

# THE SHARING LINE

A PUBLICATION OF UNITED WOMEN OF FAITH — PACIFIC NORTHWEST CONFERENCE

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## DEB'S DISPATCH

### DREAM IT, BELIEVE IT, DO IT!

I recently attended the Pacific Northwest Conference Cooperative Mission u in Yakima. I felt a sense of HOPE and COMMUNITY throughout the event. I appreciate all who attended, taught, led worship, planned, and helped to build Kin-dom with each other in that place. I look forward to seeing many of you at our 2024 Annual Gathering at Spokane Valley UMC, October 18-19! We have a great program planned.

Recently, I received a valuable resource from our National Leadership of United Women in Faith that provided a wealth of information we are encouraged to share at our upcoming Annual Gatherings. I am sharing it through our "Sharing Line" to reach our larger community. Here's a link to the [Annual Meeting Talking Points](#) if you choose to read and share with local and district gatherings.

### HERE ARE SOME HIGHLIGHTS....

Through 2028, we aim to increase our membership to more than 50,000, reach and exceed our \$60 million Legacy Endowment Fund, increase giving to meet

or exceed \$10 million, and boldly adapt to change to answer God's call to Inspire, influence, and impact local and global communities.

United Women in Faith connects and nurtures women through Christian spiritual formation, leadership development, creative fellowship, and education so that we can make a difference in the lives of women, children, and youth.

A new, exciting membership campaign is set to launch in the spring of 2025! It seeks to foster a culture where every member is an advocate, leader, and change-maker and, through active engagement, aims to build a supportive, dynamic, and forward-thinking community.

### INSPIRE:

Mission u 2025 Theme: "Hope as Resurrection People". It begins with the resurrection accounts and explores how Jesus' followers were changed and the HOPE that grew in these resurrection people even

*(Continued on page 2)*

## THE PURPOSE

United Women in Faith seeks to connect and nurture women through Christian spiritual formation, leadership development, creative fellowship, and education so that they can inspire, influence and impact local and global communities.



United  
Women  
in Faith

(Continued from page 1)

in the midst of persecution. We will look deeper into what it means to be “resurrection people” in the 21st century.

Soul Care Offerings will continue to be developed and launched in early 2025. These include Soul Care digital communities and exploring the options for live workshops to learn about offerings through UWFAith Digital.

### INFLUENCE:

Leadership Development Days will support leaders to take their skills to the next level. Save the days: November 21-23, 2024. This is a wonderful resource for all conference leadership serving in 2025, and there will also be limited availability for two district leadership persons to attend. Registration opens in September. I wanted to include this information to all readers of this Sharing Line as we are influenced by the amazing opportunities provided to leaders at all levels. These excellent growth opportunities would not exist without the generous commitment of our pledge dollars!

### IMPACT:

Our Social Justice Priorities for 2024-2028 are now announced. Both Social Justice Priorities of “Climate Justice” and “Mass Incarceration and Criminalization of Communities of Color” will continue. There is still much work to be done, and these significantly impact the lives of women, children, and youth, and our voices as United Women in Faith need to be heard! Let us also remember to celebrate the work you have done in these areas during the

last quadrennium and the additional priorities we have supported in Maternal Health and Food Insecurity

**VOTE**—Put your FAITH into ACTION; this is one of our main opportunities to let our voices be heard boldly as United Women in Faith.

The 2025 United Women in Faith Reading Program will be released in late August/ early September. Did you know over 400 people volunteered to be Reading Program evaluators in 2024? (I volunteered to evaluate children's and youth books for the reading program for several years. It was amazing.)

Here are a few numbers that you will find exciting...As of July 2024, the total raised to support the continued work of United Women in Faith through the Legacy Endowment Fund is \$38,773,749! The total raised on the Day of Giving 2024 was \$424,415.00! We can celebrate this as we share with a grateful heart with our sisters nationally! Together, we are stronger.

In closing, I am blessed to share the following greeting from our General Secretary, Sally Vonner:

“Thank you for your support and encouragement in this first year. It is my joy to be on this journey with you. I invite all of us to keep our faith, hope, love, prayers, and giving alive, no matter how challenging the future may seem. Proverbs 4:25 says, “*Let your eyes look directly forward, and your gaze be straight before you,*” supporting and being in mission with women, children, and youth for generations to come. We are influencers and inspirers! We can make an impact! Believe it! I believe

we can because together, United Women in Faith is a community of bold women on a journey, believing that love in action can change the world and, with God, make this impossible possible! May it be so.

*Amen*

*Deb Avery, Conference President  
Pacific Northwest Conference  
United Women in Faith*

## PACIFIC NORTHWEST CONFERENCE UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH NEW OFFICERS

### August 2024 – October 2025

**Treasurer** **Roberta Headley**  
Inland District 509-994-5208  
beancounter87@yahoo.com  
17008 E Bill Gulch Rd.  
Mead, WA 99021-8741

**Social Action** **Ja net' Crouse**  
Seven Rivers District 509-679-4087  
crousejw@crouses.com  
2124 Valley View Blvd.  
E Wenatchee, WA 98802-4087

**Spiritual Growth** **Janice Catrell**  
Puget Sound District 360-223-5938  
jcatrell@yahoo.com  
201 N Forest  
Bellingham, WA 98225-5801

**Nominations Committee** **Judy Dirks**  
Inland District 208-661-9752  
judydirks37@gmail.com  
1888 Crossport Rd.  
Bonners Ferry, ID 83805

**RETIRING:** Linda Key, Sara Krum,  
Sophia Agtarap, Melissa Bortnick

Per a Zoom meeting, Marsha  
Aufenkamp, Chair of Nominations

Bless you, ladies, for your dedication  
and help in time of need. See you soon.

Pacific Northwest Conference  
**United Women in Faith**

# ANNUAL GATHERING

*Stepping Out in Faith:  
Expanding Our Vision...Trust the Nudge*

Scripture: Matthew 14:22-33

**Spokane Valley UMC**

115 N Raymond Rd, Spokane Valley, WA 99206



## SCHEDULE FOR OCTOBER 18 — 19, 2024

**Start time: 5:30 PM**

with dinner on Friday

**End time: 1:00 PM on Saturday;**

***Sack Lunch available for an  
additional \$10 at the time of  
registration.***

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**REGISTRATION FEE — \$30**

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### HOTEL INFORMATION

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Participant is responsible for making their  
registrations!

*The Hotel includes breakfast.*

#### [Comfort Inn & Suites Spokane Valley](#)

Please use the group name United Women in Faith.

We have reserved a block of rooms here.

The cost is approximately \$155 for double occupancy on  
Thursday and Friday. There are options for king-size or  
double-queen bedrooms.



**Keynote Speaker:**  
**Sue Magrath**  
Spiritual Counselor  
and Acclaimed Author



United  
Women  
in Faith

**Annual Gathering Registration Form**  
**Pacific Northwest United Women in Faith**  
**October 18 - 19, 2024**

Spokane Valley United Methodist Church — 115 N Raymond Rd, Spokane Valley, WA 99206

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**REGISTRATION DEADLINE—SEPTEMBER 30, 2024**

Name for your Name Badge \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Church \_\_\_\_\_ District \_\_\_\_\_ Conference \_\_\_\_\_

Are you an officer? Yes  No  If yes, position \_\_\_\_\_

Home hospitality needed Yes  No

**Dietary:** We will work hard to accommodate most diets by providing various options. Gluten-free and diabetic choices will be available.

**Food Allergies:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADA needs:** We are happy to help you prepare for an enjoyable experience! Please share your challenges or concerns. If we don't know before the event, we may not be equipped to assist: \_\_\_\_\_

**Childcare will be available.** Please note the ages and number of your children:

Infants \_\_\_\_\_ 2 to 3 years \_\_\_\_\_ 4 to 5 years \_\_\_\_\_

6 to 8 years \_\_\_\_\_ 9 to 11 years \_\_\_\_\_

Do you need a lanyard for your name badge? Yes  No

*(Please bring a name badge holder if you have one.)*

Can we use your photo in promotional materials? Yes  No

Are you interested in purchasing a sack lunch for Saturday, October 19? Yes  No

*(Veggie or turkey/cheese sandwich, chips, fruit, dessert, and water bottle.)*

If interested, you must pre-order and add \$10 to your registration form.

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**REGISTRATION FEE—\$30:**

Make checks payable to PNW Conference United Women in Faith  
**MAIL YOUR COMPLETED REGISTRATION FORM AND A CHECK TO**  
**Sharon Stovall, Registrar**

311 E Marshall, Spokane, WA 99207-5438

*For questions, call Sharon at 509-534-2083 (Home) or 509-939-8677 (Cell)*

*or email: shrstovall@peoplepc.com*

## ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2024 UPDATE

Creation Justice Task Force Co-Chair, Rev. Paul Mitchell, said he is bringing living water! Thirty-five percent of churches have committees addressing Creation Care and Justice, a majority are making changes, and 25 percent are willing to start green practices such as adding solar panels. Eighty percent identified a need for more funding to do these things. The Commission is supporting local churches in finding grants to do this work. The presentation concluded with representatives lifting “wash tubs” labeled Clergy, Laity, Funders, Staff, and You. *“We need each one of you to carry water any way you know how. To thrive will require the involvement of all.”*

Focus group recommendations were approved later in the afternoon, including closing three churches—Lapwai, Nezperce, and Bellevue Korean. In a diversion from the usual procedure, no budget was presented for approval, but table talks took place over three days to gather everyone’s budget priorities. Then, with other input, a budget will be presented at a special Annual Conference session in November—probably by Zoom. No date was given. We were asked what help we in local churches want from the Annual Conference and how we would like to receive it.

At a district meeting after dinner, we stood up by clusters—us in Vancouver, but Grays River was not mentioned! I collected certificates for payment of 100% of apportionments for both churches. We did not introduce ourselves by

name, but Keith spoke about lay-led churches needing technical assistance in addition to preachers—not as much at Fern Prairie, but definitely at Grays River.

On Saturday, we began with a camping song about a moose and another budget table discussion about which ministries we would like to see working together and how much we would help. There was also a community color run for children, during which colored foam was sprayed on them.

I talked at a Mission u table at the ministry fair when 20+ tables were displayed in the gym with United Women in Faith, Global Ministries, Camping, Disaster Relief, etc. I chatted with many people as they wandered around, and I collected different flyers and pens.

Petition #13 concerning establishing healthy working standards of 35-40 hours a week for pastoral leaders was adopted. Pastors are adaptive leaders in a changing culture. “We need support; we need the conversation to know we are not alone.”

I did show photos and programs about the Pageant to many people and had the promise of a photo of Rev. JD Stout from his granddaughter. He filled in for Dorothy Northcutt when she went on a world cruise around 1964. His son, Rev. J Dean Stout, served Camas then. I gave a program to the bishop, so when the reading of appointments came later in the afternoon, the bishop mentioned

our 150th! This was the only special mention of all the appointments!

The Annual Conference concluded with the ordination service at ten, which lasted two hours but was the usual impressive ritual. A brass band accompanied the singing of “Praise to the Lord, The Almighty” and “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You,” and others.

Afterward, we drove home, taking Deb Avery along the ‘Road less traveled,’ which Keith may not choose to take again. It avoided the freeway on the Oregon side, going the most direct route through Prosser—where we witnessed a church baptism in the Yakima River, ‘Heaven’ as in Horse Heaven Hills, seeing a coyote, a groundhog, deer, cattle and horses, a farm dog chasing us at 26 mph for several hundred yards, gravel roads aplenty, bumpy steep slopes, fantastic views and no traffic at all. We went through Bickleton, Goldendale, where we missed a Dairy Queen, Centerville, and Lyle, where there were bathrooms! The car was so dusty that we took photos. We eventually dropped Deb off at her home and arrived at our home for a most welcome cup of tea. Have you ever been on the Bickleton and Centerville highways? We will not forget them nor the ‘Well’ Conference that preceded.

Joan Hackett, Lay Member for Fern Prairie and Lay Led Church Ad

*Joan Hackett,  
Lay Member for Fern Prairie  
and Lay Led Church*

# MISSION U 2024—INFORMATIVE AND INSPIRATIONAL





## MORE FROM THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2024

The PNW Annual Conference was held in Richland, WA, at Central United Protestant Church. When the Manhattan Project began, many people went to Richland, and RC and Protestant churches were built. The Protestant one had 11 services on Sundays! Eventually, the building was Methodist, and a new building in 1964 was constructed. It is large, with a sanctuary and fellowship hall holding at least 300 around round tables. The church's basement has a full-size gym that can be entered directly from the back as the church is built on a slope.

To our knowledge, this is the first time that the Annual Conference has been held in a church; last year's was at the University of Puget Sound and previously at Puyallup Fairgrounds or convention centers in recent years. The church was welcoming, and contracted caterers served us three dinners and two lunches from the narthex, which we ate in the fellowship hall. The food was good, but there were no desserts! We had breakfast in the hotel.

The Samaritan woman at the well was the annual conference theme, "Being Well." This theme was used for all the worship services and interpreted by the preachers in different ways. Here is the logo, which is especially appropriate for Fern Prairie as we have a well. I did not find any other churches with a well,



so I told people about ours—240 feet deep for the 240 years of American Methodism.

We began at two pm on Thursday, June 13, after our almost four-hour ride along the Washington side of the Columbia. At opening worship, we sang the hymn "Are We Yet Alive?" the bishop preached for 33 minutes, followed by lay and clergy sessions. The laity session elected a new lay leader for the Quadrennium—Felisha Hola, a 24-year-old Tongan woman who has attended the Annual Conference since she was 13 and has just completed a degree in Political Science at Rochester. "I've always been passionate about advocacy and representation because many of the spaces I've been in, even in our own conference, are places I've been the only young person or Pasifika woman in the room. At times, I felt uncomfortable and a sense of imposter syndrome, but I learned how important it was to be in these spaces."

Two hundred fifty people had registered in person and about the same number to attend online, but votes only totaled around 250 throughout the session.

The Memorial Service on Thursday night remembered ten bishops who had died since last year, including Mel Talbert and Cal McConnell, both of whom served PNW, as well as Ruth Mathis and other clergy.

Friday began with a plenary and the retirement celebration, but only five retirees were in person at Richland.

Friday afternoon was the report of the General Conference Delegation, held in

Charlotte, North Carolina, earlier this year. Only 765 of the 862 attendees were there due to different issues—visas and communication—and these delegates were elected eight years ago. No GC in 2020 due to covid. One thousand ninety-nine petitions were dealt with in 14 committees and translated into four official languages for printing, but ten were used. The three R's were the focus of GC, and all were approved by larger margins than expected—pass revised Social Principles, address Regionalization, and remove harmful language in The Book of Discipline. A move toward regionalization began. Brant Henshaw said regionalization requires modification to the church constitution, with a two-thirds approval vote from every global member worldwide. Regionalization would allow each region, like the US, Africa, or the Philippines, to vote on issues pertaining solely to it.

Some other highlights were an apology to Hawaiians for the Methodist' role in overthrowing their monarchy, a smaller budget, 32 bishops for the US with five for the Western Jurisdiction, and full communion with the Episcopal church. Due to Minerva Carcano and Karen Oliveto retiring, two new bishops will be needed for our Western Jurisdiction. However, we will probably get two from other jurisdictions—this is not yet final. No nominations for bishop were received, though the Jurisdictional Meeting in July will take place at Spokane Valley UMC.

*Joan Hackett,  
Lay Member for Fern Prairie  
and Lay Led Church*



## VICE PRESIDENTS CORNER

### DO YOU KNOW THE DIFFERENCE?

We are bombarded daily with mission opportunities, news from around the world, and the local paper. We think about it and comment to ourselves. Was it just a fleeting thought, or was it God's nudge to put yourself out there? Is that where it ended, or did you decide to step out to make an impact, no matter how small? The first step is to make a commitment to do something and then do it.

Your action will make an impact, whether it means becoming active in your unit, going online and starting to listen to United Women in Faith podcasts, or getting involved with a district event. Say yes when you are asked to do something. Everyone has different energy levels, and we all have some level of energy.

District Annual Meetings are in September. Plan to attend and take someone else from your unit. Get ideas from other churches in your district. What areas interest you the most? Get involved. Make it a road trip!

Our Annual Gathering for the PNW conference is in October. All district officers should be attending, and all women in our conference should be invited. Again, see the impact of what can be done when women act on what they thought was a nudge from God. Your conference officers will be there. Ask questions about what they do.

Do you like to plan programs/ events? That is the role of the vice president. All of my district VPs said yes, and now we work together, providing programs on spiritual growth, leadership development, and social action awareness with the help of others on our teams. We felt the nudge, acted, and are now making an impact. Join us. Come see me in Spokane in October.

May grace and peace abound in your life.

*Stell Wallace*  
Vice President

## DOES YOUR LOCAL UNIT HAVE A CHARTER FOR RACIAL JUSTICE CLUB?

Racial Justice continues to be a challenge in our nation and state. African Americans, Native Americans, Hispanics, Asians, and other ethnic groups face discrimination. Racial Justice Clubs encourage local units to learn about racism and to take action.

Information on becoming a Charter for Racial Justice Club is available on the conference website, [pnwumc.org/uwfaith/get-involved/social-action/racial-justice](http://pnwumc.org/uwfaith/get-involved/social-action/racial-justice).

Information about the charter is on the national website: [uwfaith.org](http://uwfaith.org).

*Ja net' W. Crouse,*  
Social Action

### UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH MINISTRY FAIR DISPLAY...

showing pride in our organization of Women in Mission with Women, Children, and Youth for over 155 years!



Gail Simpson and friends at the United Women in Faith Table at Annual Conference

# CHARTER FOR RACIAL JUSTICE CLUB

“We recognize racism as sin and affirm the ultimate and temporal worth of all persons. We rejoice in the gifts that ethnic histories and cultures bring to our total life. We commend and encourage the self-awareness of all racial and ethnic groups and oppressed people that leads them to demand their just and equal rights as members of society.”

“There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male or female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.” – Galatians 3:28



## HOW TO BECOME A CHARTER FOR RACIAL JUSTICE CLUB



For a local unit to become a Charter for Racial Justice Club member, the unit must carry out one

activity from each section during a calendar year. After that, the unit must complete one activity annually. If membership lapses, the unit must begin again with three activities.

Local units will work with a report to their District Mission coordinator for Social Action.

The Racial Justice Committee will meet to consider the revisions of criteria annually.

Units will be recognized for becoming a Charter for Racial Justice Club.

Questions? Contact your District Mission Coordinator for Social Action.

## PACIFIC NORTHWEST CONFERENCE RACIAL JUSTICE CHARTER COMMITTEE

- Conference President
- Conference Vice President
- Nominations Committee Chair
- Conference Social Action Coordinator
- District President
- Language Coordinator
- Member at Large

Annually, every Charter for Racial Justice Club Unit must read and review the Racial Justice Charter. This will be found on the website of [pnwumc.org/uwfaith/resources/racial-justice](https://pnwumc.org/uwfaith/resources/racial-justice), printable or downloadable.

The Pacific Northwest Conference United Women in Faith Charter for Racial Justice Committee has worked to create new and universal (2018) criteria for the CRJ Club that will make participation both more accessible and more meaningful.

### Purpose

The organized unit of **United Women in Faith** shall 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.

The United Women in Faith adopted the Charter for Racial Justice (CRJ) in 1978. The CRJ was adopted by the whole United Methodist Church in 1980.

## OPTIONS FOR FULFILLMENT

### UNIT PROGRAMMING

From Tools for Leaders: Resources for Racial Justice, complete one Bible study, workshop, or worship service included within the Charter.

- In your unit or a small group, study the portion of the Racial Justice Timeline that spans your lifetime. Make written reflections and share them with other group members.
- Share (both positive and negative) local newspaper articles, United Women in Faith reading program books, and documentaries relating to racism. Forward the information shared with a short report to your District Mission Coordinator for Social Action. We may use them for display at either Mission U or the United Women in Faith Conference Annual Meeting
- Hold a letter-writing or postcard-writing correspondence party supporting or lobbying for racial justice legislation or policy.

### UNIT ENRICHMENT

- As a unit, attend a worship service of a church, synagogue, or temple with a majority ethnic background different from your own. Be certain to inform the leadership of your intended visit.
- Watch a documentary or read a book containing racial justice themes with your unit, circle,

or church small group. Discuss the movie using these three questions: Who is being exploited? Who benefits from the exploitation? What are we going to do about it?

- Have a member of your unit sign up to receive free email updates from:
  - **The Sentencing Project**, [sentencingproject.org](http://sentencingproject.org)
  - **Colorlines**, [colorlines.com](http://colorlines.com)
  - **Equal Justice Initiative**, [eji.org](http://eji.org).
- Be creative, and develop a Racial Justice learning experience for your unit or church.
- Present a program on equal education, housing, employment, or medical care exploring how race may have been a factor or implicated in the area.
- Plan jointly with a group of different racial/ethnic backgrounds:
- Programs from the United Women in Faith Program Resource Book at one or more meetings.
- Book reviews using books from the Reading Program with special emphasis on books related to minority groups and persons.
- Study groups using one of the current (racial justice) study themes.
- Ecumenical resources on social justice.

### BEYOND THE LOCAL UNIT

- Host an international tasting party, cultural fair, or other event. Be certain to integrate a racial justice element into the programming.
- As a unit or with the church, sponsor a refugee family.
- For one month, scan the daily news media (TV/newspaper, advertising, pictures, and/or children's literature) to ascertain the degree of ethnic/racial/minority **stereotyping** portrayed.
- Use the information in one of the following ways:
  - Design and present unit programs.
  - Share information with the administrative body of your church.
  - Share with Sunday School classes.
  - Share with a youth group.
  - Publish results of a survey in local church news media.

### TOOLS/REFERENCES

The following resources may be obtained at [uwfaith.org](http://uwfaith.org)

- Tools for Leaders: Resources for Racial Justice (174 pages)
- Books from the United Women in Faith Reading Program
- Response Magazine
- Racial Justice Timeline
- History of Racial Justice

## WHO SHOULD RECEIVE THE UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH PNW CONFERENCE RACIAL JUSTICE AWARD FOR 2024?

Each year, the United Women in Faith PNW Conference honors someone with the Racial Justice Award.

Whom will you nominate from your district? [Downloadable instructions.](#)

### UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH RACIAL JUSTICE AWARD NOMINATION

The Committee on the Charter for Racial Justice of the United Women in Faith PNW Conference seeks nominees for the annual Racial Justice Award to be presented at the October United Women in Faith PNW Conference Annual Gathering.

#### CRITERIA ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- Exemplifies the implementation (We Will section) of the Charter for Racial Justice [uwfaith.org/what-we-do/serve-and-advocate/racial-justice](http://uwfaith.org/what-we-do/serve-and-advocate/racial-justice).
- They may be an individual United Women in Faith member, a local unit, a district, or an individual or group from outside United Women in Faith.
- The activity may be a one-time or ongoing event but must have occurred within the last year.

#### FORMAT FOR NOMINATION:

- Name, address, phone number, and/or e-mail of Nominee(s).
- Name of Activity or Event.
- One or two paragraphs summarizing the individual or group activity and how it relates to the Charter for Racial Justice.
- Your name, address, phone number, and/or e-mail address.
- Deadline to be returned to Deb Avery or Ja net' Crouse by October 1, 2024
- Nomination may either be mailed or e-mailed.

#### SELECTION OF AWARD RECIPIENT

- The Racial Justice Committee will make selections before the annual gathering.
- This is an excellent opportunity to recognize persons who fulfill our Purpose and our Mission Today Charter for Racial Justice component in a significant way.

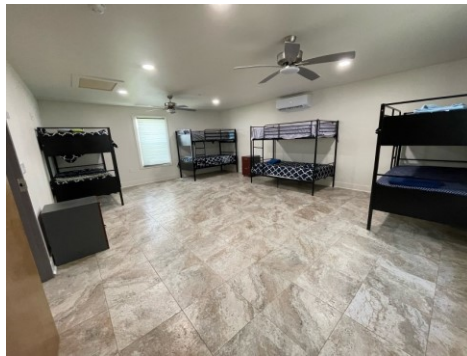
#### QUESTIONS MAY BE DIRECTED TO DEB AVERY OR JA NET' CROUSE.

- **Deb Avery**  
2202 NE 124th Ave  
Vancouver, WA 98684-5534  
davery51@q.com  
360-896-4209 (c)
- **Ja net' Crouse**  
2124 Valley View Blvd  
E Wenatchee, WA 98802-4078  
crousejw@crouses.com  
509-679-4087 ©  
509-884-8415 (h)

## UPDATE ON THE LA POSADA CABINS

Thank you for all the funds you sent to La Posada for the cabins. The funds were used for the beautiful flooring that will serve migrants for many years to come.

*Sue Raymond*



## A VISIT TO LIGHTHOUSE MISSION CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

I helped organize a tour of our new homeless shelter on July 16th. The Lighthouse Mission is currently under construction to replace the aged facility. It will have three more floors, a medical unit, mental health units for both men and women, and even a coffee shop open to the public to assist residents in moving toward a valuable skill set. The UWF members from our local unit are President Mary Kooistra (back row center), myself, Shirley Forslof, Karen Schroeder, and Carole Mercer.

Find out more about Lighthouse Mission at [lighthousebuilds.org](http://lighthousebuilds.org).

*Jan Catrell*



## OUR LEGACY GOAL: EVERY MEMBER PARTICIPATION

Inspire every member of United Methodist Women to make a gift to the Legacy Fund of **at least \$18.69 per year** or month over and above her Pledge to mission for five years.

Most of our foremothers did not hold the purse strings of their household, but they set aside two pennies a week or \$1 a year **to be in mission with God!** Can today's women set aside at least 36 cents a week or \$18.69 a year?

Even if only 50% of our members gave as little as \$18.69 a year for the next four years, we would raise almost \$30 million! (400,000 members x 4 years x \$18.69)

Our foremothers continue to stand by us through more than \$1.3 million a year in interest on endowments that they established. Let us stand beside future generations of United Women in Faith through the Legacy Fund!

Let us inspire every United Women in Faith member to gift the Legacy Fund at least \$18.69 monthly or \$155.00 (our Anniversary!) per year over and above her Pledge to Mission.

Does everybody know about the "TRIFECTA"? Ask me .

*Blessings,  
Marsha Aufenkamp  
PNW United Women in Faith  
Legacy Liaison since 2014*



## PROVIDE ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES WITH ENDOWMENT FUND CONTRIBUTIONS

This year, the earnings from the endowment fund provided \$930 for Mission Giving and ten scholarships for women who attended the May 2024 Western Jurisdiction Quadrennial Meeting in Anchorage.

Contributions to the United Women in Faith Endowment Fund can be gifts in honor, memory, or simple contributions. The form is available under resources on the conference website: [www.pnwumc.org/uwfaith.org](http://www.pnwumc.org/uwfaith.org).

*Ja net' W. Crouse,  
Endowment Committee Chair*

## THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR LEGACY!

Dear Friends,

We are thankful for your participation in this year's Day of Giving celebrations around the nation. Because of your efforts, we are happy to share that the total raised for Day of Giving 2024 is **\$424,415.00**. Please share this with

your teams and in your conferences. Do not hesitate to reach out with any questions you may have.

*Blessings,  
Development Team  
Kenya Roberts, Christi Campos,  
Shannon Priddy, Julissa Ciquero*



## MEMBERSHIP NURTURE AND OUTREACH REPORT

### PICK YOUR PASSION AND TAKE ACTION!

United Women in Faith sisters,

Recently, at the conference United Women in Faith executive meeting, women were asked to think about ways they describe themselves. There was an opportunity to acknowledge if they had ever fit into a specific category. These included being the class clown, never being on time, being a caregiver, overcoming a challenge, being a teacher, etc. We have all had various experiences that make us who we are. It is those opportunities that help us grow and learn. I imagine you are familiar with “thinking outside the box.” Sometimes, that different idea is the voice we need to hear. At the end of the activity, those present were given a sticky note and asked to think outside the box about what being part of United Women in Faith means and what United Women in Faith needs to do to meet the needs of new members.

I was slightly disappointed when I only got five responses from approximately seventeen people.

#### I WANT TO SHARE THE IDEAS WE RECEIVED WITH YOU.

- **Have a letter-writing (postcard) table at events, re: legislative issues.**

We could easily set this up at the annual gathering or district meetings. A program could also be implemented at the local unit to share concerns and issues that will be brought to the legislature. This could be done as a team effort

with the coordinator for social justice and interested members. I have done this type of campaign as a member of the teachers’ union.

- **Organize (another) seminar at the General Board of Church and Society**

I am not sure what this participant wants to hear about. This could cover a variety of topics. The United Women in Faith website has multiple choices for speakers and workshops. If you have not had the chance to look at these opportunities, I encourage you to do so. The website is [umwmissionresources.org](http://umwmissionresources.org). You can also find information on the conference website at [pnwumc.org/uwfaith](http://pnwumc.org/uwfaith)

- **BEING LESS POLITICAL would be good.** (the capital letters were written by the participant)

I would like to have a conversation with the writer of this comment. I want to know what her thoughts and concerns are. The only way to address concerns is to openly and honestly discuss the topic. Everyone is entitled to their opinion. I agree that some political topics need to stay out of the church. Some issues that are important to some members may not be an area of interest to others. This is why there can be multiple areas, and individuals can participate in the ones they are passionate about.

- **Have officers visit local meetings to “listen.”**

I believe this is being done in some districts. That’s not to say we can’t do more. I know one MNO coordinator who is calling all the units in her district. Another MNO coordinator is visiting with other officers/members. Individual units could coordinate meetings with several other units. This could be for fellowship as well as information gathering.

- **Training for newbies: “United Women in Faith 101”.**

It can seem overwhelming to jump right in and get your feet wet. There is no wrong way to participate. That said, it is helpful to have an understanding of your role. If individuals need information, there are seminars on the national website, and local officers/members can assist you. I, for one, can get frustrated with figuring out some of the technical opportunities for training. Ask a friend. Attend an online program in a group in case there are technical difficulties. Call another member. District and conference officers are here for you. Please take advantage of their knowledge. Do not be afraid to ask. I, for one, will tell you if I do not know the answer. I will also help you seek out the information you need.

Thank you to the individuals who shared their ideas. Pick your passion

*(Continued on page 16)*

(Continued from page 15)

and take action. Address the food shortage by coordinating a food drive, writing postcards to your elected

officials, reading and reviewing a book that sheds new light on a challenging subject, or listening to a seminar on a topic of interest to you.

**If we want to affect change, we must make our voices heard.**

Please feel free to contact me, discuss your needs, and share your ideas. We are a team, and every member is important.

*Gail Simpson,  
Membership Nurture and Outreach  
Coordinator, United Women in Faith  
Pacific Northwest*

## 2025 READING PROGRAM

We are delighted to announce the release of the [2025 Reading Program](#).

2025  
Reading Program  
Programa De Lectura  
독서 프로그램



 United  
Women  
in Faith

The 2025 Reading Program includes a wide selection of contemporary titles for adults, children and youth in the areas of spiritual growth, social action, nurturing for community, education for mission, and leadership development. This year, we have also included discussion guides for three Bonus Books.

It is available on the [Reading Program webpage](#). Please share the link widely with friends, neighbors, and fellow readers who may be interested.

Find out more on [our webpage](#).

## INFORMATION NEEDED FROM DISTRICT MEMBERSHIP NURTURE AND OUTREACH

(or presidents if your district does not have an MNO)

As we prepare for our Annual Gathering, we will honor those members who have passed away since our last meeting. Since you will be organizing your district's memorial service, it should not be too difficult to provide the information I request for the conference memorial service. Please send me a list of members who have passed away since our last conference meeting. List their name and their church unit. I need this information by the end of August at the latest. Earlier is fine, too. If you need to send an update in September, names can be added. I am also asking that those MNO coordinators or a representative from your district assist me at the memorial service. There will not be a speaking part. I will give you more information closer to the gathering.

We would also like to recognize units that are no longer active. If units in your district have chosen to dissolve in this last year, please provide that information as well as the above information.

*Gail Simpson  
United Women in Faith Conference  
Membership Nurture and Outreach  
Coordinator  
jsimpsfam@comcast.net*

## NEWS FROM THE DISTRICTS

### CREST TO COAST DISTRICT PRESIDENT'S REPORT

We were pleased to have all our officers at the Leadership retreat and all but one attending Mission u. We were also represented at Western Jurisdiction, with three attending. I frequently watch the Voices from the Field and Faith Talks. One recent podcast on the Cunningham Children's Center and Alaska Children and Family Center comes to mind. United Women in Faith serves many children and families across the United States.

It is interesting to learn about them and the services they provide. I also try to forward issues of newsletters, including *Connection*, *The Sharing Line*, and our local *Currants*, as well as other National and local notices to our district units to keep everyone informed and up to date with what is happening in United Women in Faith. Our team is working on better communications with our units and visiting units as needed. Our Membership Nurture and Outreach chairman, with the team's help, is setting up one-day Soul Retreats around the district to get more interest and participation in United Women in Faith and eventually officers at the district level. We will report back as to how well that has worked.

We are working on our September 20 Annual meeting. Registration forms are out, and hopefully, interest is stirred as we have taken it up to our north district in Tacoma, Washington.



It will be held at Tacoma Community House on Friday instead of a Weekend. They will give the program and provide a tour of the facility. This will be an experiment to get more of our northern units involved. We are trying new things here in Crest to Coast to spark interest and participation in order to retain units, as we have lost a few in the last years, and maybe add one or two. We still have openings in our team of officers and are working to fill these positions.

*Bev Thomas, President  
Crest to Coast Missional District*

Find the Summer Issue of the [Currents Newsletter](#) and [District Annual Meeting Registration Form](#) online .

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## INLAND MISSIONAL DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS

Mission u was attended by the entire Inland District Team! We awarded three scholarships to assist other women from our district in attending this important event.

Our Spiritual Growth Coordinator has developed our first Soul Care Retreat, which will be held in Clarkston, WA, on August 17th. It promises to be another must-attend event in the coming years. To demonstrate the importance of sharing our work through newsletter and report communications, another district leader reached out and has now been provided with our model.

Collaboration can be vital in allowing smaller units to contribute to major events. An example in our district is Audubon Park, which will be hosting our District Annual Meeting with the assistance of the Fowler Unit. We

look forward to electing another full slate of officers, including several new ones to the team, and representing our district's entire geographic area. We will also utilize the event to provide hands-on assistance to the food bank.

All United Women in Faith events beyond our local unit are opportunities to meet women from different districts and the Conference, share ideas, offer support, and strengthen our organization. Scholarships have been emphasized to enable all women to share in amazing educational and spiritual experiences.

As I write my last article as Inland District President, I want to express my deep gratitude to my current team and those women who, 30 years ago, invited me to and included me in United Methodist Women. Lifelong friendships and mountaintop experiences have been a part of my life because of them. I look forward to seeing United Women in Faith continue to grow as we inspire, impact, and influence new women from all walks of our communities and all who work to improve the lives of women, children, and youth—everywhere.

*God Bless You All,*

*Judy Dirks, President  
Inland Missional District*

Find the Summer Issue of the [Timely Reflections Newsletter](#) online .

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## NEWS FROM THE PUGET SOUND MISSIONAL DISTRICT

Summer officially began June 20th; ours haven't been "those lazy, hazy,

crazy days of summer." but nine weekly Dog Obedience classes for our little Gretel (born 6/14/23), church potlucks 2-3 times a month, participating in *Mission U* in Yakima July 24-27 & helping work on assembling flannel washable sanitary pads for 'Freedom Kits' (contact [Freedomkits@yahoo.com](mailto:Freedomkits@yahoo.com) for more information); tuning into several UMC Zoom conversations with our Bishop; Zoom *Faith Talks* with Jen Farmer, & several Zoom planning meetings for our upcoming Puget Sound Missional District Annual Meeting. As part of the worship team at our Arlington United Church, I play the piano, alternating with another pianist & organist most Sundays. Then there's endless weeding of our multiple planting areas on our acre of yard (I didn't get a veggie garden planted this year, but I am tending three large tomato plants & 1 potato stash—all in old tires! Five hills of rhubarb get shared with our neighbors & at church.)

Our District Leadership team is cooperating beautifully as we plan our **District Annual Gathering on Saturday, September 7, at the Marysville United Methodist Church**. Our theme is "***We are Servants of the Lord, Today and Always!***" We are very excited to have **Rev. Jan Bolerjack**, from the Riverton Park UMC in Tukwila, as our Keynote Speaker! She will update us on the tireless efforts to help the many refugees and asylum seekers who have found their little church. We also will be sharing several videos to introduce or acquaint everyone with the **Acknowledgement of the Native Peoples lands** where we live, and

also sharing videos from the two National Missions in our state, the **Atlantic Street Center (ASC)**, & **Tacoma Community House**. We're inviting donations of items that could be used by the refugees and asylum seekers at Pastor Jan's church, as well as taking financial offerings for Riverton Park and our district pledge to United Women in Faith. (I will miss attending our State Conference in Spokane Valley in October; our Vice President will represent our district.)

The next day, Sunday, my husband Alan "Lanny," our dog Gretel, & I will be heading east with our Arctic Fox 29' trailer pulled by our Dodge Ram quad-cab truck to meet up with 25 other RVers in Joliet, Illinois, for a "Fantasy Tours" road trip along **Route 66**. I'm hoping to locate any of our 90 United Women in Faith/UMC Mission projects en route, in addition to the planned itinerary, driving 2,200+ miles. We hope to also visit relatives & friends along the route before returning home in mid-November, racking up over 5,000 miles.

We're praying for a safe trip, beautiful weather, & good health. Best wishes to each of you!

*Jeannine "Jeannie" Lish, President,  
Puget Sound Missional District*

## REFLECTIONS FROM SEATAC MISSIONAL DISTRICT – SUMMER 2024

Please mark your calendars for the SeaTac Missional District **Annual Gathering**, which will be held on **Saturday, September 28, 2024**, at Fairwood United Methodist Church in Renton. We thank the Fairwood United Women in Faith for hosting us this year. Registrations are being

prepared and will be sent out soon. If you are interested and do not regularly receive our newsletter, *The Circuit Writer*, please contact Diana Wilson at [dwilson2009@comcast.net](mailto:dwilson2009@comcast.net) (425-641-3297) to be included with all the details.

The theme for our annual gathering is ***Sharing and Serving the Lord with Joy***.

Our scripture is 1 Peter 4:10-11. *"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen."*

Our gathering begins with a continental breakfast at 9:15 am. This allows everyone to visit and check out our book display. We will have two tables. One table will be a display only, and we will share current reading program books and other current books, some of which will count towards your requirements. There will be a second table of donated books that can be taken home. This will include previous reading program books and other books of interest for women's studies and unit planning. A donation basket is available. If you have books that you would like to donate, please bring them that morning. Our Program Resource Coordinator, Carol Sprague, will be there to answer questions.

The program begins at 9:50 a.m. with singing in the sanctuary. Our keynote

speaker is Barbara Dadd-Shaffer, a Member of the Bishop's task force on Hope for Children of Africa.

Our program is about Jamaa Letu; Barbara will share about this PNW Conference-sponsored orphanage in the Democratic Republic of Congo. This is a not-to-be-missed opportunity to learn more about the orphanage and how we can help support its program.

We will sing and present awards. We will also hold a Remembrance Ceremony for those who have passed this past year and a special communion service.

Please look for more details when our Circuit Writer newsletter comes out this month.



*Submitted by*

*Diana Wilson, President  
SeaTac Missional District*

## SEVEN RIVERS MISSIONAL DISTRICT

Registration is open for our annual gathering. **Share Faith, Food, and Fellowship, September 21, 2024**—Wenatchee 1st UMC, 9:00 am-3:00 pm **Registration Deadline: August 29, 2024**. Send Registration form and \$20 registration fee to: Suzanne Taylor, PO Box 157, Chelan WA 98816 Accommodations: A block of hotel rooms for Friday night is being reserved but information is still being finalized. If you are in need of a hotel room please contact Robin at [inlow.robin@gmail.com](mailto:inlow.robin@gmail.com) / 509-840-1056 as soon as possible.

Find the Summer Issue of the [Flame Newsletter](#) and [District Annual Meeting Registration Form](#) online.



Open Hearts.  
Open Minds.  
Open Doors.

The people  
of The United  
Methodist  
Church®

# REGIONALIZATION: EFFECTIVE MINISTRY IN EVERY CULTURE

Regionalization allows United Methodists throughout our connection to best serve their unique communities as they share the love of God, make disciples and transform the world.



## WHAT IS REGIONALIZATION?

- Regionalization allows each region of the church to make decisions that will best support outreach and ministry efforts in their specific setting. This ability is already in place in the central conferences; regionalization will bring that ability to the U.S. as well.
- Regionalization was developed collaboratively by United Methodists across the globe.
- It was adopted by an overwhelming majority of General Conference delegates.
- Nine regional conferences will comprise The UMC: one in the U.S. and eight in Africa, Europe and the Philippines.



## WHAT CAN'T REGIONAL CONFERENCES DO?

- Create their own constitution or adopt any policy in violation of the constitution contained in the General Book of Discipline
- Alter The Doctrinal Standards, Our Theological Task, The Ministry of All Christians or The Social Principles



## WHAT CAN REGIONAL CONFERENCES DO?

- Draft and publish their own regional Book of Discipline, hymnals, books of worship and other liturgical resources
- Set requirements for ordination and licensed ministry with respect to their needs and resources
- Set standards for lay membership
- Develop practices around marriage ceremonies, funerals and other rites that align with cultural contexts and laws in each country
- Reorganize their annual conferences, districts or charge conferences to best serve their missional needs and convene their own judicial courts
- Work with annual conferences to ensure policies and practices align with the laws in each country



## WHAT NOW?

- The regionalization plan will require amending the United Methodist Constitution. Constitutional amendments must be passed by at least 2/3 of General Conference, which already happened.
- Now, the amendments must be ratified by annual conferences. Amendments must be supported by 2/3 of the total voting members of all the annual conferences combined – this process could last until 2026.
- The Council of Bishops will announce when the amendments have met the threshold to become church law.

“Regionalization is a pathway to make manifest the world-wide nature of The United Methodist Church. It will expand the Church’s witness, embrace the cultural diversity, strengthen the connection and empower each missional context.”

BISHOP TRACY SMITH MALONE, PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL OF BISHOPS

## 2024 PACIFIC NORTHWEST CONFERENCE UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH CONFERENCE CALENDAR

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
January 13	1 – 4 p.m.	Winter Conference United Women in Faith Executive Meeting	Zoom
January 23	7 p.m., ET	Conference Officer Briefing	Zoom
February 9	9 a.m. – 3 p.m.	<a href="#">Washington Interfaith Advocacy Day</a>	Olympia, WA
April 7		Spring Conference United Women in Faith Executive Meeting	Zoom
April 19-21		District/Conference Leadership Training Event	<a href="#">Lazy F Camp &amp; Retreat Center</a> , Ellensburg, WA
April 23		<a href="#">General Conference</a>	Charlotte, North Carolina
May 9-11		<a href="#">Western Jurisdiction Quadrennial Meeting</a>	Anchorage, Alaska
June 13-16		<a href="#">Pacific Northwest UMC Conference Annual Session</a>	<a href="#">Central United Protestant Church</a> , Richland, WA
July 25	9 a.m. to 3 p.m.	Summer Conference Executive and District Treasurers Meeting	<a href="#">Wesley UMC</a> , Yakama, WA
July 25-27		Mission u	<a href="#">Wesley UMC</a> , Yakima, WA
September 7		Puget Sound Missional District	<a href="#">Marysville UMC</a> , Marysville WA
September 20		Crest to Coast Missional District Annual Meeting	<a href="#">Tacoma Community House</a> , Tacoma, WA
September 20-21		Seven Rivers Missional District Annual Meeting	<a href="#">Wenatchee First UMC</a> , Wenatchee, WA
September 21		Inland Missional District Annual Meeting	<a href="#">Audubon Park UMC</a> , Spokane , WA
September 28		SeaTac Missional District Annual Meeting	<a href="#">Fairwood Community UMC</a> Renton, WA
October 18		Fall Conference United Women in Faith Executive Meeting	<a href="#">Spokane Valley UMC</a> , Spokane, WA
October 18-19		Conference United Women in Faith Annual Meeting	<a href="#">Spokane Valley UMC</a> ,

**[CHECK THE CALENDAR ON OUR WEBSITE FOR THE LATEST UPDATES.](#)**

## JOIN US ON FACEBOOK



Our FACEBOOK PAGE helps us promote upcoming District, Conference, Western

Jurisdiction and National Events. It is also a great place to share and learn about Social Issues and Action Alerts.

Help us utilize this tool in our mission work by sharing local events or social issues that you are aware of. Find this information and more at our website: [pnwumc.org/uwfaith](http://pnwumc.org/uwfaith).

## OTHER UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH ONLINE RESOURCE

[uwfaith.org](http://uwfaith.org)

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

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

[Flickr.com/photos/UMWomen](https://www.flickr.com/photos/UMWomen)

[Instagram.com/uwfaith](https://www.instagram.com/uwfaith)

[Pinterest.com/UMWomen/created/](https://www.pinterest.com/UMWomen/created/)

[Podcasts and webinars](#)

[response magazine.](#)

[Twitter.com/uwomenfaith](https://www.twitter.com/uwomenfaith)

[Youtube.com/user/uwfaith](https://www.youtube.com/user/uwfaith)

[United Women in Faith Newsletter.](#)

[United Women in Faith Digital](#)

[United Women in Faith E-Store](#)

Photo by Kristina Paukshtite: <https://www.pexels.com/photo/woman-holding-bunch-of-sunflowers-1427879/>

Sunset Beach photo ID [45247905](#) | [Beach Foot](#) © [nodramallama](#) | [Dreamstime.com](#)

## PACIFIC NORTHWEST CONFERENCE UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH OFFICERS FOR 2024

**President**—Deb Avery

**Vice President**—Stell Wallace

**Secretary**—Jenny Bygland

**Treasurer**—Roberta Headley

**Program Resources**—OPEN

**Communications**—Jenny Bygland

**Education & Interpretation**—Chidi Okoro

**Membership Nurture & Outreach**—Gail Simpson

**Social Action**—Ja net' Crouse

**Spiritual Growth**—Janice Catrell

**Committee on Nominations Chair**—Marsha Aufenkamp

**Committee on Nominations Member**—Judy Dirks

**Committee on Nominations Member**—Carol Gruen

**Committee on Nominations Member**—OPEN

**Missional District Presidents:**

**Crest to Coast**—Bev Thomas

**Inland**—Judy Dirks

**Puget Sound**—Jeannine Lish

**SeaTac**—Diana Wilson

**Seven Rivers**—Barb Stout

## SIGN UP FOR YOUR NEWSLETTER

**THE SHARING LINE** is the newsletter of the Pacific Northwest Conference United Women in Faith published four times a year. Complimentary copies are sent to the following: Pacific Northwest Conference leaders, local unit presidents, District officers, Conference officers, pastors and District Superintendents.

This newsletter is available online at [pnwumc.org/uwfaith](http://pnwumc.org/uwfaith). To receive email notification when new issues are published, or you wish to receive an email copy, send your email address to: Jenny Bygland at [jbygland@kentmethodist.com](mailto:jbygland@kentmethodist.com)

## SHARING LINE DEADLINE

Anything for the **Fall Sharing Line** should be emailed to Jenny Bygland ([jbygland@kentmethodist.com](mailto:jbygland@kentmethodist.com)) by **Monday, October 28**. *Late articles will be included as space permits.*

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## THE SHARING LINE

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH  
PACIFIC NORTHWEST CONFERENCE  
PO BOX 13650  
DES MOINES WA 98198



The LORD  
*lifts up*  
those who are  
*bowed down:*  
the LORD  
*loves*  
the righteous.  
*Psalms 146:8*

**THIS ISSUE**  
**ANNUAL GATHERING**  
**REGISTRATION**  
**PAGES 3 & 4**