



DECEMBER 2022 Print a PDF copy of the Newsletter by clicking [HERE](#)

Purpose

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.

Living The Vision

Turning faith, hope and love into action on behalf of women, children and youth around the world.

CALENDAR

Feb 25 Every Member Enrichment Event
Apr 22 Spiritual Growth Retreat
Jul 13-15 Mission u
Jul 28-30 Mission u
Sep 23 Cascadia District Annual Meeting
Oct 21 OR-ID UWF Annual Meeting

You can always find the complete Conference Calendar with updates on our website at: <https://www.umi.org/calendarofevents>



New Format
President's Message
Treasurer's News
Spiritual Growth Column
Cascadia District Team

New format for Newsletter

As the new Communications Coordinator I would like to update the newsletter in hopes of making it more readable. The newsletter is only one way of communicating with United Women in Faith and I would like to make changes that encourage women to read the newsletter when it comes into their inbox. As you may have noticed, the top of the newsletter has a new look. I was looking for something that is a tad more current but still speaks to who and where we are. Want a printed copy? No Problem! Look back up at the top for the link to print a PDF copy, **“Print a PDF copy of the Newsletter by clicking [HERE](#).”** This newsletter is for you so all comments and suggestions are greatly appreciated.

Thanks for your assistance.
Janelle Bolt, janelle@busyhands.biz
Cascadia District Communications Coordinator

From President Gloria Marple

Hope Is on Its Way

“Hope is on its way!!” What does that mean to you? As we are in the midst of Advent, we are looking forward to celebrating Jesus’s birth. And we have “hope: for the coming year....”

What an interesting word, “hope”. How would you define “hope”? A retired pastor posed that question on Facebook recently and it got me thinking (for at least a minute). What came to me were phrases like “Hope you’re okay?” “Hope the weather clears up?” “Hope it doesn’t hurt?” When I did psycho-educational groups, I used to teach people about feelings and behaviors. Where does “hope” fit? I refer you to Luke 3:15-16 and the book “Celebrating Abundance”. And maybe an email on the subject to share....

When I had thought about what to write in this my first “Pres” column, I thought I might use a short biography. But then I thought I told many of you my story when I did a presentation on “School to Prison Pipeline” or at other times so I decided not to do that. Plus my PC died with the hard drive and all my “stuff” on it. But I would be happy to share if anyone would like.

What I really want to say is that I am nervous and excited to have this opportunity to be President of Cascadia District for United Women in Faith. While I have been a part United Methodist Women since before I was born (another story) I do not take this role lightly. I hope (there’s that word again) to grow and learn and share with you all. We are going through a time of change and rebirth (advent?) but the purpose and the intent of United Women in Faith is strong. We just may have to work a little harder and become more creative. Please continue to join me on the adventure. How can we invite others to join us? How can we acknowledge and honor those units or churches that no longer have an active unit? We all need to work together....

Our ‘Every Member Enrichment Event’ will be a step in that direction and journey. Watch for something new and exciting coming.....I “hope”....> 😊

Peace, Gloria
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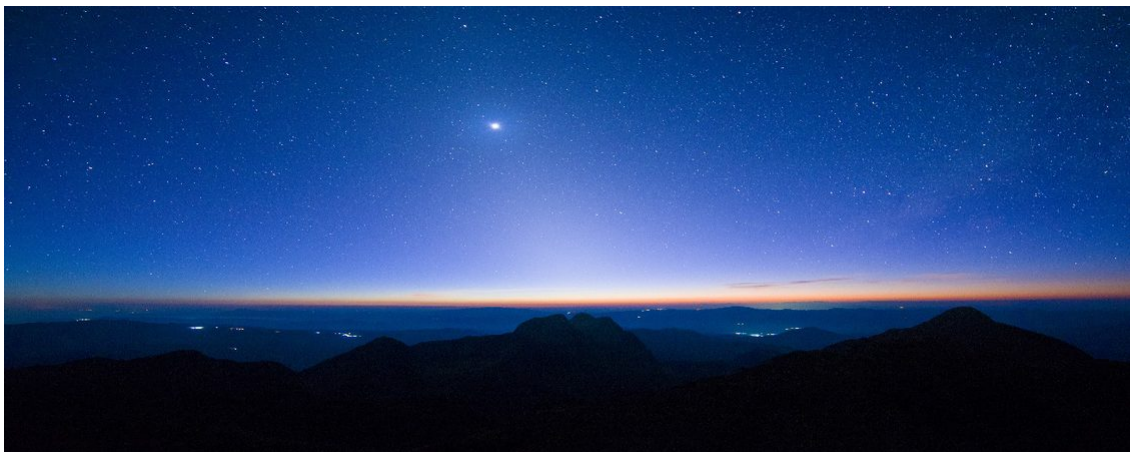
From Treasurer Carolyn Forbes

The holiday season is now upon us. This is the time of the year when we take a few moments to assess where we are for the year. Cascadia District pledged 20,000 to missions for 2022. Some of the fourth quarter funds have started arriving. To date we have received 15,0003.23 towards our pledge. I'm crossing my fingers that we will get to our goal by the end of the year. 4th quarter payments are due by December 6. Please contact me at cfourforbes@gmail.com if you have any questions.

I received a message from the national treasurer to remind units that the act of emptying the treasury at the end of the year is important because the funds were given to be used for mission, not to build up a bank account for the unit. Saving for a rainy day is not good stewardship since today is a rainy day for thousands of women, children, and youth for whom our mission money offers hope.

A reminder that individuals can give to the Cascadia District anytime online with this link, <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z6WS>. Any money donated through this site goes to the mission fund.

Blessings,
Carolyn



All Around

As Christmas approaches, we are engulfed by the sights, sounds and scents of the season. Sometimes it seems too much, too soon. But I say: Lean into it! Accept every opportunity to capture the Spirit of Christmas and let all aspects enrich your soul.

Recently my book group has been studying “Becoming Rooted – One Hundred Days of Reconnecting with Sacred Earth” by Randy Woodley, an Indigenous Native American. Most of the book concentrates on our responsibility to preserve, protect, and cherish Sacred Earth. One section really touched me because it reminded me of something I had learned before about our indigenous people and how they pray and pay gratitude by addressing each direction:

Turn to the East of the Rising Sun to be thankful for the new day and new things to come.

Turn South to the warm sun in which we work and take care of life's necessities.

Turn to the West, where the Sun sets, accepting the places of darkness and death, the circle of life.

Turn North, towards winter – a time for reflection, storytelling, innovation, passing on tradition and building family.

Returning to the East, Look up, thanking the Creator for all things of life.

Look down and show gratitude for Mother Earth where all things grow.

Finally, look to myself, praying for help because I am only a human being.

I believe we can encompass this directional prayerful approach to the Christmas Season:

Let's turn to the East, welcoming the newborn babe, full of promise, hope and salvation. From the East also come the Wise Men who represent the wider world, seeking wisdom and truth.

Let's turn South, embracing the warmth of joy and generosity presented to us through music, gifting, feasting, decorating and fellowship.

Let's turn to the West to watch the dying Sun as a symbol of God's sacrifice of His Beloved Son who died for our sins. But soon, lights emerge, and hope arises, exemplified by the stars and all the twinkling lights around us everywhere. The Good news glows!

Let's turn North where we gather in, embracing our traditions, our families, our customs and our favorite things, remembering that others have their favorite things, different from ours.

Turning back to the East, we look up, seeking our own North Star, our Star of Bethlehem, the Glory of God and the angelic host heralding the Good News.

Looking down, we realize the blessings of the Earth that sustain our life and enrich our Christmas Season. From gold, frankincense and myrrh, products of the Earth, brought as gifts to the Holy Child, to our Christmas trees, holly, and everything we serve on our holiday table.

The Sacred Earth is where we plant our feet and make our home.

Lastly, we look inward, asking the Great Spirit's help in drawing out that nugget of joy deep within and igniting the Christmas spirit of love and hope, sharing with others.

So, all around us we have the Spirit of Christmas: reach out for it, grasp it, embrace it, and most of all, share it!

As a final note, as I was pondering how our Indigenous Peoples welcome in the Great Spirit from all directions, I realized a striking similarity to the theology of the fifth century patron saint of Ireland, St. Patrick, as expressed in the final section of St. Patrick's Breastplate. I encourage you to look it up and read through the entire hymn which beautifully acknowledges God's presence in the whole of Creation, but I will end with the last few lines...

“...Christ with me
Christ before me
Christ behind me
Christ in me
Christ beneath me
Christ above me
Christ on my right

Christ on my left
Christ when I lie down
Christ when I sit down
Christ when I arise
Christ in the hearts of every man who thinks of me
Christ in the mouths of everyone who speaks of me
Christ in every eye who sees me
Christ in every ear who hears me.
I arise today
Through the mighty strength, the invocation of the Trinity
Through belief in the Threeness
Through confession of the Oneness of the Creator of Creation.”

May God Bless You All Around.
Linda Langham
Spiritual Growth, Cascadia District

Cascadia District Executive Team

President - Gloria Marple
Secretary - Norma Sohn
Treasurer - Carolyn Forbes
Membership Nurture & Outreach - Sharon Perez
Spiritual Growth - Linda Langham
Communications - Janelle Bolt
Nominations: Chair – Sue Chambers
Jane Storey

Ways to Stay Connected



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Women
in Faith

United Women in Faith

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