



United Women in Faith

River Valley United Women in Faith's

# THE LINK

Linking together the members of the River Valley District (RVD)

Volume 30, Issue 2

August 2023



Jane Baker

## Greetings from our District President

Dear United Women in Faith of River Valley District!

As I write this today—yes, at the last minute—I am looking forward to watching the installation of Sally Vonner as our new General Secretary and Chief Executive Officer. Sally has been involved in the rebranding of United Women in Faith and has introduced program innovations and initiatives. We anticipate the new opportunities that UWF will present going forward.

All of you are invited to attend our **District's Annual Gathering on September 23 at Christ UMC in Rochester**. Our speaker will be our District Superintendent, Michelle Hargrave, and her topic will be *Tending the Garden of the Soul*. Don't we all need soul care? Caring for our souls is physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual effort that we often don't take time for. Let's hear what Michelle has to tell us about it.

The day will also include a business meeting with a 2024 budget to approve, as well as officers to elect and then install, and reports from other officers. There will be a remembrance service in honor of members we have lost this year. Please bring the names of those from your unit who have passed since last fall. We want to honor their service to UMW/UWF.

Don't forget to bring products for Emma Norton Services (see pg 18). Donations for the morning coffee and part of the morning offering will also go to ENS.

Just a reminder that our **Minnesota Conference Annual Fall Gathering will be Saturday, October 7, at Resurrection UMC in Hastings**. I hope many River Valley District members will attend and support this event in our district.

**We are looking for district officers and for churches to host our 2024 Spring and Annual Gatherings.** If you or your unit can do either, please contact me!

We need YOU to make our Annual Gathering successful. Please come and bring a friend!

*Blessings and UWF love,*

*Jane Baker, President—RV District United Women in Faith*



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Mark your calendar to attend our **DISTRICT ANNUAL GATHERING** —  
 on **SATURDAY, September 23** from 8:45am-2:30pm. It's being held at the  
**Christ United Methodist Church in Rochester, Minnesota.**

See Gathering information on pages 18-19. **Registrations are DUE by Sept. 16.**

•••••  
 • Send items about your unit  
 • activities to include in our news-  
 • letters! Submit to Sharon  
 • Dougherty, contact info on pg 3.  
 •••••

### MISSION STATEMENT 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.



✂ clip and save ✂

## What's on our calendar? Gathering Dates District, Conference & Other Events

### 2023

**Sept. 23** River Valley District Annual Gathering  
(Saturday) *Christ UMC in Rochester*

**Oct. 7** MN Conference Annual Fall Gathering  
(Saturday) for ALL United Women in Faith  
*Resurrection UMC in Hastings*

**Oct. 7-8** Leadership Development Retreat (LDR)  
(Saturday for All Conference & District Officers  
& Sunday) *Resurrection UMC in Hastings*

### 2024

**April 23-** UMC General Conference  
**May 3** *Charlotte, North Carolina*

**May 30-** United Women in Faith North Central  
**June 2** Jurisdiction Meeting  
*Indianapolis, Indiana*

### 2026

**May 15-17** UWF Assembly 2026  
*Indianapolis, Indiana*

pack in jars, make the brine, and process the beets using the hot water bath method. Clean up is usually finished before 1pm. The processed jars are left on towels on the kitchen counter to cool for 24 hours. The brine uses packages of "Pickling Spice" found in the bulk spice section at Cub Foods. In the past one batch of brine was needed for 14 wide-mouth pint jars. Seventy-two wide mouth pints were sold out in 2022. They sold for \$5.00 a pint. The jars and rings were asked to be returned, which helps keep the cost down; it may be increased this year.

Jalapeno Jelly was first made by one lady (a dozen jars) using the recipe in the CERTO box. It was so popular that



now we make 6 batches at church. For the Raspberry Jalapeno Jam, we use the regular Sure Jell cooked method with raspberries donated by members. It takes 3 cups of mashed raspberries per batch; the yield is 9 half pints per batch.

We also use the hot water bath method to make half pints of Colorado Peach Jam and Crab Apple Butter. We also make stewed tomatoes, which we label as Chili Starter, although they take longer to process since some are pints and some are quarts. Two ladies also make Salsa at home, and it sells well, too.

Purchase the vegetables at your local Farmers Market. Provide samples for tasting on a cracker, served by one person with a nitrile glove the first year. Avery Sticky Labels are used for each product, sample available. Request that jars and unruined rings be returned to your church when possible. Directions with photos are available by contacting me:

**Janet Ewing**  
[janete9@charter.net](mailto:janete9@charter.net)  
**952-431-7751**



## FUNDRAISING IDEA

The Holiday Bazaar is held from 9am-2pm on the Saturday before Thanksgiving each year at **The Well, A United Methodist Church in Rosemount.**



Pickled Beets have been a successful sale item for many years. We use a recipe from one of the UMW members in 2006.

The beets (3 five-gallon pails) are purchased from a local Farmers Market and are refrigerated after purchase. The pickles are made in the church kitchen and processed via the Hot Water Bath method. Three ladies come in around 7am to wash and cook the beets for about one hour. Other helpers come to peel, slice,



# **CONTACT INFORMATION FOR RIVER VALLEY**



## **DISTRICT & APPOINTED OFFICERS**

### **PRESIDENT**

Jane Baker (2 yr term, 2nd yr)  
727 Hi Park  
Red Wing MN 55066  
651-388-9127 or 651-764-2505  
janekbaker@yahoo.com

### **SECRETARY (Acting)**

Virginia (Ginny) Vandervest  
17750 Blackbird Trl  
Hasting MN 55033-8709  
651-983-4872  
vvanderves@gmail.com

### **PROGRAM COORDINATOR**

Vacant Position -  
**JOIN OUR TEAM!**  
*Contact Jane Baker*  
(App on pg 14)

### **CO-TREASURER**

Teri Arnold (Extended 2 yr term, 2nd yr)  
10995 Equine Dr  
St Charles MN 55972  
507-273-3812  
jonandteriarnold@hotmail.com

### **CO-TREASURER**

Deb Jensen (Extended 2 yr term, 2nd yr)  
6304 30th Ave NW  
Rochester MN 55901  
815-535-3710  
debjen\_mad@yahoo.com

### **NOMINATIONS CHAIR**

Vacant Position -  
**JOIN OUR TEAM!**  
*Contact Jane Baker*  
(App on pg 14)

### **NOMINATIONS CLASS OF 2023**

Committee Member

Vacant Position -  
**JOIN OUR TEAM!**  
*Contact Jane Baker*  
(App on pg 14)

### **NOMINATIONS CLASS OF 2024**

Committee Member

Vacant Position -  
**JOIN OUR TEAM!**  
*Contact Jane Baker*  
(App on pg 14)

### **NOMINATIONS CLASS OF 2025**

Committee Member

Vacant Position -  
**JOIN OUR TEAM!**  
*Contact Jane Baker*  
(App on pg 14)

### **SOCIAL ACTION COORDINATOR**

Diana Eickelberg (2 yr term, 2nd yr)  
25 Harmony Ct  
Lake City MN 55041  
507-358-9576  
deickelberg1@gmail.com

### **RESOURCE MANAGER / EDUCATION & INTERPRETATION**

Nancy Iverson (2 yr term, 2nd yr)  
16970 Whitewood Ave  
Prior Lake MN 55372  
612-747-1630  
undothree@gmail.com

### **MEMBERSHIP NURTURE & OUTREACH COORDINATOR**

Vacant Position -  
**JOIN OUR TEAM!**  
*Contact Jane Baker*  
(App on pg 14)

### **COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR**

Sharon Dougherty (2nd 2 yr term, 2nd yr)  
14150 Woodchuck Trl  
Prior Lake MN 55372  
612-280-2103  
sdsrdougherty@gmail.com

### **EMMA NORTON REPRESENTATIVE**

Vacant Position -  
**JOIN OUR TEAM!**  
*Contact Jane Baker*  
(App on pg 14)

### **SPIRITUAL GROWTH COORDINATOR**

Liz Weninger (2 yr term, 2nd yr)  
2591 Spring Lake Rd  
Shakopee MN 55379  
952-445-6645 or 612-590-2234  
lizw@mchsi.com

### **RVD LENDING LIBRARIAN**

Connie Scott (2 yr term, 1st year)  
500 Sommerville St S, Apt 102  
Shakopee MN 55379  
507-456-3073  
connielulu55@msn.com

*Volunteers are vital to our River Valley District!  
Thanks to those who share their talents & gifts with us!  
Remember—as you serve others, you're serving Christ!*

**CONFERENCE LEADERSHIP:** Jane Baker, Christie Brown, Janet Ewing, Elizabeth Everitt (NCJ), Catherine Williams

# MONEY MATTERS FROM OUR DISTRICT CO-TREASURERS

Greetings UWF Sisters,

The summer is going quickly. It is hard to believe that it is already August.

We hope the first half of the year has been good for your unit. It is certainly good to be able to see each other face to face again. Zoom meetings have value, but they just can't compare to hugs.



*Deb Jensen*



*Teri Arnold*

We would like to remind your local treasurers that all remittances should be mailed to Deb Jensen, 6304 30th Avenue NW, Rochester, MN 55901. Make sure a remit form is included with the remit so credit is given to the appropriate account.

**Local treasurers should send only the remits listed on the Conference Remit site to the River Valley (RV) District Treasurer. All other gifts should be sent directly to the appropriate mission.** An example that should be sent to the District Treasurer would be gifts to Emma Norton. An example that should be sent directly to a mission would be like the Ronald McDonald House in Rochester. The list defined at National is too long to include here, but if you have any questions, please email Teri Arnold at [jonandteriarnold@hotmail.com](mailto:jonandteriarnold@hotmail.com). As always, the Pledge to Mission, Special Recognition, Gift to Mission, Gift in Memory, World Thank Offering, Call to Prayer and Self-Denial and Emma Norton Services should still be sent to our RV District Treasurer.

Below is the financial summary report for the first half of 2023. Please see the proposed RV District budget for 2024 on page 5. This proposed budget has been approved by the RV District Executive team. The budget will be presented to and voted on at the RV District Annual Gathering in Rochester on September 23, 2023. The approved budget will then be presented to and voted on by the UWF members attending the Conference Annual Fall Gathering in Hastings on October 7, 2023. If you have any questions, please email Teri at [jonandteriarnold@hotmail.com](mailto:jonandteriarnold@hotmail.com).

God Bless,  
**Deb Jensen and Teri Arnold**  
**RV District Co-Treasurers**

| <b>Financial Summary</b>                                   |             |                    |                   |
|--|-------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Balance 1/1/2023</b>                                    |             |                    | <b>\$945.53</b>   |
| Mission Giving Deposits                                    | \$11,898.10 |                    |                   |
| A & MD Deposits  | \$4,733.00  |                    |                   |
| <b>Total 1/1/23 to 6/30/23</b>                             |             | <b>\$16,631.10</b> |                   |
| Mission Giving Expenses                                    | \$11,628.10 |                    |                   |
| A & MD Expenses  | \$2,134.14  |                    |                   |
| <b>Total 1/1/23 to 7/20/23</b>                             |             | <b>\$13,762.24</b> |                   |
| <b>Balance 7/20/2023</b>                                   |             |                    | <b>\$3,814.39</b> |
| Note – A & MD is Administrative and Membership Development |             |                    |                   |

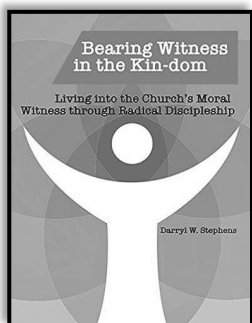
## River Valley Proposed 2024 Budget

|                                       | Proposed for 2024  |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Pledge to Mission</b>              | <b>\$40,000.00</b> |
| <b>ENS Goal</b>                       | <b>\$10,000.00</b> |
| <b>Total A &amp; MD</b>               | <b>\$9,490.00</b>  |
| <b>Administration Officer Expense</b> |                    |
| Mileage incl exec mtg food            | \$700.00           |
| Supplies                              | \$225.00           |
| Postage                               | \$225.00           |
| Audit/Bank                            | \$525.00           |
| Copies/Printing                       | \$115.00           |
| Officer Recognition                   | \$350.00           |
| Lending library                       | \$200.00           |
| Miscellaneous                         | \$100.00           |
| <b>Membership Development</b>         |                    |
| Communication/ Newsletters            | \$2,800.00         |
| Mission u                             | \$2,000.00         |
| <i>District meetings:</i>             |                    |
| District Spring Gathering             | \$750.00           |
| MN Conf Annual Fall Gathering         | \$750.00           |
| District Annual Gathering             | \$750.00           |

## MISSION U 2023

### Report from Attendee Jane Baker

How often do we “pray” the Lord’s Prayer in church or other gatherings by simply repeating considering the meaning and the power of what we say? This year’s Mission u study focused on the importance of the prayer, by looking at every phrase and challenging us to consider how the prayer can guide us to become the reflection of God’s love in His Kin-dom. →



Held at Motley UMC in Motley, MN, Mission u in person was a time of learning, sharing, and meditating. The study book, *Living the Kin-dom*, focuses on the Lord’s Prayer by breaking the prayer into eight phrases that can be studied and discussed. Leaders Marion Hansen and Elizabeth Everitt provided insight and asked questions to provoke discussion. The last session encouraged us to consider what we can do to shift our focus from a culture of exploitation and oppression (kingdom) to one of community building (Kin-dom).

Break times provided opportunities for quiet reflection in the meditation room, set up by Janet Ewing; for doing puzzles and crafts, planned by Linda Kotschevar; and, of course, enjoying snacks and drinks courtesy of Motley UWF. Pictured are the



jeweled cross and Lord’s Prayer bracelet that I made. We also had the opportunity to watch the film

*Hidden Figures* on Saturday night, with popcorn and beverages provided!

Sunday morning church at Motley UMC brought us together one last time, for music, worship, and communion. Afterward we enjoyed fellowship and food with many members of the church.

Many thanks to Christie Brown, co-dean of Mission u, for her work organizing the event. Our technology guru, Kim Harris, made her wonderful magic, and leaders Elizabeth and Marion kept us focused. The ladies of Motley and president, Jomyla Choate, were great hostesses and provided meals, drinks, and snacks. It was an inspiring and wonderful weekend! †



## HOSTING UWF UNITS NEEDED FOR:

\* 2024 Spring (April) and \* 2024 Annual (Sept.) Gatherings

Gatherings are for approx 50 attendees—host unit will be reimbursed for food. Host Duties list provided.

## SOCIAL ACTION



Diana Eickelberg

Hello to everyone—my notes today will be short, but they will give you an update on happenings at the state legislature of which JRLC (Joint Religious Legislative Coalition) was involved.

### 1. Sacred Settlements—Passed.

Provides faith congregations with a way to provide permanent housing and a support system to people transitioning out of chronic homelessness. This passed bill defined building standards for congregations and inspection criteria for city governments.

### 2. Childcare Assistance Program—Passed

Raised reimbursement rates for CCAP from the 30<sup>th</sup> percentile of market rate to the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile. 75<sup>th</sup> percentile reimbursement rate is the federal standard.

### 3. Early Childhood Programs—Passed.

Supported parent-centered approaches to investing in early childhood programs for low-income families. Increased funding for early childhood scholarships.

### 4. Emergency Shelter and Housing—Passed.

\$137 million in dedicated funding for Emergency shelters.

### 5. Pending—Maternal death research expansion

It was a busy legislative year, and we can pray that future legislation will continue to work toward ways to support low-income persons including women and children.

**Diana Eickelberg,**

**RV District Social Action Coordinator**

## SPIRITUAL GROWTH



Liz Weninger

I wanted to share these **Five Promises** that God makes over and over to every person of faith in every generation. These promises give incredible hope:

## GOD'S PROMISES

**Promise #1—God is Always with Me**

*I will not fear*

**Promise #2—God is Always in Control**

*I will not doubt*

**Promise #3—God is Always Good**

*I will not despair*

**Promise #4—God is Always Watching**

*I will not falter*

**Promise #5—God is Always Victorious**

*I will not fail*

No matter what you're facing today, you can be sure that these promises are true for you, right now. Take hold of them, cherish them, believe them and wait for God to make them reality.

Taken from "Always True [God's 5 promises when life is hard]" by James MacDonald.

**Liz Weninger,**

**RV District Spiritual Growth Coordinator**

*\*Liz is recovering from a fall in which she broke her ankle and a bone above the ankle. We send our best wishes to her in her recovery and rehabilitation. ♥*

Help keep our **district contact list** up-to-date! Each time a newsletter is returned to me by the post office for a "Not at this address", "Unable to forward", we are charged \$\$\$\$ . Pls keep me updated with change of addresses, death notices, additions, and if you can receive your newsletter via email rather than paper copy. This helps us put these economic savings into more missions & it's a quick way to get your newsletter! Take a moment to let Sharon Dougherty know of any changes (sdsrdougherty@gmail.com / 612-280-2103).

**PROGRAM RESOURCES /**

**EDUCATION & INTERPRETATION**



*Nancy Iverson*

Greetings, Sisters and Readers -

Here we are sweltering in July heat and suffering from a drought or severe drought depending on your exact location. Maybe a good way to beat the heat is by curling up with a good book (of course from the **UWF Reading Program**) in a comfortable chair in an air-conditioned room!

For 2023, **books** can be read from Reading Program lists from 2018 through 2023 if not previously reported on before. Watching **movies** can be counted as a book, too: *Hidden Figures* (Leadership Development), *Pushout* (Social Action) or *The Hate You Give* (Nurturing for Community) are the movies eligible for 2023. Remember we can also read youth or children’s books.

Remember also that listening to two **Faith Talks** counts as one book or listening to three Faith Talks counts as a Bonus book in the Spiritual Growth category. Also, regular reading of **response** magazine is required in each plan.

When you are all done with your Plan (I, II, III or IV) **please submit your Report of Completion Requirements form by March 10, 2024, to Connie Scott, 500 Sommerville St. S., Apt. 102, Shakopee MN 55379.**

**Mission Today for 2023**

How do we as individual units turn faith, hope and love into action on behalf of women, children and youth at home and around the world? In other words, how do we “Mission Today”... ??

The **Mission Today form** is a list of many ideas we can choose from to accomplish that goal. It, among other things, encourages sharing of the *response* magazine, use of the Daily Prayer Guide, participation in the reading program and sharing books within our units and our church congregations.

It is important that we continue to educate ourselves about our world and what UWF is doing and what actions we can take to join in with our sisters in UWF to improve our world and the lives of women, children and youth. **Please return your Mission Today 2023 forms by March 10, 2024, to Nancy Iverson, 16970 Whitewood Ave., Prior Lake MN 55372.** The form is included on pgs 11-12 of this newsletter. Please note the form says a due date of Dec. 15, 2023, but we are giving you until March 10, 2024, to get your form submitted as we will be awarding the Mission Today 2023 Certificates of Recognition Awards at our 2024 Spring Gathering.

Looking ahead to when you receive your Mission Today 2024 forms, one suggestion I have is to review it with your unit membership and together select items you would like to work on during the year. Then, you can review it together periodically to see how you are moving toward your goals.

**Nancy Iverson,**  
**RV District**  
**Resource Manager / Education & Interpretation**  
undothree@gmail.com  
612-747-1630



**IN MEMORY of JULIE ADAMS** who was very active in and very devoted to our River Valley District and served as an officer for a number of years. She then moved on to hold a state office for another three years or so. She

had to step away from her duties in early 2020 due to a cancer diagnosis, but she always kept in touch with what was going on with her UWF sisters. Sadly, it was not cancer, but ALS that took her life. Julie passed away on Saturday, July 29. When she wasn’t busy with UMW/UWF activities, Julie enjoyed baking, the Twins, and yachting with her family. Her children and grandchildren brought a sparkle to her eyes. She will be missed. ♥

## United Women in Faith Reading Program Recognition

Certificates of Recognition for 2021 & 2022 were awarded to the following individuals at our 2023 RVD Spring Gathering:

Plan IV – 20 books a year

**Connie Scott, Holy Trinity UMC-Prior Lake 2022**

Plan III – 15 books a year

**Thalia Duffield, Northfield UMC 2021-2022**

Plan II – 10 books a year

**Dorothy Orde, Northfield UMC 2022**

**Janet Ewing, The Well UMC-Rosemount 2022**

Plan I – 5 books a year

**Janice Iverson, Christ UMC-Rochester 2021-2022**

**Jane Baker, First UMC, Red Wing 2022**

**Nancy Iverson, Holy Trinity UMC-Prior Lake 2022**

**Kay Aune, Homestead UMC-Rochester 2021-2022**

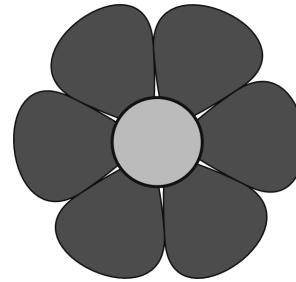
**Marie House, Homestead UMC-Rochester 2021-2022**

**Barb Johnson, Homestead UMC-Rochester 2021-2022**

**Betty Lee, Homestead UMC-Rochester 2021-2022**

**Lynn Gryc, Northfield UMC 2022**

Congratulations Sisters-in-Faith!



**A gentle  
soul brings  
amazing  
kindness to  
all things**

## United Women in Faith Mission Today Awards

Certificates of Recognition for 2021 & 2022 were awarded to the following units at our 2023 RVD Spring Gathering:

2022:

**Evangel UWF-Rochester**

**First UWF—Red Wing**

**Holy Trinity UWF—Prior Lake**

**Northfield UWF**

**Owatonna UWF**

**Ridgeway UWF-Winona**

**Stewartville UWF**

**The Well UWF—Rosemount**

**Zion UWF-Sargeant**

2021:

**Evangel UWF-Rochester**

**Holy Trinity UWF—Prior Lake**

**Northfield UWF**

**Owatonna UWF**

**Zion UWF-Sargeant**

Congratulations UWF Units!



*Between the pages of  
a book is a lovely  
place to be!*

**Check out our  
RV District's  
LENDING LIBRARY!**



# RIVER VALLEY UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH LENDING LIBRARY



Connie Scott

In a recent survey of 2,000 U.S. respondents:

- ◆ 56% of adults admit to reading at least one “serious” book in the summer “to look smarter”.
- ◆ 36% use the summer months to brush up on their knowledge of history
- ◆ 2 out of 5 read more mysteries during vacation than they do at any other point of the year
- ◆ More than half the poll (53%) looks forward to romantic reads on their holiday break — including, surprisingly, more men than women (56% vs 37%)
- ◆ Men are also more likely to admit they use the summer to read books they like without fear of judgment (73% vs 62%).
- ◆ The study also reveals that while summer is the biggest season of reading, nearly half of the respondents are planning to add an extra half hour of weekly reading this fall.



Whether you read paperbacks, hard cover books, use e-readers, or listen to taped books, United Women in Faith encourages each of us to **join the UWF Reading Program** to stay current in our knowledge of today’s issues, and to continue to be women of action.



**LIBRARY-TO-GO:** UWF meeting planners, are you looking for a program idea? **Why not invite me to give a presentation on the Reading Program at one of your meetings?** I would enjoy coming to see you and will bring along our district library of 70 books for you to look over and check out. **Contact me to schedule a day to attend a monthly meeting of your local unit.**



**What have you been reading this summer?** My favorite books for this summer have been:



- ◆ *Daughter of Cana*
- ◆ *Caste: The Origins of our Discontent*
- ◆ *Mission U: Living the Kin-dom – Exploring the Lord’s Prayer*
- ◆ *Fire Keeper’s Daughter*
- ◆ *Tilly and the Crazy Eights*



**Final note:** There has been some interest shown in starting up a **Zoom book discussion group**. The books to be discussed would be selected from the Reading Program Eligible Book List, alternating between each of the 5 categories. I would be happy to assist in getting this set up, is anyone interested in leading the discussions? We are looking at an October start date. **Please contact me and let me know if this discussion group is of interest to you, and if you would like to help lead the discussion.**

**Connie Scott,**  
**RV District Lending Librarian**

Contact me: Connie Scott at 507-456-3073 or [connielulu55@msn.com](mailto:connielulu55@msn.com)

# EMMA NORTON SERVICES:

A lot is happening at Emma Norton Services these days, and our River Valley District involvement and commitment is more important than ever.

**Restoring Waters.** First and foremost is the 2024 opening of the new Restoring Waters Residence in the Highland Bridge area of St. Paul. The building is well underway with construction on track to be completed next spring. After nearly ten years of visioning and planning, it is exciting to see this project come to fruition. The Residence will replace the very worn building on Robert Street and have 60 individual units for women and small families. It will also house the offices for ENS. The new facility will provide transformative housing coupled with supportive services that will help the residents recover from trauma and empower them to achieve their individual goals.

**Capital Campaign.** Restoring Waters is being developed in partnership with Project for Pride in Living, Urban Works, and Ryan Companies. However, a vital piece of the funding comes from the Capital Campaign, *Home + Healing*, now underway. The campaign's goal is \$3.75 million, with one million coming from faith partners—United Women in Faith, the United Methodist Church, and other faith-based organizations and individuals. About half of that amount has been raised to date; the aim is to raise the remainder by the time the building is completed. This campaign provides an opportunity for each River Valley UWF unit to get involved. Please consider planning a special drive or fund-raiser to make a gift on behalf of your chapter and be part of this important mission. Individual gifts are equally appreciated. To get more information, please visit <https://emmanorton.org/restoring-waters/> or contact me at [anngirres@gmail.com](mailto:anngirres@gmail.com).

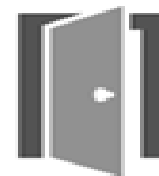
**Opening Doors Gala.** While Restoring Waters is the big news at ENS, there is lots going on in other areas too. The annual Opening Doors Gala held in late April was very successful. ENS raised almost \$130,000 at the event, which was attended by about 250 people. Many of you, either individually or through your UWF chapters, contributed to its success by providing creative gift baskets or other auction items or making a financial gift. Thank you!

The townhomes at Emma's Place continue to house up to 13 families, with staff providing creative programming for the children and youth. The Community Building will be getting a much-needed refresh in the next couple of months.

**Opportunities to Serve.** If your unit is close enough to St. Paul to make travel feasible, please consider hosting one of the monthly Bingo Parties or another social event for the residents—a holiday themed party, a craft session, etc. The women are so appreciative. For more information, please contact Victoria Virasy-Ertelt at [vvirasy@emmanorton.org](mailto:vvirasy@emmanorton.org). Many of your local units have generously collected necessities for the Residence and Emma's Place. Please continue if you can.

**Here are the most-needed items at this time:**

- Super absorbency tampons**
- Toilet paper**
- Paper towels**
- Kleenex**



**Emma Norton**  
The Journey Home Begins Here

The easiest way to get these items to St. Paul is to bring them to the Annual Gathering in Rochester on September 23.

Thank you so much for the many ways you continue to support Emma Norton Services and the vital work it does. You are part of a long and valued legacy.

**Submitted by Ann Girres**

**RV District Member (Advent UWF)**

## Mission Today 2023

District (*Please Circle*) **Big Waters** **North Star** **River Valley** **Southern Prairie** **Twin Cities**

Church or Unit Name \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

# of Members \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Person Reporting \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Let us know how you are doing Mission Today!** Use this form to report what sorts of Mission related activities are part of your United Women in Faith (UWFaith) experience. If you have a **membership of 15 or less**, completion of **at least 4 actions, 2 of which are marked with an asterisk \***, your unit will be recognized as a Mission Today Unit. Units with **16 or more members** will be recognized when they **report completion of at least 8 actions, 4 of which are marked with an asterisk \***. All of you are doing Mission so we want to hear from everyone! **Return completed reports to your District E & I Coordinator (District President if there not an E & I Coordinator) by December 15<sup>th</sup>.**

**To complete, check each Mission Action that your UWFaith is sharing in your unit, congregation, community, country and/or world.**

- \*Use the **Daily Prayer Guide** regularly at Circle, Unit, Executive, or Church Council meetings to learn about and pray for persons in mission and their ministries.
- \*Incorporate at least 2 programs from the **Program Book** into Circle, Unit, or Congregational meetings or programs during the year.
- \*Incorporate at least one of the **Mission Studies** from **Mission u** into programs for your Circle, Unit, or Congregation during the year.
- \*Make a **Pledge to Mission** and *reach or exceed* that goal for Mission Giving.
- \*Have at least 2 members who subscribe to **Response Magazine**.
- \*Two **new members** join UWFaith.
- Implement the **Charter for Racial Justice** through *at least 1* of the actions described below:
  - Sponsor or participate in an event that welcomes groups from 2 or more ethnic or cultural backgrounds.
  - Recruit women of diversity to be Members and Officers
  - Read books that provide insight into a variety of cultural, racial, and socio-economic experiences. Create an event or opportunity to share new understandings or ideas, etc.
  - Write to elected officials in support of issues such as immigration/civil rights, solutions to poverty, healthcare, education, etc.
  - Study the **United Methodist Women's Racial Justice Time Line** together. Choose an event for deeper study.
- \*At least 1 Member (not a District or Conference Officer) attends a **Mission u** event.
- \*At least one Woman from your Unit participates in the United Methodist Women **Action Network**.
- \*Write to 5 or more persons in Mission listed in the **Daily Prayer Guide**.

- At least 1 member from your unit **serves as a District, Conference or National Officer.**
- Bring your **Pastor** to a **Mission u** event.
- At least 2 members (not District or Conference Officers) attend/participate in 1 or more of the following events:
  - **Minnesota Conference Annual Meeting**
  - **District Annual Meeting**
  - **Conference Mission u**
  - **District Mission u Too**
- Plan and offer a **Children's Sabbath** at your church or in a community setting. Use materials from the **Children's Defense Fund.**
- Celebrate **UW Faith Sunday.**
- Contact the **District Liaison** for your unit.
- At least one member completes one of the **Reading Program** plans and reports on at least one of the books read.
- Have a *Book Review Event* or *Book Club* that shares 2 or more books from the **Reading Program.**
- Review a book from the **Reading Program** for your *Congregation's Newsletter* and/or post it on Social Media.
- **Contribute to All 5 channels Mission Giving to become a 5-Star Unit!**
- A **District or Conference Officer** (not a member of your congregation) attends at least one meeting or presents a program at your Church.
- Share information from **Response Magazine** at each meeting.
- Learn about **National Mission Institutions** (like *Emma Norton Services*) and involve your congregation in providing support through material and/or monetary gifts.
- Shared photos from a District or Conference event on **Facebook.**
- Plan an **Ubuntu** event for members of your congregation to celebrate mission as relational. The event should offer an opportunity to experience how communities are impacted by persons and systems and how people are making a difference.
- Share the **MN Conference UW Faith website** (<http://mnconfumw.com>) in your church newsletter or bulletin.

*Thank you for turning faith, hope, and love into action on behalf of women, children and youth around the world.*

## 2022 Unit Survey due by August 30

Each year the United Women in Faith National office connects with local units through its yearly survey. This information is used by leadership for learning more about what the needs of membership are and what ladies are thinking about the organization. National learns how they can support members to fulfill the purpose, mission and vision of United Women in Faith.

**2022 Survey:** Presidents, you may have another person fill the survey out if you do not have a computer. Someone may also call you and help you fill it out. Unit are all access groups, and NMI is National Mission Institution.

Thank you so much. Questions? Contact Catherine at [cwilliamsteach303@gmail.com](mailto:cwilliamsteach303@gmail.com) or call 507-301-5865 and leave a message.

*Catherine Williams, MN Conference  
Membership, Nurture, Outreach Chair (MNO)*

Let's have all units full the survey out by due date: **August 30, 2023.** →

## 2022 Survey—

**Local Presidents or Contact Person,  
please fill in the survey online.**

Follow these instructions:

1. Go to the website: **UWFaith.org**
2. Go to the page top—to the right of the Menu is **the search icon** that looks like a **spy glass**—click on this
3. On the search page there is a **line to type in** what you are looking for: **type in—2022 survey**
4. This will take you to the **Jurisdiction choices:** click on **North Central Jurisdiction.** You will see a list of states: click on **Minnesota**
5. There is a sample unit survey set of questions to preview what will be on the survey. Look at this if you want to but do not fill this out.
6. Scroll down to the **survey** itself. There are 40 questions.

Fill out by August 30, 2023.



## River Valley District's Spring Gathering held April 29, 2023

**\* Hosted by Northfield's United Women in Faith \***

**\* Emma Norton Coffee sponsored by Fourth Avenue—Faribault's UWF \***

**THANK YOU for a wonderful day!**



*Numerous items were collected for hygiene kits.*



*Paper products & items generously donated for Emma Norton*



*Attendees found the Racial Justice-themed program extremely Informative. Time together throughout the day was well spent!*





United Women in Faith

# RIVER VALLEY DISTRICT

## DISTRICT OFFICE Application

### Applicant Information

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Last First M.I.*

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
*City State ZIP Code*

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell #: \_\_\_\_\_ Church & City: \_\_\_\_\_

Position Applied for: \_\_\_\_\_

- President
- Program Coordinator
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Nominations Chair
- Nominations Committee Members
- Social Action Coordinator
- Spiritual Growth Coordinator
- Resource Manager/Education and Interpretation
- Membership Nurture and Outreach
- Communications Coordinator
- Emma Norton Representative
- District Historian
- Lending Librarian

### EDUCATION, WORK AND COMPUTER SKILLS

POSITIONS HELD IN YOUR CHURCH, COMMUNITY, OTHER ORGANIZATIONS  
(CONTINUE INFORMATION ON THE BACK OF THIS FORM)

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

RETURN TO: JANE BAKER, (RIVER VALLEY DISTRICT PRESIDENT), 727 HI PARK, RED WING MN 55066.  
EMAIL: [janekbaker@yahoo.com](mailto:janekbaker@yahoo.com)

**SAVE THE DATE**

**Conference Annual Fall Gathering**

**Saturday, October 7, 2023**

**9:00am-2:30pm**

**Resurrection UMC, Hastings**

**For ALL United Women in Faith**

***“A Legacy of Bold Giving”***

***Guest Speaker: Deaconess Christi Campos***

Executive for Development and Donor Relations

UWF National Office



For United Women in Faith bold giving is built into our shared DNA. Ever since our foremothers put two pennies and prayer together in 1869 to send missionaries to India, we have continued to give boldly to make missions happen. It takes bold giving to accomplish our current work through Mission Giving and our future work through the Legacy Endowment Fund. **As members of UWF what kind of legacy do we want to leave behind?** Join us as we explore the various Legacy Endowment Fund giving categories and discover how to become “trifecta donors” by giving boldly!



**Leadership Development Retreat**

**Attention all Conference & District Officers - Current & New!**

The **Leadership Development Retreat** will be held on **October 7-8** at **Resurrection UMC in Hastings**. Once again, this will be in combination with the Conference Annual Fall Gathering rather than a separate event. All officers will be receiving LDR registration information in mid-August. Lodging information was sent out in June, and all officers were encouraged to make reservations early. Leadership development is an important component of serving as an officer in United Women in Faith. Plan now to attend this fun and informative event!

*Submitted by Linda Kotschevar, Minnesota Conference Program Coordinator*

*jlkotsch2@gmail.com or 320-252-3827*



## **PAST Unit Highlights from UWFs in our district**

Here are a few histories taken from the RV UMW Histories Binder.  
These were collected in 2010 & 2011 by the UMW Historian at the time, Joy Johnson.



### **Lydia Zion UMW—Jordan, MN**

The women's group has always been an important part of the Lydia Zion UMC since it was founded 153 years ago. They were dedicated to raising money for missions and the improvement of the church building, mostly the kitchen. The first organized women's group that we know of was organized in 1890 by Mrs. H.H. (Eleanor) Hines. It was called the Frauen Auswertege Mission Verlin or the Women's Foreign Missionary Society. These ladies gave 2¢ a week for Missions. They put on box lunch socials, fancy work sales, ice cream socials, apron sales and chicken suppers to raise money. These suppers were no small feat as the church did not have a kitchen. Suppers and socials were held at the Gelack Hall in Lydia. All the water and food and everything else had to be hauled up and down the stairs. Things improved in 1937 when the basement was excavated and a kitchen was built. The Lydia Ladies became famous for putting on a wonderful turkey dinner each year. The turkeys and dressing were roasted by a baker in Shakopee but all else was homemade. The potatoes peeled and mashed by hand, kept warm in a crock sitting in a washtub of hot water, covered with a rag rug. The egg coffee, wonderful gravy and flaky pies all served family style brought in the crowds. So many bowls and serving pieces to wash and no dishwasher as we have now. In 1977 we served 896 dinners priced at \$3 each for adults and \$1.50 for children. We all think that must have been an error as we now serve around 500 dinners. The dinner discontinued in 1981 as it was too hard to put on. We started to dinner again in 1998.

The UMW has sponsored many events and raised a lot of money for missions and local church improvements. We have organized Mother Daughter banquets, Christmas Brunches, Pancake Breakfasts,

Tupperware and Pampered Chef parties, Silent Auctions, the Turkey Dinner, and all those potlucks. We have served lunch at countless funerals, hoping to ease the sorrow of the family involved. So many egg salad and ham sandwiches and yummy cakes. Giving to missions became much more personal when we helped raise money to send groups from our church to Honduras on mission trips.

Currently the UMW supports the River Valley District UMW, Emma Norton Residence, The Simpson Shelter, Alpha Pregnancy Center, The Cap Agency and The Union Gospel Mission.

We have a rich history and have been so blessed to be able to use our time and energy to serve God.

Written by Karen Scott; submitted by Shirley Hennen (2009)

**Lydia Zion U.M. Church**  
1026 E. 205th St., Jordan, MN 55352

### **McKinley UMW—Winona, MN**

Date of 1st UMW-WSCS was September 18, 1940 at 2:30pm. 84 women attended.

Our early chicken pie suppers were famous. Can you imagine us today plucking and drawing 100-125 chickens as they did for those suppers—no way—we are too busy working. However, if anyone is so inclined, my husband has a good system that works our for killing chickens fast—like his mother—ringing their necks. Chickens were all over the neighborhood!!

OR...

By no means were these women just work-horses. The old records tell of some very interesting and fun meetings. Some of them organized a kitchen band which became quite renowned and so good and funny they were often invited to other church societies to play. No wonder that one woman had much a stern mouth—she was the tuba player.

**McKinley U.M. Church**  
801 W. Broadway, Winona, MN 55987



## **PAST Unit Highlights from UWFs in our district**

Here are a few histories taken from the RV UMW Histories Binder.

These were collected in 2010 & 2011 by the UMW Historian at the time, Joy Johnson.



### **South Ridge UMW—La Crescent, MN**

In 1908 the Ladies Aid Society of the Tabor Church, of the Evangelical Association, later changed to South Ridge, was organized. The object of the society was for raising money to assist in defraying expenses of the local church. Rev. Zick was against the organization because he thought the women would become less spiritual if they become part of the fund raising. They organized anyway!!!!

Any lady of good standing could become a member. If she missed a meeting for any reason, other than illness, she was fined 10¢. Refreshments were served for 10¢.

In 1943 the Women's Missionary Society (WMS) was formed. The dues then became 25¢. A great emphasis was placed on missionaries. It was decided to hold meetings the first Thursday of each month, which we still do. In 1946 it was changed to Women's Society of World Service, then in 1968 to Women's Society of Christian Service and in 1972 to (UMW) United Methodist Women.

We provide cakes and serve a local nursing home. We help support Camp Winnebago for handicap people, various missions, goodie boxes at Christmas, make kits for UMCOR, give to 2 After Prom Parties, and purchase items for the church and kitchen.

For over 80 years we have had an annual Harvest Festival. In 2005 we sold over 500 cookbooks, "Treasures of Heaven".

**South Ridge U.M. Church**

1781 Chicken Ridge Rd., La Crescent, MN 55947

Service. They donated \$1,050 to complete the re-decoration of the church. A sum of \$1,000 was given towards the purchase of an electric organ. The earliest President on record was 1950-1951 who was Lois Starz. No mention of dues was recorded other than a basket passed at each meeting and still is today.

The First Annual May Fair of the WSCS was held in the church in 1950. A total of \$400 was raised, and now it is about \$1,500.

Every year we have sent our Pledge to Missions and our Pledge to Emma Norton. We are a 5 Star Unit and a Mission Today Unit. We also give all Channels of Undesignated Giving.

One of the early community projects was alternating with other churches in the community, serving monthly suppers. Some of the other activities include: participating in the Meals-on-Wheels program, Guest Breakfast, now known as Autumn Breakfast, Apple Fest, Christmas in Fillmore County, supplies for Emma Norton, school supplies and health kits for UMCOR and O.C. Ministries, Food Shelf, Salad Luncheon, sending clothing and Christmas gifts to Appalachia, sewing uniforms for Sierra Leone, donation to Southside Coalition, Church Women United, \$1,000 yearly to the church budget, and serving Fellowship Coffee after services. In 1985 we published a recipe cookbook. In the past we have given to Red Bird Mission in Kentucky.

Our UMW has always been represented at the School of Missions and also at District Meetings. We honor our confirmands and graduates with a tea and a gift, also our wedding couples. We take our turn in the community by hosting World Day of Prayer and serving at the Nursing Home about 7 times a year and for funerals.

We are in the process of making a UMW Friendship Quilt/Wall hanging.

Submitted by: Marilyn Reuter and Avis Kissinger (in 2010)

**Harmony State Line U.M. Church**

600 Main Ave. South, Harmony, MN 55939

### **Harmony State Line UMW--Harmony, MN**

The first records available of the Methodist Ladies Aid Society are under the date of 1904. Prior to 1915 the society meetings were held in home of our members who did quilting, sewing and various other projects. In 1940, this society was re-organized as the Women's Society of Christian

# September 23 RVD United Women in Faith's ANNUAL GATHERING

8:45am-2:30pm at Christ United Methodist Church in Rochester



See Registration form on page 19. Registration due by Sept. 16!



REV. MICHELLE HARGRAVE  
River Valley  
District Superintendent

Rev. Michelle Hargrave began her work as District Superintendent of the River Valley District last January. She has served as a pastor in the Minnesota Annual Conference for 32 years and is a life-long United Methodist. She and her husband, Kelly, live in North Mankato with their two young adult children, Zane and Liz. She enjoys photography, clarinet, and sewing. She has long been interested in nurturing the spiritual life through a variety of practices.

Michelle is our main speaker and will talk to us about "TENDING THE GARDEN OF THE SOUL". Come to hear what she will share with us! ♥

**Please bring these items to help residents at Emma Norton Services:**

- ◆ Household cleaning supplies: disinfectant, floor cleaner, sponges, dish soap
- ◆ Back to school supplies: middle/high school backpacks, TI-84+ & TI-30XS calculators, reusable water bottles, subject dividers for 3-ring binders, and loose-leaf paper
- ◆ Super absorbency tampons
- ◆ Toilet paper
- ◆ Paper towels
- ◆ Kleenex

*Thank you!*

Offerings for this gathering will go to UWF Missions and Emma Norton Services. Your generosity is appreciated in many ways!

## SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE at RVD Annual Gathering

It is tradition at our RVD Annual Gathering that we recognize the ladies who have gone on to the Kingdom of God before us. We will have a **Remembrance Service** for all UWF women who have passed away from September 2022-present. In an effort to be inclusive, we ask that you bring the names of the deceased ladies from your church, as all women are United Women in Faith, whether active in a local unit or not. Please collect (now is the time to ask your church office or pastor) and bring these names with you to the Annual Gathering on September 23; also have someone be prepared to read the names aloud during the Remembrance Service. **If you are not sure who is attending or if no ladies are attending from your local unit, please send the names by US Postal mail by Sept. 16 to:**

Christina Brown  
Attn: UWF Remembrance Service 2022-2023  
1610 Greenwood Street  
Red Wing MN 55066



**OR**

**you may email them to Christie at: [rlb1949@msn.com](mailto:rlb1949@msn.com)**

You will have the hands-on opportunity at our gathering to make the jeweled crosses and the Lord's Prayer bracelets that Jane Baker referred to in her Mission u report on pg 5. SOUL CARE! ♥ † ♥ † ♥ † ♥ † ♥ † ♥ † ♥ †



# River Valley District United Women of Faith Annual Gathering 2023



United  
Women  
in Faith

**September 23, 2023 8:45am-2:30pm Cost: \$20.00, Lunch included**

Christ United Methodist Church—Rev. Jenny Cannon  
400 5th Avenue SW, Rochester, MN 55902— 507-289-4019



United  
Women  
in Faith

8:45am Registration  
9:00am Enjoy Emma Norton Coffee; Browse Resource Tables, Displays, and Lending Library  
9:45am Gather for Singing in the Sanctuary  
Worship and Offering\*\* (*all checks made payable to River Valley District UMW, please*)  
Business Meeting  
Program including RV District Superintendent Michelle Hargrave—*“Tending the Garden of the Soul”*  
Announcements  
Lunch Enjoy Lunch with time to visit Resource Tables, Displays, and Lending Library  
1:00pm Gather for Singing in the Sanctuary  
Program continues  
1:45pm Installation of Officers  
2:00pm Service of Remembrance\* and Closing

\*Bring names or send by September 16 to: Christina Brown, 1610 Greenwood, Red Wing, MN 55066

\*\*Offerings: UWF Mission AND Emma Norton Services / Paper products for Emma Norton

## **TO REGISTER:**

**Send registrations to:** Kathy Lawson, 944 Fox Valley Place, SW, Rochester, MN 55902 **or** send her an email at [klaw427@aol.com](mailto:klaw427@aol.com)

**Checks payable to River Valley District UMW.** Email registrants may pay their fee upon arrival at registration desk. Registration is \$20.00. Payment & **registration to the registrar by SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16.** Registration required for each person attending.

**Questions?** Contact Kathy Lawson at 507-951-4008

## **DIRECTIONS to Church:**

From Hwy 52 take Exit to 2<sup>nd</sup> Street SW toward downtown. Turn right if coming from the South and left if coming from the North; turn right onto 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. SW; turn right into parking lot across from the church between 4<sup>th</sup> St. and 5<sup>th</sup> St.

From Hwy 63 (Broadway) turn left on 4<sup>th</sup> St. SW if coming from the South and right if coming from the North; turn left on 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. SW; turn right into parking lot across from the church between 4<sup>th</sup> St. and 5<sup>th</sup> St.



Detach and send

## **Registration Form**

**Due by September 16**

Name for Name Tag: \_\_\_\_\_

Church Name and Town/City: \_\_\_\_\_

Local/District/MN Conference Leadership—*Specify*: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address/Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Food Allergies & Dietary concerns OR any special needs: \_\_\_\_\_

**CHILDCARE: \*\*\*Pre-registered only** — Yes, I need child care for 1 2 3 more children. Indicate number. \_\_\_\_\_

Include children's names & ages with registration form. Include lunch/snacks/allergies list with your child.

**Children must be pre-registered to have child care on site.**



United  
Women  
in Faith

River Valley District – Minnesota  
Sharon Dougherty  
Communications Coordinator  
14150 Woodchuck Trl  
Prior Lake, MN 55372

**Address Services Requested**

**Resources for Enrichment:**

We offer many ways for you to enrich your life, live your faith and put love into action.

**<https://www.mnconfumw.com>** – for Events, District Connections & *The Fresh Connection*

**<https://www.facebook.com>** – Minnesota United Women in Faith

**<https://www.uwfaith.org>** – Who We Are, Resources, Get Involved, What We Do, News, Events,  
Legacy Fund, Membership, Donate

**<https://www.facebook.com>** – United Women in Faith

**<https://www.youtube.com/c/uwwomenfaith/videos>** – watch current United Women in Faith videos

**The LINK is published twice a year and is distributed free of charge.**

For **address changes or name deletions, subscription requests or to submit an article/photo**,  
please contact Sharon Dougherty, River Valley Communications Coordinator,  
at [sdsrdougherty@gmail.com](mailto:sdsrdougherty@gmail.com) or 612-280-2103.