See below for Workshops and Ubuntu Experience.)

Keynote Speaker: Amy Valdez Barker, PhD – the Congregational & Pastoral Formation Curator

Notable Speakers: Sally Vonner - our new General Secretary/CEO

Ainise Isama’u, - President/National United Women in Faith

Music Director: Makeda McCreary and Musical Assistants – Carrie Gruhn & Ola Mullikan

(See Makeda’s video at [Western Jurisdiction United Women in Faith, Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/WesternJurisdictionUnitedWomeninFaith))

Western Jurisdiction Leadership Team 2024-2028

It is with joy that the Western Jurisdiction Committee of Nominations announce the Slate of Officers for the Western Jurisdiction Leadership Team 2024-2028 who will be installed at the Quadrennial Event in 2024. We thank these wonderful and dedicated United Women in Faith for saying YES to serve for the next 4 years—sharing their gifts, talents, and time.

President: Diane Gin, Cal-Pac

Vice President: Atina Pascua, Cal-Pac

Treasurer: Merlam (Rosie) Kumar, Cal-Nev

Secretary: Jeannie Boese, Ore-Id

Chair of Nominations: Madelyn Bafus - PNW

Committee on Nominations: Jennifer Miller, AK | Jane Murray, DSW | Saniata Melchor, Cal-Nev | Laurie Fujinami, Mt. Sky

Workshops:

Community with God – Facilitator: Kelli Williams, Drum circle experience

Supporting the LGBTQ Community – Facilitator: Rev. Autumn Krueger

How to Create an Appropriate Land Acknowledgement – Glenna Kyker, PhD., Judy Halverson, Rev. Murray Crooks

Helping New Neighbors on the Road from Harm to Home – Facilitator: Marcia Center

Women, Leadership and Change – Facilitator: Andrea Reily Rocha Soares

Women – Putting the Power in Philanthropy – Facilitator: Elizabeth Ripley

Mini-Discernment Event, Office of Deaconess and Home Missioner – Facilitator: Maria (Chivi_ Capezio Crooks

Ubuntu Experience and Other:

AK Child & Family, a UWFaith Mission Institution-Prepare campgrounds for the summer season with garden clean up and yard work

Bean’s Café and the Children’s Lunchbox -Help assemble pantry boxes for emergency food distribution sites and local elementary schools for families in need

Showered in Grace—Assemble hygiene kits to provide for Showered in Grace clients

Hidden History Tour -Travel to Palmer, a town where the Russians arrived in 1741, and by 1874, missionaries began arriving. The Methodist Church set up its first mission and school in 1886. Stop at the Native Village of Eklutna and learn about their history.

Prayers and blessings to all: we hope to see you in Anchorage, Alaska in May!

Peace and Blessings,

Eileen Guillermo, Western Jurisdiction Committee on Nominations Member



Mission u 2024



United
Women
in Faith

In this second year of Living the Kin-dom, we will deepen our study to include the ways Jesus preached and ministered a proximity to the kin-dom.

Jesus said those inheriting the coming and future kingdom were those typically pushed outside the hierarchies of belonging – the hungry, the stranger, and the prisoner (Matt 25:40). Not only would they inherit the kingdom, but to enter the kingdom we have to become like children (Matt 18:1-5), be more righteous than a Pharisee (Matt 5:20) or be poor in spirit (Matt 5:3).

Furthermore, the Lord's prayer speaks well to the second year of the curricula when we will be exploring the proximity of the kind-dom. This second study will focus on the invitation to posture our lives and transform ourselves in ways that bring us proximity to the kin-dom and the kin-dom in proximity to us.

Come! Let's explore together the heart of Jesus' good news and what fresh vision it offers us as we seek to be in mission today.

June 21 & 22 in-person (Adult and Youth) at Payson UMC – 414 N Easy St #4414, Payson

July 19 & 20 virtual (Adult)

Adult book: Welcome Home by Neomi Fletcher ([Order link](#))

Youth book: Cultivating Symbiosis: The Nature of God's Kin-dom by Nica Sy ([Order link](#))

Meet our Study Leaders

CONTACTS:

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Lorraine Shaw, Mission u Assistant Dean, ladyinsurance@att.net

Resources

[response magazine](#) | [podcasts & webinars](#) | [reading program](#)

Serve & Advocate — [Find out more:](#)



[Climate Justice](#)



[Deaconess & Home Missioner](#)



[Racial Justice](#)

Websites

[United Women in Faith](#)
[Desert Southwest Conference United Women in Faith](#)
[Western Jurisdiction United Women in Faith](#)

Social Media

[Facebook](#) UWFaith
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Facebook—[Western Jurisdiction UWFaith](#)
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[Instagram](#) UWFaith
[X \(formerly Twitter\)](#) UWFaith

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