



United
Women
in Faith

Sage District President's Message, Joyce Orem

For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.
Philippians 2:13 (NLT)

These words are evident at Rupert United Methodist Church. United Women in Faith, United Methodist Men, and congregants work together to provide lapghans, and blankets for the **Warm Up America** Ministry. Lapghans and blankets are given to Mini-Cassia Veterans organization at Christmas time. Also, at Christmas, lapghans and blankets are placed in 100 special Christmas food boxes for clients of the Open Hearts Food Pantry, and given throughout the year as needed. Each blanket or lapghan is labeled with a special tag.



More lapghans and blankets were blessed on Sunday, March 12. Left: Kynzlie and Aleigh Ploof helped bless blankets with Rev. Brenda Sene. Middle: ready to be stored for Christmas boxes and



distribution.

Right: Blankets and lapghans are placed on pews to be blessed by laying on of hands by congregants.

OPEN HEARTS FOOD PANTRY



Rupert Elementary School Backpack Program: Open Hearts Food Pantry is boxing food for twenty-one children while Rupert Elementary is on the waiting list for the Backpack program from the Idaho Food Bank. The original list states



each child receives 1 box of Mac and Cheese, 1 can tuna fish, 1 can fruit, 1 can vegetables, 1 can soup, 1 jar peanut butter, 2 Clif Bars, 1 orange, 1 pear, and 1 potato. Substitutions are made each week for items we do not have, such as applesauce for an orange. Below: 100 Christmas boxes are wrapped and filled with food for a Christmas dinner. Turkeys and hams are given out with each box.



Left: The hat, glove, and scarf tree overflows. These were given to the Open Hearts Food Pantry clients in 2023.

Right: The Open Hearts Food Pantry cart was full of donated socks from the Wilson Theater. Brand new socks were brought into the theater during the showing of a movie. During the snowball fight scene, socks were thrown, instead of snowballs.



Open Hearts Food Pantry has many community partners, and donors within Idaho, and other states. Donations of hygiene kits come from the Rupert Humanitarian Center, food drives from many organizations and churches, and individuals. Local businesses such as grocery stores, Kentucky Fried Chicken, Amalgamated Sugar, DOT Foods, the Bishop's Warehouse, are some of our local donors. Over 6,000 people were served in 2022, and the numbers are increasing each month.

Truly, God is working within the members at Rupert United Methodist Church.

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH READING PROGRAM BOOK REVIEW

Rural Kentucky in the 1930's was a hard-scrabble place, where people worked hard, lived off the land, and found few comforts or diversions from the rigors of everyday life. But thanks to President Roosevelt's Kentucky Pack Horse Library Project, books became one bright spot in their hard lives. Local women were hired as traveling librarians to take books into the back country where schools and libraries were absent.

The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek, by Kim Michele Richardson, is a novel about one of these remarkable women, Cussy Mary Carter. Not only was Cussy Mary brave, and willing to

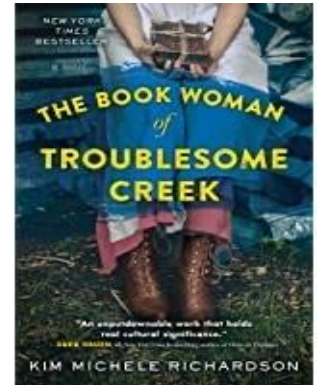
UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH READING PROGRAM

The United Women in Faith Reading Program is a powerful tool that can be used to fulfill our purpose: building community, knowing God, becoming whole persons through Jesus, creating supportive fellowships, and expanding our concept of mission.

Did you know the reading program has around 250 books at any one time to choose from, including both fiction and non-fiction books? It is organized around five themes that support our purpose? The reading program includes several movies, podcasts, and children's books?

ride out in all sorts of weather on poor or nonexistent roads astride a cantankerous mule.

She was a compassionate human connection among the isolated shacks of her beloved Appalachian hollers. Because of a medical disorder which caused her skin to appear blue, she also faced fierce prejudice as she worked to bring the joy of books to her patrons. The Meridian United Women in Faith Book Club chose this book for their February read; it got a big thumbs-up from everyone.



So even if you have never considered yourself much of a reader, there are ways to fulfill the Reading Program's goals of teaching, enriching, and nurturing ourselves and our members. Start a book club. Listen to a Faith Talks podcast on your morning drive. Share a children's book with your children, grandchildren, or a Sunday School class. Make some popcorn and watch a good movie. Incorporate a picture book into your Unit meeting. There are so many ways to participate, and so much to be gained when you do! If you have any questions, would like an easy-to-use list of the books, or just need some encouragement, please contact me. I would love to talk about books with you!

[Claudia Moberly, clmoberly@gmail.com](mailto:clmoberly@gmail.com)

UWF Reading Program Completion Certificates

Last Name	First Name	Unit/President	Plan Completed	# per unit
Wells	Maralyn	Caldwell/Vera Kenyon	I	
<i>Caldwell</i>				1
Essinger	Letha	Fruitland/Leona Whitcomb	IV	
Tolbert	Roxie	Fruitland/Leona Whitcomb	II	
Whitcomb	Leona	Fruitland/Leona Whitcomb	II	
<i>Fruitland</i>				3
Cook	David	Joseph/Ingrid Cook	I	
Cook	Ingrid	Joseph/Ingrid Cook	I	
<i>Joseph</i>				2
Halverson	Judy	Hillview/Angela Barber	IV	
Potter	Ellen	Hillview/Angela Barber	I	
<i>Hillview (Boise)</i>				2
Battema	Evelyn	Meridian/Dixie Jacky	I	
Jacky	Dixie	Meridian/Dixie Jacky	I	
Lemmon	Nancy	Meridian/Dixie Jacky	I	
Moberly	Claudia	Meridian/Dixie Jacky	IV	
Seavey	Bettye	Meridian/Dixie Jacky	I	
<i>Meridian</i>				5
Holland	Jean	Nampa/Rochelle Killett	II	
Killett	Rochelle	Nampa/Rochelle Killett	IV	
<i>Nampa</i>				2
Nagel	Mary	Trinity/Joni Pace	I	
Pace	Joni	Trinity/Joni Pace	I	
Pottorff	Kay	Trinity/Joni Pace	I	
Tow	Lois	Trinity/Joni Pace	II	
<i>Trinity (Id Falls)</i>				4
2022 TOTAL				19

Sage District 2023 Calendar of Events

- July 13 – 15 or July 28 – 30, 2023 Mission u, zoom
- Saturday, September 30, 2023 – Sage District Fall Celebration
- October, 2023 (TBA) – Conference Fall Celebration

Idaho Legislative Wrap Up, Apr 2, 2023, 8:29 PM

Greetings. Yes, the 2023 Idaho Legislature session is finally finished.

Thank you for responding to the call for actions to contact your state legislators these past months. We are women of faith, hope and love in action!

Peace, Judy Halverson, 208-859-2049

Oregon-Idaho Conference United Women in Faith, Social Action Coordinator

The Good!!

S1161 Tuition Grants, Empowering Parent-- FAILED!!

No education voucher-type of bills got through this session! Stay tuned for next year, however.

House Bill 24 Work Force Development--PASSED! The Idaho Launch bill made it through the Senate after squeaking through the House. There was a trailer bill that reduced the amount awarded to students and some requirements added. Idaho Report Blog
<https://blog.idahoreports.idahoptv.org/2023/03/22/idaho-launch-bill-heads-to-gov-little/>

SJR101a Initiative Constitutional Amendment-- FAILED!! Idaho Reports Blog:
<https://blog.idahoreports.idahoptv.org/2023/03/30/constitutional-referendum-change-fails-in-house/>

H0374 Abortion ban exception bill-- PASSED

I apologize for not keeping up with that abortion ban exception bill, 374, after the Wednesday House State Affairs Committee sent the bill to the House.

The bill passed easily by House and Senate Republicans. Most of the House Democrats walked out of the chamber during the vote in protest of the bill--this bill does not protect women's health and exceptions not broad enough to cover all pregnancy complications. As I said in my last email, this bill's provisions to get rid of affirmative defense and adding exceptions of miscarriage, ectopic and molar pregnancies are all the pro-life Republicans, like Rep Julianne Young were willing to give in this session. Hopefully, next session more can be added to protect women's health and protect their doctors. Idaho Report Blog:

<https://blog.idahoreports.idahoptv.org/2023/03/29/idaho-life-of-the-mother-bill-advances/>

SB1039A, Renter Protection bill-- PASSED!! Idaho Statesman article:
<https://www.idahostatesman.com/news/politics-government/state-politics/article272583671.html>

The Bad

H0201, Maternal and Infant Health Coverage --FAILED--didn't even get a hearing in the House Health and Welfare Committee. This bill would have increased Medicaid income eligibility for pregnant and postpartum coverage for women to 205% of the federal poverty level (FPL) and extends coverage from 60 days postpartum to the national standard of 12 months

H081, Maternal Mortality Review Committee Continuation. --FAILED Held in the House Health and Welfare Committee.

The Ugly

House Bill 0071 prohibits gender affirming care to transgender youth-- PASSED both House and Senate, waiting for Gov. Little --**signed**. This bill will worsen Idaho's physician shortage and interfere with patient's rights /

privacy is an instrumental part of medical care.

Idaho Reports Blog:
<https://blog.idahoreports.idahoptv.org/2023/03/27/bill-to-ban-transgender-youth-medical-care-passes-senate/>

Sage District EMEE Meeting Minutes, Maralyn Wells, Secretary

Saturday March 4, 2023, 10:00 am MST/9:am PST

Joyce Orem, president, opened the meeting with general announcements, then started the meeting with the Purpose, the Prayer Calendar on the Dulac Community in Louisiana, and the Lectionary Reading.

Bonnie Anderson did the opening worship. Our theme is Water Justice for Women.

Mary Getchell explained the Land Acknowledgment, lands belonging to the Indigenous people and how we can accept them. She showed a map, of all the places where Indigenous people lived, from National Geographic, (1972) which included Canada, U.S., and Mexico. She read an article on the Northwest Coast which was of more interest to us.

Kay Durham, who is Education and Interpretation Coordinator presented interesting stories on Helping Women and how they helped in their churches and units. She stressed that it does not make any difference about our size or wealth we can make a difference.

Lory Nesor gave an update on the Legacy Fund and encouraged everyone to remember the date March 23, 2023. The date was 1869 when a few women got together with a few pennies

and started the organization. The theme is The Future is Now. She then presented a slide showing the different ways to give.

Mary Getchell, our Social Action Coordinator, gave us five ways we can be active in Social Action: 1. Get on Judy Halverson's email list to get all the info. 2. Find out more about the wind farm in Minidoka County. 3. March 13th at 1:00 pm at the Capitol will be a presentation on She Workes Hard for Her Money, the gap in Idaho men get 25% more than women. 4. An exhibition at the Art Museum by Jean Laman a northern Piute on being aware of culture. 5. She gave us links on the Snake River and its history.

Jean Spence, our treasurer, said we have 47 churches in our district, 20 with units, and 16 units giving. Our Sage District was the second highest giver with \$27,452.47 given in 2022 were short from the projected goal of \$37,000.00. Listed the churches that have sent in their pledges.

Claudia Moberly, our Resource Coordinator, said in 2022 there were 15 members who participated in the Reading Program. She then explained

how the Reading Program works and encouraged all to read.

Marilyn Wudarcki, our Membership, Nurture, Outreach Coordinator, talked to us about the Healthy Vital Unit program, explained the criteria for it and then talked about Unit Partners and how that program works.

Evelyn Battema introduced our speaker, Rochelle Killett. Her topic was **Water Justice for Women**. She had a worship table in her church with a Bible, rock, and the Communion Elements. She had a story of how the Blacks were denied use of water for years. We heard the song **Wade in the Water** sung by Sweet Honey in the

Rock. Also, there are many mentions of water in the Bible. She read from **First Nations** Bible. When she completed her presentation, we broke into break out rooms to discuss four questions we were given. She then closed with the song **The Water Song**, dedicated to William Commando.

Joyce closed the meeting with final announcements of a retreat sponsored by Cascadia District April 22, 2023 all are welcomed. Mission u July 13 – 15 virtual and July 28 – 30 virtual. Study is Living in the Kin-dom on the Lord's Prayer. Sept 30th is our District meeting and October 20 and 21st Conference meeting.



United Women in Faith



Empowering and uplifting women through shared faith, service, and fellowship

A Message from Chris Mitchell

Dear Sisters,

Do you realize what a significant role that you play in United Women in Faith? Without each of you, United Women in Faith could not exist. Participation, prayers, and advocacy are all important pieces of being a United Women in Faith member, but it is our pledge to mission that is at the foundation of all that we do. Without

your financial support, United Women in Faith could not be in mission. All funding for every level of United Women in Faith originates from the local units.

Our mission is clear: **“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.” Some examples of the programs that United Women in Faith offer are Mission u, the Reading Program, Faith Talks podcasts, Voices from the Field, leadership development days, Assembly, Just Energy for All/Climate Justice campaign, and Interrupting the School to Prison Pipeline/Racial Justice campaign.

Our vision is equally clear: “Turning faith, hope and love into action on behalf of women, children and youth around the world.” We support about 90 national mission institutions, and we support 7 regional missionaries that serve in different regions throughout the world. United Women in Faith has recently given substantial grants to two programs: Girls Embracing Mothers (an organization dedicated to breaking the cycle of incarceration for daughters of

incarcerated mothers), and Seventh Generation Fund for Indigenous Peoples (in support of the “Thriving Women Program,” empowering Indigenous women to address gender-based oppression and violence.)

It’s a time of financial challenge and change for United Women in Faith at every level of our organization. Mission giving has been steadily decreasing for the past few years, but the needs are still great. This month, conferences have been asked to find ways to increase our mission giving so that programs and staff do not have to be cut. In response to that request, I would like to challenge each of you to send an extra amount to mission giving beyond your local unit. Together we can continue the work of putting love into action to change the world.

United by God’s love, **Chris Mitchell, United Women in Faith President**, Oregon Idaho Conference

Mary Getchell, Social Action

Dear Friends,

If you’d like to learn directly from women in Ukraine how United Women in Faith are helping them during this ongoing war, listen to “Voices from the Field, Love, Justice and Service” on the United Women in Faith website. It’s long and requires close attention as they speak English to their best abilities, but so informative. Try a half hour or so.

But closer to home: Speaker of the US House of Representatives from 1977 to 1987, Tip O’Neill, often used the phrase “all politics is local.” Interestingly though the largest voter turnout is in **Presidential Election Years**. Voters lose their patience

and/or knowledge as they work their way down the ballot to more local candidates, a phenomenon known as “voter fatigue.” The past several years I have become more and more aware of how important local elections are. Who is your representative on city council? Who is your mayor, your district representative and state senator? When was the last time you called or wrote them to express support or question their actions? Have you worked on a local campaign?

All the issues concerning women and children, and indeed all people, that United Women in Faith support need each one of us – to care, to contribute, to

march, to call, to write again and again and again. No, our candidates don't always win, but our voices must be heard.

James 2: ¹⁴ What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? ¹⁵ Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily

food. ¹⁶ If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? ¹⁷ In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. ¹⁸ But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds." Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds. ¹⁹

Proud of all you do in your local units to serve your communities



I received an update on the Legacy Fund following the March 23 Day of Giving. It was a great success. Together we have raised \$301, 392.27.

We are continuing to accept gifts towards Day of Giving until April 7. Our theme is "The Future is Now" and we are hoping to complete our goal of \$3.25 million in 2023. Thanks to all of you who participated. The event was recorded and is a Facebook video. You can look at it here: <https://fb.watch/jCARVbfiFR/>

It has been announced that Harriet Jane Olson is retiring this year. You or your unit

Blessings, Lory Nesor, Legacy Liaison, Oregon-Idaho Conference

might want to give a gift to the Legacy Fund in honor of the many years of work and service she has given to our organization. When you get to the Legacy Fund page there is an opportunity to give a gift in honor and when it comes to the name - HJO - is listed and just click on that. You also have an opportunity to write a message of gratitude.

Some of you may have made your first donation to the Legacy Fund this year. If that is the case, please let me know (Lneser@aol.com). We have a new 150next legacy pin for those who give for the first time. I will send you the pin.

MEMBERSHIP NURTURE AND OUTREACH

Today I am going to focus on "nurture". We, as United Women in Faith, are a nurturing people. We love to nurture others, and we love to be nurtured ourselves. What are your favorite ways to nurture others? Do you call someone you haven't seen lately? Do you email? Do you text? Do you pray for that person? Nurturing is a way to strengthen

your United Women in Faith unit and the women in it. Let me know what your favorite way to nurture is.

What about nurturing yourself? Personally, I love to take walks. I enjoy the solitude and the peace when I am walking. I love smiles and hugs from my great-granddaughter. I am not a very talkative person, but I do like to listen to others. I

get joy out of being part of a group who cares. I get joy out of going to United Women Faith meetings because I truly enjoy the women. What a depth and breadth of knowledge they have, and I am able to share my knowledge of United Women in Faith with them. Sometimes nurture is just the little things.

“There is Someone who thinks about you all the time! The thoughts go something like this: **You are special** (Ephesians 2:10); **You belong** (1 Peter 2:9); **You are forgiven** (Psalm 103:12); **You are loved** (Jeremiah 31:3); **You are precious** (1 Corinthians 6:20)” from *Precious and Dearly Loved Devotions for Women*.

[Marilyn Wudarcki - mwudarcki@gmail.com](mailto:mwudarcki@gmail.com)

Looking for resources from United Women in Faith? Visit uwfaithresources.org. United Women in Faith Digital

While the internet is nothing new, we have all encountered new opportunities over the past few years, discovering ways we can connect with one another and engage resources to nurture our faith and support the ways we put faith, hope, and love in action.

United Women in Faith Digital is a safe and secure online space to do exactly that. Connect with other members, access online versions of your favorite United Women in Faith resources, and more. Visit uwfaith.org/digital to create your free account or to log in and connect with over 4,000 other members on the platform.

Our Purpose - We are a community of women whose purpose is to know God and 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.

Mission - 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.

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



United
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in Faith

[A Meditation from Bonnie Anderson, Spiritual Growth](#)

It has been a long winter Yes, sooo long. Even today the morning was sunny, calm, with a promise of warmth. And then the temperature started dropping, the wind started blowing, in a little while snowflakes blasting by making a skiff on the lawn, and my hopeful expectations of spring seemed destroyed. So too our days are can be doomed by inner storms.

How often in the morning do we start with hope in our mind and then have that critical little voice in our brain start telling us we don't have enough time, we aren't smart enough, people don't/won't like us, etc., etc.? This voice can be in the background all through the day, destroying our love and hope, and even destroying our attitude towards others!

I recently listened to a podcast by Dan Harris "Mind-Body-Spirit" about using meditation to train your brain to love yourself, to increase kindness; to increase the feeling of love for yourself and others. When we hear that self-critical voice, he says we need to give ourselves a hug and tell that voice "*Things will be ok*". He felt that was better than the "*its ok, sweetie*", suggested by the meditation guide... *A note: Self-love (not narcissist love) helps you to love others, too.*

Dan worked at length, even doing a 360 self-evaluation (*where business associates, friends, family and others critic your good and bad points.*) But we don't have to go into that depth! He noted that the practice can be reduced to simply applying a few minutes in the morning or evening (*or any*

available time of day) directing love to yourself; to others you care about; to "those you have a hard time caring about"; and to the world in general. We can connect to the more positive parts of our self-motivation, less on the negative and more on the compassionate.

Let us use these ideas to take quiet time with our Lord and the Holy Spirit. We can give that love and kindness to ourselves even if we are feeling like we don't deserve it (*doesn't the Lord always love us*); give love and kindness to those we love, give love, empathy, and compassion to those we don't feel kindly toward or worse; and feel love and compassion for the entire world.

Risen Christ
 come to us
now.
Open our ears,
 that we may
hear your word.
Open our minds,
 that we may
understand



 the scriptures before us.
Speak to our hearts,
 that our lives may be transformed
 by your love.
Guide our steps as we go forth,
 that we may be your beloved
children,
 witnessing to your resurrection,
 and proclaiming your message
 throughout the earth. **Amen**

*For more information go to NPR/TED Radio
(Mind-Body-Spirit-Dan Harris)*

MISSION U 2023, Registration is now open.

Mission u will be virtual again this year. *There is no cost.*

Registration links are available on the United Women in Faith website

<https://www.umoi.org/umwmissionu>



Session 1 - Thursday - Saturday July 13-15

Session 2 - Friday-Sunday July 28-30.

Zoom will open 15 minutes before designated start time

Session 1 - Thursday, July 13: Opening worship at 6 pm PDT; 7 pm MDT

Friday, July 14: 9 am - 1:30 pm PDT; 10 am - 2:30 MDT

Saturday, July 15: 9 am - 1 pm PDT; 10 am - 2 pm MDT

Closing worship at 1:15 pm PDT; 2:15 pm MDT

Register here: <https://forms.gle/iCZqoeGx8MSnf2kXA>

Session 2 - Friday, July 28: Opening worship at 6 pm PDT; 7 pm MDT

Saturday, July 29: 9 am - 4 pm PDT; 10 am - 5 pm MDT Sunday, July 30: 2 pm - 4 pm PDT; 3 pm - 5 pm MDT

Closing worship at 4:15 pm PDT; 5:15 MDT

Register here: <https://forms.gle/C6Sbj4nxPMyMPFuC9>

_There are two study leaders for each session. You can actually register for both week-ends and hear the same lessons from a different perspective.

Theme: Living the Kin-dom: Exploring the Lord's Prayer as a Spiritual Practice for Social Transformation, Continuing the Overall Theme: Who Can We be Together? Building Communities of Hope and Joy

This year's study for Mission U include the ways Jesus preached and ministered to the kin-dom around him. Jesus said those inheriting the coming and future kingdom were those pushed outside the hierarchies of belonging – the hungry, the stranger, and the prisoner. The Lord's prayer speaks well to the second year of the curricula. We will focus on the invitation to posture our lives and transform ourselves in ways that bring us proximity to the kin-dom.

Mission u Study Leaders



Jeff Lowery is an Ordained Deacon who is currently serving as minister of Service, Outreach, and Youth Ministry at Tigard United Methodist Church. Jeff has a Masters of Divinity from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary and has served in a variety of settings including the founding of a youth mission program L.A.S.T. (Learning and Serving Together). Jeff and his wife Rev. Eilidh Lowery live in Portland, OR with their "soon to be graduated from high school" daughter Paige. Jeff is a musician and songwriter and has released a number of albums including

his most recent *Strangely Warmed*, which contains songs about John Wesley's theology and history.

More info about Jeff's music can be found at www.jefflowerymusic.com



Amanda-Gayle Reed is a West Virginia native who grew up in the United Methodist church. She graduated from West Virginia State University with a BA in Sociology and from Iliff School of Theology with a Masters of Divinity. The first nine years of her ministry were spent in the West Virginia Conference where she was ordained. In 2017 she began serving "on loan" in the Oregon-Idaho Conference and officially transferred her membership in 2019. She currently serves Gooding and Crossroads in the Magic Valley.

Sage Wise, Sage District Newsletter, Lucy Scopinich, lkscop0661@gmail.com