



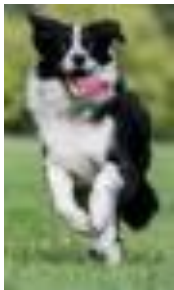
United
Women
in Faith

A Letter from Our Sage District President, Joyce Orem

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

It is usual for the body to break down as it ages. Regardless, we are given this promise in the book of 2 Corinthians: *“Though outwardly we are wearing out, inwardly we are renewed day by day. Our suffering is light and temporary and is producing for us an eternal glory that is greater than anything we can imagine.”*

Lucy (King) Scopinich, our Sage District communications coordinator, and I have a unique relationship. Our mothers were good friends through many relationships. Our mothers were the wives of



farm homesteaders in one of many homestead projects offered to veterans of WWI, WWII, Korean, and Vietnam after WWII. They knew each other through WSCS (Woman’s Society of Christian Service) and UMW (United Methodist Women). Lucy and I are farmers’ daughters,

have a farm background, and Lucy tells me I remind her of a cow dog nipping at cow’s feet so she has nicknamed me ‘Nipper.’ She envisions a Border Collie, I envision a Blue Healer, or maybe the original Nipper “His Master’s Voice” (the Victor and RCA Victor dog), which I remember on my parents’ 78 RPM records.



However, there are days when this ‘old dawg’ cannot keep up with the herd due to surgeries and health issues, yet I can be energized, renewed day by day, and learn new ‘tricks.’ I learned many new

tricks, and was renewed every day at Leadership Development Days, held virtually January 19 through January 21, 2023. The scripture was Philippians 3:12-16: 12; Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. With 13 brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ



Jesus. All of us, then, who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you. Only let us live up to what we have already attained. (NIV) Through worship, plenaries, and workshops, I learned many new tricks or information United Women in Faith is creating to keep women of all faiths and denominations united in our mission work for the benefit of women, children, and youth (women do not have to be United Methodist to be in

our organization). There are three areas of Inspire, Influence, and Impact, which I learned more about. Inspire is the spiritual development of members through Soul Care. If our soul is not healthy, neither are we healthy as a person. We went through a body scan in a plenary to focus on our surroundings, our bodies, and how to recognize tense areas, as well as calm areas in our bodies. Soul Care retreats are another way to keep our spiritual development going, along with Faith Talks on spiritual development, books in our Reading Program focusing on spiritual growth, Mission studies which include deepening our spiritual disciplines, and other activities available online.

Influence is the area of developing leadership skills, which included how to use our new Excite and Invite information, setting goals (as we do have goals to obtain), developing action plans, learning how to be leaders in anxious times, and developing information (as a mature disciple) for congregations trying to understand disaffiliation and the misinformation and confusion which is being produced.

Impact is the area of advocacy, which is the foundation of our organization (some of which we have attained, yet much more work needs to be attained). This includes our mission giving areas, new platforms set up on our website to be informed on what our priorities are, and other important tool kits (Some are still being developed as we change and grow).

This was a very inspiring and informational 2 ½ days of awe, tears, anger, love, and accountability.

(John Wesley always stressed that people be accountable). Our Sage District officers and Oregon-

Idaho Conference officers will be reviewing the information the attendees gathered and will share with you in the future.

In the meantime, I will strive, with God's help and to the best of my ability to follow this verse from Philippians 3:14 "I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."

As we remember our past foremothers work and our foundation (while letting go the old ideas and language which no longer relates to our work) who were BOLD and had such wisdom to keep us continuing on for over 150 years (including Lucy and my mother's work), let us continue our work today, and envision the future for another 150 plus years. As Leadership Development Days was winding down with our closing worship, some things to remember which was written in Chat during the Zoom meeting: "Increase our visions for missions." "The work of United Women in Faith is carried out in community, not sitting in a committee."

In the meantime, enjoy the pictures of Woman's Society of Christian Service (WSCS) pin (I have my



mother's Past President pins from WSCS and United Methodist Women), a Border Collie, a Blue Heeler (looks like my dog Bear I

had in high school for a brief eleven months) and of course the original Nipper. (I did not include my picture as I am not photogenic.)

Joyce H. Orem, Sage District United Women in Faith President

Sage District 2023 Calendar of Events

- Idaho Legislative Event, February, 2023 (TBA) – Date to meet with Idaho Legislatures
- (Oregon Legislative Event – TBA)
- Saturday, March 4, 2023 – EMEE, Zoom
- Saturday, April 22, 2023 – Spiritual Retreat, Zoom
- July, 2023 (TBA) Mission u, Zoom
- Saturday, September 30, 2023 – Sage District Fall Celebration
- October, 2023 (TBA) – Conference Fall Celebration

Our Sage District Secretary, Maralyn Wells, needs 2023 updates from you for your local unit officers, and your 2023 unit census, for our very important district directory; 208-989-0917, mfwells-35@msn.com Please send to your completed form to our District Secretary asap; see the attached form at the end of this newsletter.

A Letter from Mary Getchell, Social Action

Dear Friends,

We are nearing the end of the month we Americans have chosen to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. a minister, civil rights leader, and visionary who was assassinated in April 1968 when I was a senior in high school. To say that was a huge influence in my life is an understatement. We claim to honor his legacy so I find this a good time to reflect on what that means to me personally and to ask you to do the same.

I grew up in central Nebraska and in Boise, Idaho and had very little social interaction with people of color. I was definitely naïve and unaware of how our laws, our society, our history conspired together to keep them from sharing in the great American dream. The civil rights struggle of the 1960's was a real smack in the face to my ignorance and indifference, but is there really anything I can do about it?

We are fortunate as United Women in Faith to have an organization dedicated to love in action. If you wonder what that can mean for you, please spend an hour browsing our uwfaith.org website which offers so many opportunities for study and for action as we seek to live our faith through social actions to support and defend all our brothers and sisters

throughout the world. As I've noted before, all this information can be quite overwhelming, but please, choose one thing each week to read or to watch that will expand your knowledge of history and modern society and lead you to thinking about and advocating for people who may not look so much like you, but are surely every bit as much children of God as are we.

This month I attended the Martin Luther King Jr. special speaker forum at Boise State University. The guest speaker was Dr. Ibram X Kendi, an American author, professor, anti-racist activist, and historian of race and discriminatory policy in America. In July 2020, he assumed the position of director of the Center for Antiracist Research at Boston University. He's the author of several books including the National Book Award winning How to be an Antiracist. I purchased that plus a wonderfully illustrated children's book, Good Night Racism.

What is on your reading list? Check our United Women In Faith Reading List if you need inspiration. Thank you, Dr. King.

MEMBERSHIP NURTURE AND OUTREACH

Just checking in to see how your unit is doing. I have included in this article the Oregon-Idaho Conference UWF Criteria for a Healthy Vital Unit. Please take a few minutes and read and reflect on the criteria listed. Many items you do at every meeting without giving additional thought. Some items you might go “hum, I haven’t thought about that or I don’t know anything about this”. Reach out to your Unit Partner. She can help you incorporate new ideas to make your membership stronger. Don’t know who your Unit Partner is—look at the last Sage Wise newsletter or contact me. Don’t skimp on the spiritual. I personally need that spiritual strength every day. Check out the section on social action. Try something new. Read a book from the Reading Program Social Action group. Discuss the book with others. Oh, how exciting to be a United Women in Faith and help women, children, and youth locally and around the world!

Marilyn Wudarcki, mwudarcki@gmail.com, 208-290-0011

The criteria can be found digitally at

https://www.umo.org/files/fileshare/unitedmethodistwomen/healthy%2c+vital+unit+form+2022_1.pdf

Marilyn Wudarcki, mwudarcki@gmail.com

LEGACY ENDOWMENT FUND GIFTING



Thanks to all of you who gave generously to the Legacy Endowment Fund during the past year.

Our Legacy Endowment Fund has grown to over

\$35,000,000. Our Oregon-Idaho Legacy giving in 2022 contributed \$6,092.50 to the Fund. We also added Legacy Builders and our Conference now has 21!

We have another opportunity to give so that our organization will continue to thrive in the future. On March 23, United Women in Faith celebrates a “Day of Giving” to raise funds for the Legacy Endowment Fund. Why March 23? Because on that date in 1869 a group of eight women founded the Woman’s Foreign Missionary Society, an organization that was the forerunner of United Women in Faith. To fulfill their vision of creating educational opportunities and

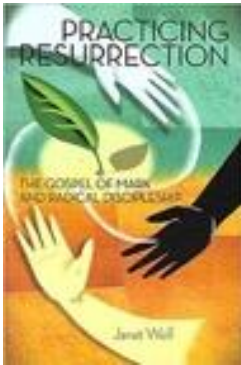
providing health care to women in India, these founding women asked others to give.

Last year, March 23, 2022, Day of Giving - “Embracing the Future” raised \$194,891. This year our theme is “The Future is Now.” Our goal for 2023 is 3.25 million. You can help by becoming a donor, a Legacy Builder, a member of the 1869 Society or a Friend of Legacy. More information will be forthcoming as we approach the March 23 date.

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

To Donate: Go to Unitedwomeninfaith.org, Click on Get Involved, Click on Give, Click on Legacy Fund, Choose the type and frequency of your gift, Click on Legacy Fund, Choose the type and frequency of your gift.

United Women in Faith, Reading Program Book Review



Practicing Resurrection: The Gospel of Mark and Radical Discipleship

Janet Wolf, Author

Rev. Janet Wolf has served rural and urban congregations, she has been a community organizer, a university professor, and has worked with a number of social justice organizations including the Children's Defense Fund. She was also theologian-in-residence for Assembly 2022, and is the author of this mission study. Though written as a study, it is completely readable as a stand-alone text.

She starts by asking readers to read the gospel of Mark, beginning to end, in one sitting, in order to feel the urgency Mark has for the good news of Jesus. She asks, what if these stories were all that survived and all that we knew of Jesus. What would our discipleship be like? In this shortest of the gospels, Mark uses the words "immediately" or "at once" over forty times. For Mark, discipleship is fierce and impatient, urging Jesus' followers to be unwilling to accept things as they are, just getting by, and going along. It's the kind of faith that has

friends digging through the roof of a home in order to get a paralyzed man into Jesus' healing presence. It's a faith that takes people to the margins of society to minister to the outcast, like the demon-possessed man sentenced to live among the tombstones. It's a faith that causes an unwanted, uninvited woman with a questionable reputation to interrupt a formal dinner in order to anoint her savior. In Mark, discipleship is not about creeds, formal rituals, and following the rules. Church is not a safe haven where believers go to avoid the world's problems. Rather, Church should be a community that empowers us to wade into those problems in Jesus' name, reshaping injustices, including the excluded, and lifting up the downtrodden by working for economic systems that benefit everyone. "Practicing resurrection" means to live each day with the risen Christ who came to "turn the world upside down and right side up.

By Claudia Moberly

Meridian United Women in Faith, Local Unit of the Quarter

Wow what an honor to be asked to talk about what's going on in Meridian. We've been struggling, as are all units, since Covid. But here are a few things we've been able to revitalize.



United Women in Faith Book Club. We've got about 10-12 faithful readers who are reading 5 books from the reading program during the year, one in each category. We take turns leading the discussion, and we decide as a group which books to read. One of our books was going to take so much time to discuss, we asked our Assistant Pastor to lead the discussion over a 6-week session and invited the whole church to attend. ("Love Is the Way," by Bishop Michael Curry.") We meet every other month, 3rd Thursday, at 12:30 p.m., bring our own brown bag lunch, and then discuss the book for about 1 hour. Easy-peasy way to complete the reading program. Surely you have some readers in your group. I feel that

this group fulfills the Purpose by being a community of women, becoming whole person in Jesus Christ.

Since the book club meets on Thursday afternoons, we decided to have, on alternate months, a Saturday luncheon, potluck or planned meal. At all 5 of those meetings, we will use the scripture Matthew 25:35-36, where Jesus divides the sheep and goat and asks when did you see us hungry, or thirsty, a stranger, or needing clothing. We will discuss, "very loosely," each of those topics. For example, at our first meeting, we discussed "clothing the naked" by doing a mission outreach project of sewing and creating reusable hygiene products for the local **Day's for Girls** chapter. Our hope is that the items or maybe only be the donations, will go to a school in Rwanda that my daughter-in-law and granddaughter will be visiting this summer. Like I said, a pretty loose interpretation of clothing the naked but... This group fulfills the purpose by being a community of women, knowing God, and participating in the global ministries of the church.



We've also convinced a group of quilters from our church to officially become a circle of UWFaith and we heartily claim all the donations of quilts that they make for many different area groups, (Hope House, Idaho Youth Ranch's Hay's House, Veterans, Chrysalis House (women coming out of prison) as a big part of our ministry with Women Children and Youth. Do you have quilters? It's a great project to do this. Many women do not want to go to "meetings," but will happily come together in fellowship to create quilts for women, children, and youth.

Submitted by Dixie Jacky, Meridian United Women in Faith local unit

United Women in Faith 2023 Idaho Legislative Event

We are grateful to Rev. Sara LaWall and Dr. Lauren Miller for speaking to us about women's reproductive health and rights, giving us information about the abortion laws in place now in Idaho and information about the legislation that is needed to protect not only women's health and lives of those facing medical complications during pregnancy, but also protecting the doctors from criminalization of their care. There are other critical issues surrounding women's reproductive health and rights. We will have to be alert during this 2023 Legislative session to be sure our legislatures know that we are women of faith participating in the "public space"--wanting women's reproductive health and rights protected.

Rod Gramer certainly gave us enough information about school vouchers to inspire us to take actions to protect public education. The commentaries Rod referred to are found on the Idaho Businesses for Education website: <https://idahobe.org/>

The United Methodist Church's Book of Resolutions, #3165 includes this statement:

"The public school is the primary route through which most children enter into full

Here is the link for Rod Gramer's recorded presentation: https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/rl_B4dq1lztX5-zKZH6gGi7UsYx1I7hk_FLYh8TyiJGlnW7HBwK3wym3K7ePw4g.M0TuXIQQpEQLOHQM
Passcode: 2Hj#%q6

The recording of the January 22 session, Women's Reproductive Health

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/1EgIkIzH4rFhD_X8NArwQKN3nMzDhA7zzyJgE2q7kGx1GEmdZS9S7BJ6ixhTx4wV.GX_oapX-8mVcWEe
Passcode: !t6&B2hM

Dr. Lauren Millers' contact information:
millerla@slhs.org and contact@icsrhc.org

ID Legislature Watchdog 2023

Facebook group is <https://www.facebook.com/groups/580379826025961>

***participation
in our
economic,
political, and
community***



life. As a consequence of inequities in our society, we have a moral responsibility to support, strengthen, and reform public schools. They have been, and continue to be, both an avenue of opportunity and a major cohesive force in our society, especially as society becomes more diverse—racially, culturally, and religiously—almost daily."

This week I will be sending out an action alert that includes the talking points Rod suggested that we use as we communicate with the House and Senate Education legislators. We are called to action!

Peace, Judy Halverson
Oregon-Idaho Conference United Women in Faith Social Action Coordinator
208-859-2049

Oregon Fundraising Efforts to assist women in Idaho needing an abortion:

https://www.eservicepayments.com/cgi-bin/Vanco_ver3.vps?appver3=Fi1giPL8kwX_Oe1AO50jRk1I5MulTDWNsa_5Aeesgr7HO3iVYxvvhHjRfLOeq662EvVVAEjqawDomKT1pbouTheimKmXVXOg64PnoslwWk=

Focus on Abortion Photo Exhibit will be here Feb. 15 - 22 (roughly). Here's the website for a preview:

<https://focusonabortion.org/>

Idaho Abortion Rights group (direct action & support to those in need) <https://idahoabortionrights.com/>

<https://aidaccess.org/en/>

Great websites about self-managed abortion and how to access it: <https://abortionpillinfo.org/>

Idaho Interfaith Equality Coalition contact for email legislative alerts: debbiemallis@gmail.com

This Sage District Quarterly Newsletter was compiled by Lucy Scopinich, Sage District, United Women in Faith, Communications Coordinator. For questions regarding this newsletter, and to submit articles and suggestions for newsletter topics, please email lksop0661@gmail.com

Fill in this form and email to **Our Sage District Secretary. Maralyn Wells needs 2023 unit officers, and unit census info, from all local units for our very important district directory; 208-989-0917, mfwells-35@msn.com**

Sage District Local Unit Census Form

Please remit this form to your current Sage District Secretary *by November 1 of the current calendar year*, for inclusion in the Sage District Annual Directory. Your participation is very important to ensure the accuracy of our directory. Thank you for your assistance!

Church/Unit Name _____

Pastor _____

Mailing address _____

Street address _____

Church phone number ___-___-____

Church e-mail address _____@_____

Unit partner _____

Local unit meeting time and frequency/ day of the week _____

Unit Membership count _____

President, address, phone number, e-mail ___-___-____, _____@_____

Vice President, address, phone number, e-mail ___-___-____, _____@_____

Secretary, address, phone number, e-mail ___-___-____, _____@_____

Treasurer, address, phone number, e-mail ___-___-____, _____@_____

Social action coordinator _____, _____@_____

Membership nurture and outreach coordinator _____, _____@_____

Education and Interpretation coordinator _____, _____@_____

Program resources coordinator _____, _____@_____

Spiritual growth coordinator _____, _____@_____

Unit Contact _____, _____@_____

Notes: _____

