

# THE SHARING LINE

A PUBLICATION OF UNITED WOMEN OF FAITH — PACIFIC NORTHWEST CONFERENCE

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CORNER

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## DEB'S DISPATCH

As I write this on Election Day 2024, many thoughts swirl in my head. One is that I count my blessings for our Sisters who journeyed before us and fought for our right to vote! My youngest granddaughter, who just recently turned 18, called me on FaceTime to ask my thoughts on why I vote the way I do with her ballot and pamphlet in hand and voting for her first time. I have hope for the women who follow. It is a good reminder that our words and actions DO matter among youth and young women.

I also think, with regret, about the hundreds of millions of dollars spent during this campaign season with a focus not as much on information but on division. It is hard not to grieve what could have been done to improve the lives of the most marginalized persons with that money. What gives me Hope is that, as United Women in Faith, we are more than election results! When you receive this edition of our "Sharing Line," we will have the results of candidates, issues, referendums, levies, and more at the Federal, State, County, and Local Levels. We have let our voices be heard and must continue doing the same throughout the year. I am eager to hear about what you are doing in areas of Racial Justice, as well as our Justice Priorities for this Quadrennium: Climate Care and Criminalization of People of Color... Stopping the School to Prison Pipeline.

We still have work to do! Let us turn our energy now to continuing our work for Justice and Mercy as we advocate for those without a voice. During this season of Thanksgiving leading into Advent, let us face our "North Star" as we listen to where our Loving Creator is calling us to put our energy, passion, and advocacy!

I have been inspired by the events of our recent Conference Annual Gathering at Spokane Valley, where we were warmly welcomed, inspired, and challenged to "Trust God's Nudge." I encourage each of you reading this to reflect on how you are being nudged. I have also read about our District Gatherings with inspiring programs, and I wish, as your president, it had been possible for me to attend all of those.

Next year, our Conference Annual Gathering will be hosted by the Puget Sound district and held at Bothell United Methodist Church. Our keynote speaker has already been confirmed as we are being joined by Jana Jones, newly elected President of the Board of Directors of our National Organization. Dates are set, so please plan for October 17-18, 2025, and you are encouraged to bring a new prospective member with you! You won't be disappointed. Also, start planning now for Assembly 2026! Wouldn't it be amazing if we could support teens and young women in attending? It is life-changing.

*(Continued on page 2)*



*(Continued from page 1)*

How about attending with a daughter or granddaughter? It will build lasting memories!

What books are you reading on the 2025 Reading Program? I have encouraged your Conference Leadership Team to join me in reading "The Girl with the Louding Voice" by Abi Dare. It is a bonus book (counts as 2) in the category Education for Mission, and we will discuss it at our January Zoom Leadership Team Meeting. It also includes discussion questions so that it would be perfect for group and individual reading. Let me know what you think of the book.

Recently, I attended the Pacific Northwest UMC Leadership Summit in Yakima hosted by Wesley UMC. We began with a day-and-a-half immersion experience with field trips to Mending Wings, Native lessons at Union Gap, Father Joseph Mission School, and Fort Simcoe, where

Methodists shared a part of the painful process of boarding schools experienced by Native children who were separated from their families and their culture. I found the experience both deeply painful yet also hopeful in learning about the processes of reconciliation underway. Knowing how we have harmed must occur for change and healing to begin!

From the time I was a young mother with two small children until this very day, over 40 years later, I have been transformed by the nurturing experience, leadership development, educational opportunities, faith development, and opportunities to be an advocate through this fantastic organization. This would not have happened if I had not been invited in and nurtured as I said "Yes" to what God was "nudging" me into! Please say "Yes" and invite someone new to also say "Yes" to a life-changing opportunity...leading United Women in Faith into the next century!

*May you continue to be blessed,*

*Deb Avery*

*"Honored to serve as your Conference President."*

*PNW Conference  
United Women in Faith*



*Marsha Aufenkamp, and our Legacy Award vase.*

## OUR 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



*Your conference team at work at their executive meeting.*





**2025 CONFERENCE TEAM:**

*Roberta Headley, Treasurer; Stell Wallace, Vice President; Janet Crouse, Social Action; Marsha Aufenkamp, Chair of Nominations, Gail Simpson, Membership Nurture & Outreach; Deb Avery, President; Carol Gruen, Nominations Committee Member; Jenny Bygland, Secretary & Communications Coordinator; Marilyn Reid, National Director; (Missing: Chidi Okoro, Education & Interpretation; Jan Catrell, Spiritual Growth, Judy Dirks, Nominations Committee Member)*



*Deb Avery, Stell Wallace, and Spokane Valley Unit President, Madelyn Bafus*



*A delicious dinner was served by the ladies of Spokane Valley UMC on our first evening.*

Our Annual Gathering, formerly called the Annual Meeting, was held in October when all annual meetings are held in the US. This is a time to celebrate our accomplishments and do the required business to continue into the next year.

There were program changes, and I received many positive comments on those changes. While meeting virtually with all the VPs in the US, I learned that many needed to have a meeting more than one day. We did that. Many wanted a nice dinner included in the cost of registration. We did that. The conferences felt that an effective keynote speaker was essential to the event. We did that. The focus was on essential business but also fellowship. Many conferences added workshops. Hmm, I think we might look at that for next year.

By the way, we will be meeting in Bothell next October. Plan now with your budgets to attend and bring someone else into your unit. Our National Board of Directors president, Jana Jones, will be our keynote speaker. She is fabulous. Meet this inspiring woman.

Lastly, I'm not sure I can top our entertainment from this year. You might have heard of the Native American students from the Yakama Nation who belong to a group called *Dancing Our Prayers*. This team of students travels locally, regionally, and nationally, sharing spirituality and ways of life as followers of the Jesus way. Students drum, dance in full regalia, perform dramas with a positive message, share testimonies, and share about conciliation, justice, and healing between the Church and

Native Americans. They are a part of Mending Wings, a native lead faith-based non-profit organization.

Let's start with this event: you becoming a member of the Charter for Racial Justice this coming year.

I always love to share what I do and know. Our district's leadership teams are looking for women who want to walk alongside us, bringing our organization and what we stand for to all our units and others. Join us

Your humble servant and worker bee.

*Stell Wallace, Vice-President  
PNW Conference  
United Women in Faith*

### UPDATE ON LINDA KEY

After a month in rehab, Linda Key, our previous treasurer, is now residing with her daughter. She has support with home health care and is not yet fully mobile. Her address at her daughter's is 7213 Perry Ave SE, Auburn, WA 98092. She asked that I let you know she is grateful for your prayers. Let's flood her with Love Ribbons!

### LET'S UP OUR GAME

We all know that COVID-19 created a time of change. For some, it is refreshing; for others, it can be uncomfortable. At the national level, they heard your concerns. Expenses were trimmed from NYC down to units. We all looked at our priorities and the needs of all those affected by this change. Programs were cut if inefficient, and priorities were revamped to meet the organization's goals to serve women, children, and youth. Our giving to the mission took a hit. Our current CEO, Sally Vonner, has set goals for the immediate future. We want to regain our giving momentum to before-Covid levels. This is achievable. Our promise to serve ourselves and others, here and around the world, must have resources to include today's current inflation rates. Many of us have gotten out of the habit of planned giving as personal pledges or monthly contributions. So, let's start making the change. Be the unit, the district, and, yes, the conference that increases our pledges. Take the money out of your accounts at the end of the year. Save enough to begin the first quarter of next year, but give your excess to the greater organization. The more we have to give, the **more good** we can do.

*Stell Wallace, Vice-President  
PNW Conference  
United Women in Faith*



## LIFE IS A DICHOTOMY!

Life is a dichotomy! We like and expect clear direction, stable feelings and relationships, and binary clarity. Everything is either yes or no. People are either good or bad. We will always love our work! We would always be 100 percent in love with our partners and never be frustrated with our children, neighbors, or colleagues. It would be great if life were so simple.

At some point, we realize that life is rarely that orderly; life is almost never that simple. When I was in middle school, I figured out one clue for those pesky true-and-false questions. If one of the options had the word "always" or "never," that was not the correct answer. In life, there are almost always exceptions to "always" and "never."

Because things are not so simple, I think Scripture gives us language that addresses the reality of life, the complexity of living, and our imperfections.

- ♥ **Forgiveness** because we all, at some point, make poor choices and even horrible decisions.
- ♥ **Redemption** because there needs to be a way to come back from our broken behavior and relationships.
- ♥ **Grace** which is an acknowledgment that no matter how good we are or how great our intentions are, we sometimes or often get things wrong.

♥ **Compassion** is the realization that we share the same brokenness, and if we can't be perfect, we should not expect others to be perfect, either.

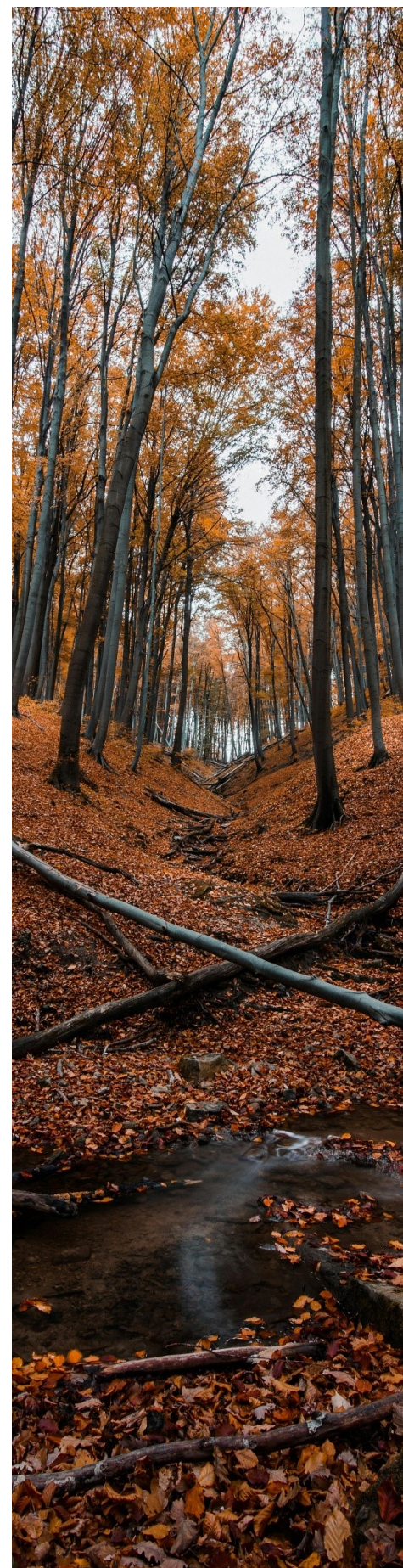
♥ **Joy** is the gift of knowing that even in our brokenness and imperfection, we can celebrate God's love and our humanity.

♥ **Love** is lovely because it confirms that even as we live our dichotomous life, in which we seem to have multiple personalities, God surrounds us with love.

So here is my prayer that we will live with less anxiety, fear, uncertainty, and perfectionism because we know the gifts God gives us. We know that God does not expect perfection from any one of us. We open ourselves to live life the best we can with God's help, and God gives us the language to know that we are beloved.

Several months ago, I read these inspiring words by Rev. Daniel Miranda, district superintendent for Seven Rivers and Inland districts. How poignant in this time and place! Please be kind to yourself and others in this time of wondering what is to come.

*Stell Wallace, Vice-President  
PNW Conference  
United Women in Faith*



## TO DO JUSTICE. TO LOVE KINDNESS. TO WALK HUMBLY WITH GOD.

Presidential administrations, Congress, and elected officials come and go, but the call of our faith endures. As United Women in Faith members and friends, we are working towards a long-term kin-dom vision of liberation, justice, and peace that is not limited to the particular politics of any given term. Our vision and our hope for women, children, and youth are anchored in God's faithfulness to us, which calls forward our faithfulness to the work of putting love into action. We can't know what the next four years will bring, but we can be intentional about our own commitments. As a member or friend of United Women in Faith, please [join us in signing this pledge](#) "To Do Justice. To Love Kindness. To Walk Humbly with God."

*He has told you, O mortal, what is good, and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?  
(Micah 6:8)*

As a member/friend of United Women in Faith, I make a public commitment today:

To do justice, working together with my sisters towards a long-term vision of racial justice, climate justice, gender justice, and ending mass incarceration and criminalization of communities of color, putting one foot in front of the other even when it's an uphill climb.

To love kindness, remembering that all people are beloved by God, created with inherent dignity, and worthy of respect and kindness, even if they do not share my thoughts or beliefs.

To walk humbly with our God, in prayer and action, trusting that while I may not know the path ahead, God has promised us a future with hope, and God does not disappoint.

As a sisterhood of women, we are committed to working together across lines of difference. We will continue the work to which we have been called today, tomorrow, and in the years to come.

[Sign your name now](#) to put yourself on the [map](#) as making the United Women in Faith Micah 6:8 Commitment.

*Grace and peace,*

*Mobilization & Advocacy  
United Women in Faith*

## IN RESPONSE TO THE ELECTION

Dear Reader,

Most people reading this newsletter this morning are likely processing yesterday's election results. Many are navigating feelings ranging from disappointment to fear, and some may be excited by the prospects of a second Trump presidency.

Like many of you, I awoke this morning to [Bishop Cedrick's message](#) encouraging us to keep our main thing, discipleship, the main thing.

*"Our job, our call, our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. And in our disciple-making and*

*understanding of what it is to be disciples of Jesus Christ, that has and always will include caring for the immigrant, the stranger, the widow, those who sojourn with us, those we know, and those we do not. We lead with love. We extend grace and practice acts of mercy, one with another."*

I was particularly thankful for our bishop's message this morning because words have not come to me easily today. Like many of you, I am also processing.

As he did at the June annual conference, Bishop Cedrick encouraged us to "be

well" as we "go and do likewise." Our world needs disciples who will lead with love to bridge the many things that have divided us nearly in half. We can only do that from a spiritually grounded space.

Please take the time and space to care for yourself and those you know who may be hurting or scared. This, too, is holy work and essential to providing the resilience for what God will have us do in the days, weeks, and years to come.

*Grace & peace  
Patrick Scriven  
Director of Communications  
Pacific Northwest Conference*



## LEAVE A LEGACY OF LOVE THROUGH THE ENDOWMENT FUND

In 1997, the United Methodist Women PNW Conference created the Endowment Fund. The fund is invested with Faith Foundation. The guidelines require that 75 percent of the earnings provide grants for leadership and enrichment opportunities for women and 25 percent goes to Mission Giving. The interest earnings have funded scholarships for Assembly in 2022, contributions to Pledge to Mission and National Legacy. Atlantic Street Center, Tacoma Community House, and Nome Community House have been given grants. This year, we awarded ten scholarships for the May 2024 Western Jurisdiction Quadrennial in Anchorage.

In October, the fund total was \$112,964.40. This will generate interest for 2025 projects.

The contribution form is on the website [pnwumc.org/uwfaith/resources/forms/](http://pnwumc.org/uwfaith/resources/forms/) Endowment Fund Form. You can give these to honor someone. Please encourage your district and local units to contribute to the Endowment Fund.

*Ja net' W. Crouse,  
Chair Endowment Committee  
PNW Conference  
United Women in Faith*

## MISSION AND LEGACY

Dear Friends,

We wanted to share the September 2024 Legacy Conference Giving Report with you; please let us know if you have any questions.



**THE LEGACY ENDOWMENT FUND TOTAL IS \$41,787,023.00**

For questions related to this report, please email [Legacy150@UWFaith.org](mailto:Legacy150@UWFaith.org) directly.

Thank you for all that you do!

Development Team  
(800) 278-7771

**THANK YOU, EVERYONE, FOR YOUR DEDICATION AND SUPPORT TO THE LEGACY FUND**

*Blessings,*

*Marsha Aufenkamp, Legacy Liaison  
PNW Conference  
United Women in Faith*

## HELLO DISTRICT TREASURER,

As another year comes to a close its time to be sending in 4th quarter mission pledges. Please send in 4th quarter pledges by December 20. That way it will be out of the way allowing us more time to celebrate Jesus' birthday and time with friends and family. I also, want to wish all of you a blessed Christmas and New Year.

*Roberta Headley, Treasurer  
PNW Conference  
United Women in Faith*

## CELEBRATING AND GIVING WITH THANKS



**World Thank Offering** celebrates God's abundance and the joy in your life. It is a way for you to show gratitude for God's blessings and a meaningful way to raise funds to improve the lives of women, children, and youth.

When you give from your diverse background and experiences, everyone participating in United Women in Faith feels the joy of the group's diversity and abundance. **World Thank Offering allows you to give what you can from your life.**

Give through your local treasurer or [donate online](#).

[Share the program with your local community](#).

## WE WANT YOUR FUNDRAISING IDEAS!

If your unit has hosted a successful fundraiser and would like to share the fundraising strategy that was used with your sisters, please contact Jenny Bygland at [jbygland@kentmethodist.com](mailto:jbygland@kentmethodist.com). We may share it in our next *Sharing Line*.

## MEMBERSHIP NURTURE AND OUTREACH

## EXPRESSING GRATITUDE

Things are changing all around us. At the recent Annual Gathering, we mentioned the units that had disbanded in the past year. This is sad, but it is not the end. As the theme of the gathering suggests, we can “Expand our Vision...Trust the Nudge”. What does this mean for you and your unit? It can be whatever you make it. I have talked with some people who think they can’t be a United Women in Faith unit because their unit cannot do all they previously have done. That is NOT true. “Trust the Nudge”. This may be big or tiny. It is there and can be developed. I am thankful to all of you and your work in continuing the United Women in Faith mission.

As October ends and we move towards November, I see things shift toward talking of thankfulness. I am grateful to have joined the United Women in Faith World Thank Offering Zoom. Although there were some very hostile hackers in the beginning (something I have never experienced on Zoom), the tech people and the leaders were able to block the hackers, and we proceeded. I am so thankful for those who are far more knowledgeable than me regarding technology.

Like the scripture of the Fish and the Loaves, the Zoom emphasized our giving to sustain our mission. The question was asked, “What is the best that you bring to the table?” We each have gifts to bring. Bring your ideas, your talents, and your time.

On different occasions, the involvement will vary. Find your passion and “Trust the Nudge.”

It is incredible to me that it was a year ago that I “Trusted the Nudge” and became a conference mission coordinator. I had much to learn about this process/job, and I still have more to take in. I am thankful for the support of my sisters in faith. Together, we can achieve great things. It is inspiring to hear about the involvement of women across the conference. Let’s not make each unit reinvent the wheel. If you have an idea, then share it. This coming year, I would like to meet more women in our conference and hear firsthand the amazing things happening in your unit. Please continue to share your ideas and how your unit is carrying out the mission of United Women in Faith. I want to challenge each district MNO coordinator to request comments and ideas from your units. Please send them to me. They can be compiled and shared with everyone.

What are you thankful for? Be sure to tell others. Feel free to contact me with questions or ideas or to talk. I am grateful for all of you.

*Gail Simpson  
Membership Nurture & Outreach  
Mission Coordinator  
PNW Conference  
United Women in Faith  
253 229 0343  
jsimpsfam@comcast.net*

FORGET ME NOT—  
REMEMBERING OUR  
SISTERS

At the Annual Gathering, a memorial service was held for the 83 sisters who passed on last year. Each member was remembered with a packet of Forget Me Not seeds. Several people asked for the poem that was read. It is included below. As you read it, remember those who have been examples for you. May we always smile, open our eyes, be full of love, be happy for tomorrow, and cherish her memory.

**SHE IS GONE BY DAVID HARKINS**

*You can shed tears that she is gone  
Or you can smile because  
she has lived*

*You can close your eyes and  
pray that she will come back  
Or you can open your eyes and  
see all that she has left*

*Your heart can be empty  
because you can’t see her  
Or you can be full of the love  
that you shared*

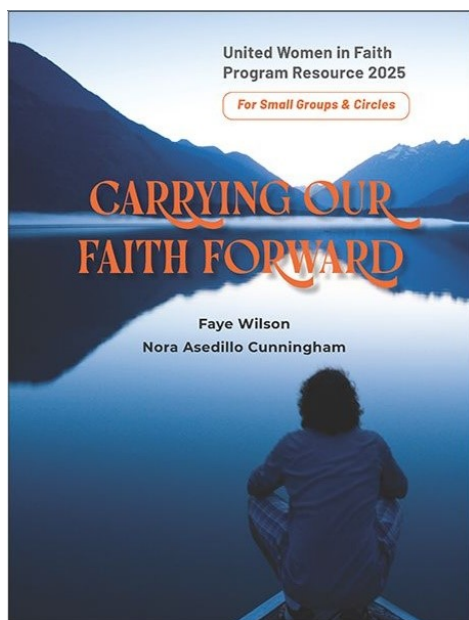
*You can turn your back on tomorrow  
and live yesterday  
Or you can be happy for tomorrow  
because of yesterday*

*You can remember her and  
only that she is gone  
Or you can cherish her memory  
and let it live on*

*You can cry and close your mind, be  
empty, and turn your back  
Or you can do what she would  
want: smile, open your eyes,  
love, and go on.*



## 2025 PROGRAM RESOURCES AND READING PROGRAM

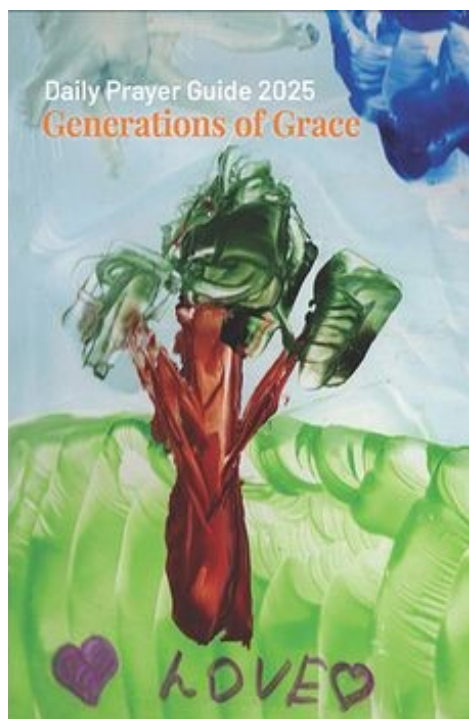


The **2025 United Women in Faith Program Resource** explores intergenerational conversations and what it looks like to carry our faith forward in an expanding or new context. Compared to the path of water, our faith stories reflect a push and pull, peaks and waterfalls, and stagnant ponds and storms.

**NEW — ORDER PRINT AND DIGITAL TOGETHER**  
**M3386 | \$14.99 PRINT or DIGITAL | \$19.99 BOTH**

The **2025 United Women in Faith Daily Prayer Guide** reminds us that God is at work in every generation. Our knowledge, experience, and stories offer value to one another. When we honor each other's stories, we honor God's work in each other's lives and see God's work more clearly in our own.

**NEW — ORDER PRINT AND DIGITAL TOGETHER** M3385 | **\$19.99 PRINT or DIGITAL | \$24.99 BOTH**



Also available is the beloved **United Women in Faith Quadrennial Calendar 2025-2028**. Mark your birthdays, holidays, and seasonal United Women in Faith programs and meetings. Carry this with you – a convenient size of 3.5" x 6" with a protective sleeve.

**NEW — ORDER YOUR QUAD-CALENDAR** | M7075 | **\$14.99 PRINT -only**

Click [HERE](#) for additional 2025 Print Resources

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

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

## 2025 Reading Program Programa De Lectura 독서 프로그램



Please share the link widely with friends, neighbors, and fellow readers who may be interested.

You can borrow the 2025 Reading Program books from your local library or purchase them at the bookstore of your choice. If you'd like to support United Women in Faith with your purchase, you can buy most books at [bookshop.org/shop/UWfaith](http://bookshop.org/shop/UWfaith) to earn 10% back for our mission.

We are grateful for all the dedicated United Women in Faith readers who continue to share this cherished tradition and grow together in faith, action, and sisterhood.

We would love to keep in touch with you. Please click here to stay connected to the United Women in Faith Reading Program throughout the year. Those who sign up for the Reading Program email list will receive direct invitations to quarterly live virtual events, including author talks and book discussions, occasional emails about volunteer opportunities, and more.

## NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

November 29, 2024, marks the 160th anniversary of the Sand Creek Massacre, in which a Methodist pastor led the brutal slaughter of the village of Cheyenne and Arapahos on Sand Creek in Colorado Territory. United Women in Faith has joined with other United Methodist agencies to help work for repair and repentance for our church's role in the tragedy. United Women in Faith is also a part of the church's work to learn more about its role in the harm caused by Indigenous boarding schools.

As you highlight Native American Heritage Month in your communications this November, consider encouraging your conferences to uplift United Women in Faith's work:

- Share the articles from United Methodist News on [Sand Creek](#) and the [Indigenous boarding schools](#).
- Revisit and promote the previous Reading Program book [Massacre at Sand Creek](#) by Gary L. Roberts.
- Highlight the books in the reading program focused on Native Americans, such as [Braiding Sweetgrass](#), [We Are Water Protectors](#), [The Seed Keeper](#), [Living Resistance](#), and [Notable Native People](#).
- Join in and encourage others to join the Author Talk on Monday, November 25, with Patty Krawec, writer of [Becoming Kin: An Indigenous Call to Unforgetting the Past and Reimagining Our Future](#), a 2025

Reading Program Book. The talk begins at 7 p.m. (ET). [Register here](#).

- Lift up prayers for our indigenous neighbors and the church's work to form right relationships.

## SEARCHES FOR UNMARKED GRAVES AT FORT SIMCOE NARROW FOCUS AREAS



In October, nearly 100 lay and clergy leaders from across the PNW Conference participated in a visit to Fort Simcoe as a part of the Quadrennial Leadership Summit. Corey Greaves, president of Mending Wings, shared about the Methodist church's troubling history running the Boarding School at Fort Simcoe. In this article, the Yakima Herald shares ongoing efforts to understand what happened at Fort Simcoe and identify unmarked graves.

[Read this story on the Yakima Herald website.](#)

## NATIVE AMERICAN MISSIONS TO SUPPORT

### LOVE IN ACTION NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES

[loveinactionnativeamericanministries.com](https://loveinactionnativeamericanministries.com)

#### Our Vision

Our vision is to be a vital ministry of social, economic, environmental, and racial justice with our Indigenous relatives. We will do this by listening, learning, and loving.

May your walk with Christ be in harmony with God's children in this world.

### MENDING WINGS

[mendingwings.net](https://mendingwings.net)

#### Mending the wings of our youth so they can fly again

We stand amazed and humbled by the goodness of Creator when we see all that Mending Wings has become, and is becoming, since our humble beginnings in 2006. We are experiencing a move of Creator in our hearts, and in our organization, and we are excited to see where He will take us in the future. We invite you to join us in praying for increased wisdom and spiritual insight as we wait on Creator for His direction and clarity of vision. He is so good, and we are expecting to be overcome by that goodness.



## PNW UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH CELEBRATES OUR CHARTER FOR RACIAL JUSTICE CLUBS

At our Annual Gathering for PNW United Women in Faith, we celebrated eight Charter for Racial Justice Clubs in Inland District, three in Seven Rivers, and one in Puget Sound. Omak set the record by being a club for 15 years.



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 [www.UWFaith.org](http://www.UWFaith.org)

*Ja net' W. Crouse,  
Social Action*



## INTERFAITH ADVOCACY DAY 2025

Interfaith Advocacy Day is Thursday, February 20, 2025, in Olympia. Sign-up to attend opens in January. The event includes presentations on important issues in the morning and meetings with district representatives and senators in the afternoon. It is an opportunity to advocate for major priorities and interact with other faiths that share our concerns.

IAD is sponsored by Faith Action Network, a statewide multi-faith partnership promoting advocacy and public action. Sign up to receive regular emails from [fanwa.org](http://fanwa.org). Once the legislature opens in January, these will include a summary of action each week and detailed information on major issues.

Idaho has still not selected a day for legislative action in Boise, so stay tuned.

*Ja net' W. Crouse,  
Social Action*



## JUDY DIRKS RECEIVED THE 2024 RACIAL JUSTICE AWARD FROM THE CONFERENCE



Judy Dirks has a demonstrated commitment to Racial Justice. She was chair of the Conference Church and Society Board from 2004 to 2012 and remained on the board representing the Inland Missional District. She has compiled a list of social action advocates for all the churches in her district and regularly communicates with them with alerts for local, state, and national legislative action. In addition, she regularly attends school board and other government meetings to promote justice.

She has repeatedly served district offices for Inland United Women in Faith and is retiring as president.

*Ja net' W. Crouse,  
Social Action*

## CREST TO COAST MISSIONAL DISTRICT

Shortly after attending Mission u, our Crest to Coast Team got to work on our fall Annual District Meeting. Earlier, we had searched for places to meet that would work better for our northern members. Sue Raymond, our Spiritual Growth officer for Crest to Coast, suggested we try something new and have it at Tacoma Community House in the north part of our District. Since she is on their board, she knows the folks there and the wonderful work they do. She contacted Lisa Hamlin and worked with her to set things up. She was also very instrumental in planning the program. Thank you so much, Sue, for making this all happen!



Aimee Khuu, Executive Director of Tacoma Community House, ([tacomacommunityhouse.org](http://tacomacommunityhouse.org)) was our featured speaker. She did a wonderful job of outlining the work they do for immigrants, refugees, and homeless youth in the Tacoma area seeking enrichment and pathways to self-sufficiency.

They have been one of our National Mission Centers, partnering with United Methodist Women, and now United Women in Faith, for over 110 years. They have helped countless individuals gain the skills they need to transition out of poverty, navigate a new culture, and find personal and professional success. She then led us

on a tour of the facility, which has been rebuilt and has so much more space and rooms to offer classes. We learned so much, what a great facility! And Aimee is such a great, high-energy person. Thank you, Aimee, for your time!

Larea Greer from Puyallup UMC and her Unit provided the delicious food for the day. A lot of Love and effort was put into making such wonderful dishes, as well as the time it took to set up, serve, and clean up—a big thank you to those ladies for doing that. Everyone greatly appreciated it, as some had come a long way to attend. We also included a business meeting and installed our returning officers for another year. Thank you to Deb Avery for our installation and dedication. We love having her in our district. I really appreciate my officers for all their work and presentations too. It is really a team effort, and with a smaller team, there is more to do.

I believe our goal to be more inclusive with our members in the north was a success, and I hope there will be more events in the future where we can include other members of our District. Centralia UMC will host a retreat on October 12. We are also planning other spiritual retreats at various churches in the Crest to Coast District next year to keep this going and Inspire, Influence, and Impact our mission for women, children, and youth.

*Bev Thomas, President  
Crest to Coast Missional District*

The Executive Team of Crest to Coast United Women in Faith is offering “How Is It with Your Soul” retreats at

any church around our District for all women who want to attend. These are being planned for 9 to noon or 10 to 2.

Information about past, present, and future retreats is below.

### **CENTRALIA, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12 “FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS”**

This Soul Retreat was planned by Sue Raymond from Crest to Coast Missional District in coordination with Pastor Vangie Rand from Centralia and Rochester UMCs. 20 people were in attendance. Centralia UMC provided coffee and snacks; everyone brought their own sack lunch.

Sue had a welcome skit and icebreaker, then dressed as Esther, she presented a Jewish Midrash. She told her story with a little ad-lib to clarify and emphasize it. (Midrases were frequently used to tell biblical stories when many didn’t know how to read.) After lunch, there were crafts available and time to meet others from Elma, Rochester, McCleary, Olympia, Centralia, Chehalis, and Vancouver.

### **UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH VANCOUVER HEIGHTS UMC SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 10 TO NOON**

Soul Care Retreat. There will be light breakfast items to start as we build community. Worship, reflection, crafts, and journaling will follow this. We may even try some chair yoga and an opportunity to learn about and walk our community labyrinth-weather permitting. RSVP [davery51@q.com](mailto:davery51@q.com)

*(Continued on page 13)*



## GRAYS RIVER UMC

(3624 HWY 4 WEST. 98621)

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 10 TO 2

Soul Care Retreat is a time of Bible study, crafts, and soul-enriching activities, including a midrash. RSVP [revkeithjoan@hotmail.com](mailto:revkeithjoan@hotmail.com)

### Possible Themes:

- **Martha and Mary:** Retreat will focus on the different gifts and talents we bring to our faith lives.
- **For Such a Time as This:** Retreat will focus on discovering the gifts we have been given to use at a specific time to meet specific needs
- **Lessons Learned for Ladies Present in the Parables:** Retreat will focus on the three parables that Jesus used that had women characters

To reserve a “How Is It with Your Soul” retreat at your Crest to Coast church, please contact

Joan Hackett, Membership Nurture and Outreach Coordinator, [revkeithjoan@hotmail.com](mailto:revkeithjoan@hotmail.com), or Sue Raymond, Coordinator for Spiritual Growth, at [sueraymond@bellsouth.net](mailto:sueraymond@bellsouth.net).

*Joan Hackett, Membership Nurture and Outreach Coordinator  
Crest to Coast Missional District*

## INLAND MISSIONAL DISTRICT

I love Fall! We get to spend time with one another at annual gatherings as we plan our upcoming year. Our new team of Inland Missional District leaders are so pleased to get started. Our district has already made a real

impact in so many ways.

Our district has been busy with the work of our organization (we CONTRIBUTED \$15,400 of our \$20,000 pledge to mission as of 9/21/24) and with “window work” in our local areas. We LEARNED through reading programs about racial justice, social equity, community building, spiritual growth and nurturing, and environmental justice topics. We PARTICIPATED in recycling and environmental projects, FOSTERED CONNECTIONS in our local circles, and CREATED and GIFTED tangible evidence of our love and prayers for others in the form of prayer shawls and blankets. We SERVED others through volunteering outside our church walls, and we PROVIDED food for those who are hungry in our community. We HELPED single mothers in their efforts to gain valuable life skills and PROMOTED community and connection with them. We have much to celebrate and much still to do.

Thirty-three of us attended our first Soul Care Retreat in Clarkston, WA, on August 17. This was a fantastic event, and we thank Tana Truscott and Kathy Johnson and several additional helpers who made it a meaningful experience of serenity, self-care, introspection, gentle movement, and great food for all. Many thanks to our outgoing District leadership team and our volunteers from Audubon Park and Community UMCs who helped with our September Annual Gathering. Roughly 32 women attended as we learned about food insecurity in our District from our local food banks guest panel, celebrated accomplishments of our units,

honored the lives of sisters who were lost in the past year, voted in our new leadership team, and said a special and well-earned “Thank you” to all our outgoing leadership team members.

Kudos to all for a wonderful October Annual Gathering for our entire PNW conference in Spokane Valley with our guest speaker, author Sue Magrath. We are blessed with many opportunities to connect in fellowship and purpose through United Women in Faith. I hope you all have a meaningful Thanksgiving and Advent/Christmas Season!

*Robin Gregory, President,  
Inland Missional District*

## PUGET SOUND MISSIONAL DISTRICT

On September 7, our District Meeting hosted Pastor Jan Bolerjack from Riverton Park United Methodist Church in Tukwila, WA. We had 32 people in attendance and more online. We were excited and engaged in the topic of “Welcoming New Neighbors” and then discussed the challenges of hosting/housing many, many, many refugees and asylum seekers. We offered half of the donations that day to help this small church in its endeavors to help foreign people at the door. We would like to continue to help both through the district and the local churches by sending funds or items to help these families. We believe in the efforts that are made there. We all could welcome people struggling to have shelter, find food, and find jobs. As a District of churches, we will

*(Continued on page 14)*

(Continued from page 13)

continue to look for opportunities to help Women, Children, and Teens. I continue to hear that we support school children, people without homes, and even teens who have had to leave their families due to personal choices. We are headed for the holidays, which makes us believe all is well and that there is joy and happiness for everyone, but we know that is not true. We wish you all happy holidays, but let us remember and pray for those less fortunate than you and I.

*Gay Johnson,  
Communications Coordinator  
Puget Sound Missional District*

## SEATAC MISSIONAL DISTRICT

We had a wonderful program at our annual meeting presented by Barbara Dadd Shaffer on Jamaa Letu. Sue Raymond, District MNO Crest to Coast District, installed our officers. The gathering ended with communion led by Rev Carol Mariano, Dean, Mission u. We had 30 women and 10 churches represented. The United Women in Faith Fairwood Community UMC in Renton hosted the gathering. Our pianist had a family emergency, so we used music videos.

Our theme was “Sharing and Serving the Lord with Joy.” Barbara was appointed to the Bishop’s Task Force on Hope for the Children of Africa in 2006. The bishop appointed her as Chair two years later, a position she filled for ten years. She continues to be a part of the Task Force, which supports the ministry of the two

Jamaa Letu orphanages in the DR Congo. This is the topic of her speech today. She focuses on the post-secondary education of former residents in the orphanages. Barbara has been a member of United Women in Faith and its predecessor organizations since she was a freshman in high school. She was a conference officer twice during her thirty-three years in Alaska and was elected a conference officer in the Pacific Northwest Conference soon after moving to Spokane. She was president of the Western Jurisdiction UMW and served as a Director of the Women’s Division. She now lives with her husband, John, at Wesley Lea Hill in Auburn.

We gave out awards. We had 2 Mission Today Gold Units, 3 7-Star Units, and 8 Readers who read 51 books. At our Remembrance Ceremony, we reported that 23 members were deceased during the last year.

We have recruited a new SeaTac District secretary for the board. We have a prospective Social Action Mission Coordinator. We are still looking to fill positions on the board.

*Diana Wilson, President  
SeaTac Missional District*



## HOW YOU HELP SUPPORT THE JAMAA LETU ORPHANAGES

### DONATE ONLINE

You can help support the orphans and students by going to their website [JamaaLetu.org](http://JamaaLetu.org) and clicking on the Donate links.

### DONATE THROUGH YOUR LOCAL UMC

Local UMC Instructions: Mark donation to Jamaa Letu Orphanages & note if it’s for a Child & Youth Sponsorship, Education Scholarship, or general Jamaa Letu support. Talk with your coordinator.

### DONATE DIRECTLY TO THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST CONFERENCE

Send Donations to Jamaa Letu Orphanages Pacific Northwest Conference Office P.O. Box 13650 Des Moines, WA 98193-1009. Mail donation or direct your bank to send the funds & note if it’s for a Child & Youth Sponsorship, Education Scholarship, or general Jamaa Letu support.





## SEVEN RIVERS ANNUAL MEETING



*Robin Inlow, Seven River's new president*



*Myra Salapang-Duncan, guest speaker*



## GET THE DAILY PRAYER GUIDE ON FACEBOOK

Here is the Daily Prayer Guide Facebook link: [facebook.com/dailyprayerguide](https://facebook.com/dailyprayerguide) The Daily Prayer Guide lets you know what is happening in mission & moves you to put love in action.

## JOIN OUR DIGITAL COMMUNITY!

Our first Learning @UWFaith Digital course is now available! It's titled "Making Our Presence Known." This course will show how United Women in Faith connects and supports women, children, youth, and those in need through Christian spiritual growth, leadership development, fun fellowship, and education so they can inspire, influence, and make a difference in local and global communities. This free course is available to everyone in our [digital community](#). Be sure to [check it out!](#)



*Installation of officers by PNW Vice President, Stell Wallace*





**UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH POTENTIAL LEADER'S INFORMATION FORM**  
(To be completed by the potential leader)

**PURPOSE OF UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH**

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.

**Lack of previous experience as an elected leader in the UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH will not be a barrier to nomination and/or election.** – *UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH Bylaws for the Conference*

Type or Print (attach additional sheets as necessary) Date:

Name:

Address:

City:  State:  Zip:

Home Phone:  Cell Phone:  Text OK

Email:

Age:  Employed:  Yes  No

District:

Local Unit:

Race/Ethnicity:

Languages Spoken:

Professional skills, talents, interests, and job experience:

Offices held in UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH – please include dates and locations.

Local Offices:

District Offices:





# UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH POTENTIAL LEADER'S INFORMATION FORM

(To be completed by the potential leader)

### Conference Offices:

### Jurisdiction and National offices:

### Is it possible for you to be away from your home or employment for:

Full Day:  Yes  No    Weekend:  Yes  No    Extended Time:  Yes  No

Would you be able to share your gifts and talents to uphold and strengthen UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH through the PURPOSE of the organization?  Yes  No

### Which office(s) on the Conference UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH's Team would you most like to hold, given the opportunity to serve?

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> President      | <input type="checkbox"/> Chair of Nominations          | <input type="checkbox"/> Spiritual Growth           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vice President | <input type="checkbox"/> Nominations Member            | <input type="checkbox"/> Program Resources          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Secretary      | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership Nurture & Outreach | <input type="checkbox"/> Communications             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Treasurer      | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Action                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Education & Interpretation |

### Why are you interested in this (these) position(s), and what qualifications do you feel you have for your office choices?

I am sorry, but I cannot accept an office this year.

Please keep my name on file and contact me in  Year.

If you have any questions, please contact the chair or a member of the Pacific Northwest Conference UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH Committee on Nominations listed below.

Please return the completed form to Marsha Aufenkamp.

Thank you!

**Marsha Aufenkamp**—(2023)  
 Chair, Committee on Nominations  
 506 3rd Ave W  
 Omak, WA 9884  
 509-322-6338  
 m.aufenkamp@gmail.com

**Carol Gruen**—(2022) Member  
 2205 Lakemoor Dr. SW  
 Olympia, WA 98512  
 360-359-1295 (c)  
 gruenc1941@gmail.com

**Judy Dirks**—(2025) Member  
 1888 Crossport Rd.  
 Bonners Ferry, ID 83805  
 208-661-9752  
 judydirks37@gmail.com

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
January 11	1 – 5 p.m.	Winter Conference United Women in Faith Executive Meeting	Zoom
February 10	10 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Soul Care Retreat	Grays River UMC, 3624 Hwy 4 W, Grays River, WA 98621
February 20	9 a.m. – 3 p.m.	<a href="#">Washington Interfaith Advocacy Day</a>	Olympia, WA
February		Idaho Legislative Event	TBA
April 5		Spring Conference United Women in Faith Executive Meeting	Zoom
April 5 or 26		Seven Rivers Soul Care Event	TBA
June		Pacific Northwest UMC Conference Annual Session	TBA
July		Summer Conference United Women in Faith Executive Meeting	TBA
July 24-25		Mission u	<a href="#">Wesley UMC</a> , Yakima, WA
September		Crest to Coast Missional District Annual Meeting	TBA
September 20		Inland Missional District Annual Meeting	TBA
September		Puget Sound Missional District	TBA
September		SeaTac Missional District Annual Meeting	TBA
September 20		Seven Rivers Missional District Annual Meeting	<a href="#">Ellensburg UMC</a> , Ellensburg, WA
October 17		Fall Conference United Women in Faith Executive Meeting	<a href="#">Bothell UMC</a> , Bothell, WA
October 17-18		Conference United Women in Faith Annual Meeting	<a href="#">Bothell UMC</a> , Bothell, WA
May 15-17, 2026		Assembly	Indianapolis

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 RESOURCE ONLINE

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

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

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

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

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

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

[Podcasts and webinars](#)

[response magazine.](#)

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

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

[United Women in Faith Newsletter.](#)

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Photo by Jara: <https://www.pexels.com/photo/autumn-leaves-3083250/>

Photo by David Bartus: <https://www.pexels.com/photo/fallen-trees-on-forest-1846608/>

## PACIFIC NORTHWEST CONFERENCE UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH OFFICERS FOR 2025

**President**—Deb Avery

**Vice President**—Stell Wallace

**Secretary**—Jenny Bygland

**Treasurer**—Roberta Headley

**Program Resources**—OPEN

**Communications**—Jenny Bygland

**Education & Interpretation**—Chidi Okoros

**Membership Nurture & Outreach**—Gail Simpson

**Social Action**—Ja net' Crouse

**Spiritual Growth**—Jan Catrell

**Committee on Nominations Chair** (Seven Rivers)—Marsha Aufenkamp

**Committee on Nominations Member** (Crest to Coast)—Carol Gruen

**Committee on Nominations Member** (Inland)—Judy Dirks

**Committee on Nominations Member** (Puget Sound)—OPEN

**Committee on Nominations Member** (SeaTac)—OPEN

**Missional District Presidents:**

**Crest to Coast**—Bev Thomas

**Inland**—Robin Gregory

**Puget Sound**—Jeannine Lish

**SeaTac**—Diana Wilson

**Seven Rivers**—Robin Inlow

## 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 Pacific Northwest Conference leaders, local unit presidents, District officers, Conference officers, pastors, and District Superintendents.

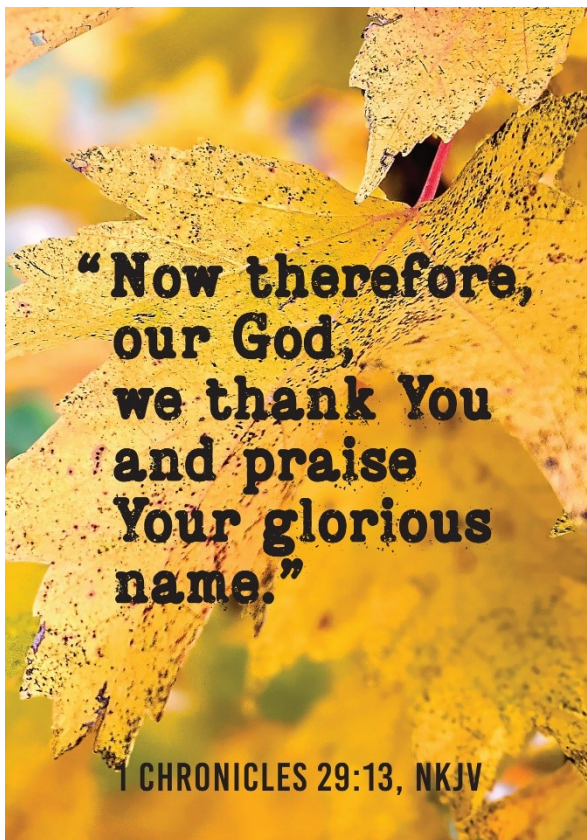
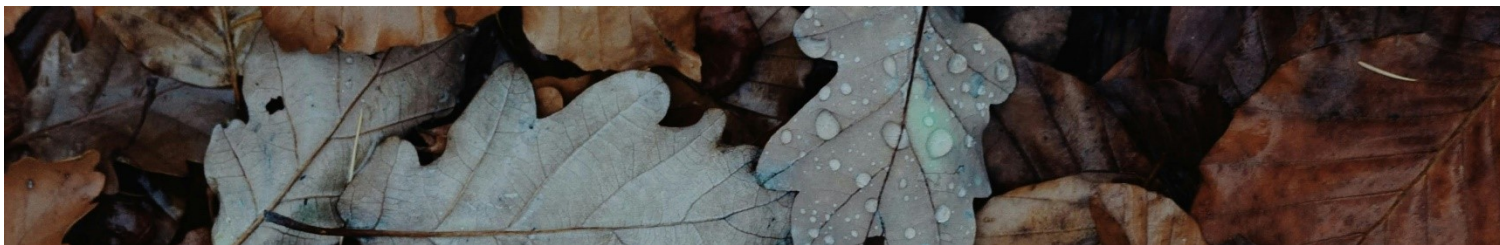
This newsletter is available online at [pnwumc.org/uwfaith/get-involved/the-sharing-line](http://pnwumc.org/uwfaith/get-involved/the-sharing-line). To receive email notification when new issues are published, or you wish to receive an emailed copy, email Jenny Bygland at [jbygland@kentmethodist.com](mailto:jbygland@kentmethodist.com).

## SHARING LINE DEADLINE

Anything for the **2025 Winter Sharing Line** should be emailed to Jenny Bygland ([jbygland@kentmethodist.com](mailto:jbygland@kentmethodist.com)) by **Friday, January 17**. Late articles will be included as space permits.

# **THE SHARING LINE**

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



**“Now therefore,  
our God,  
we thank You  
and praise  
Your glorious  
name.”**

**1 CHRONICLES 29:13, NKJV**

## **THIS ISSUE**

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**UPDATE ON OUR ANNUAL  
GATHERING**

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**2025 CONFERENCE  
CALENDAR**