



# OUTREACH SPRING 2023

Southern Prairie District  
United Women in Faith

SPRING GATHERING is April 22 at Belgrade UMC in North Mankato

Southern Prairie District Spring Gathering promises to be a day well spent with other Women in Faith. The Belgrade United Women of Faith in North Mankato will host our Spring Gathering. While plans continue to be underway, we will be joined by Pastor Dawn Houser, serving the Aitkin UMC. Pastor Houser chairs the Committee on Native American Ministry (CONAM) which works to initiate relationships with Native American communities. CONAM is in the process of organizing a walk to bring awareness of murdered and missing indigenous women. This walk is planned for Friday, May 5, 2023 in Redwood Falls.

Plan to join us at Spring Gathering on Saturday, April 22 in North Mankato to hear how we can help Native American communities, increase our awareness, and work toward our goal of unity with all people through Jesus Christ. Our district is home to the Upper Sioux and The Lower Sioux Indian communities.

## Emma Norton Annual OPEN DOORS GALA

**April 27, 2023** at the InterContinental Saint Paul Riverfront.

Enjoy an evening out with fabulous food, entertainment, and friends. Hear moving testimonials from Emma Norton residents and staff. Updates on our new building, Restoring Waters in Highland Bridge. Bid by mobile or in person on exclusive live auction items. Contribute to "Fund-A-Need to help residents thrive!

Register at [www.emmanorton.org/engage/events/](http://www.emmanorton.org/engage/events/)

You may also participate in the silent auction online, donate to the "Fund-a-Need, and/or join livestream or view a recorded version of the Gala post-event.

Your support of Emma Norton helps us to continue to grow and achieve our mission of providing transformational housing for women and families on their journey of recovery.

Greetings from Redwood Falls, MN...

Spring is just around the corner. I spotted a dozen fat robins in the back yard the first of March and I must admit I got pretty excited. A sure sign of spring. I rushed out to fill bird feeders only to realize this group was migratory and had no intention of hanging around; they just came for lunch and a rest. I certainly could use a rest from all this snow.

As I work my way through the first year as president of the Southern Prairie district United Women in Faith (UWF), I must admit, I am feeling a bit overwhelmed. My husband, Jeff, and I live in Redwood Falls where I enjoyed 41 years as a nonprofit serving the employment needs of people with disabilities as the business manager. I left the workforce just three weeks ahead of the Covid-19 state shutdown. Talk about a change of pace. Dreams of road trips and family gatherings were dashed for the better part of two years. One can easily get brain fog soon from inactivity. Thus, I am excited to have a challenge seeking purposeful activities.

I am a member of the First United Methodist Church in Redwood Falls and active in many aspects of the church. United Women in Faith is important to me for no better reason than it was important to my Mother and Grandmother. My reasoning now has changed, but I still hold great respect for those that came before us. My Grandmother and Mother were strong, organized women; I am not organized at all. I operate by the seat of my pants, and I apologize in advance for annoying those of you with that valued organizational skill set. I look forward to meeting the women in the Southern Prairie District and working to make a difference in local units, in the district, and in outreach.

I love to read and I work a few days a week at the local bookstore. I can get lost in books and enjoy a reading group discussion. With that being said, I am a big fan of the Women in Faith Reading Program. I recently read Brene' Brown's Braving the Wilderness: the Quest for True Belonging and the Courage to Stand Alone (not on the list). I needed this. Brown spent years researching the joy of belonging and discovering that we always have more than two choices. Today we are bombarded with too many options, declaring we need to be with or against a group of certain ideas. At times, it feels as though one is standing alone in the wilderness. Brown shares a strategy to determine how to stand on your own convictions, braving the wilderness. As Women in Faith, we must stand together, perhaps not in total agreement, but together listening with empathy and open minds.

The Southern Prairie executive team is planning an interesting **Spring Gathering on April 22 at Belgrade United Methodist Church in North Mankato**. We are excited to have Pastor Dawn Houser with us to share information of awareness of missing and murdered indigenous women. The Lower Sioux and The Upper Sioux Indian Communities are part of our district. Please plan to join us at the Spring Gathering to hear how we can show our caring spirit for our First People.

"It only takes a spark to get a fire going, and soon all those around can warm up in its glowing.... That's how it is with God's love, once you've experienced it; you want to sing, it's fresh like spring. You want to pass it on." We want to pass it on.

Please feel free to reach out to me, share your ideas, share your struggles and your successes.

Betty Stancer, Southern District UWF President

## Spring Gathering: Opportunities to Share!

As we gather at Belgrade UMC in North Mankato on April 22<sup>nd</sup>, we have many ways to share. First, our MN Annual Conference will be collecting UMCOR Feminine Hygiene Kits so we are asking you to bring items as we will be assembling kits to donate at Annual Conference. Items included in the kit are:

- 2 oz bottle of hand sanitizer
- Travel pack of wet ones
- Tampons: Regular & super absorbency—Unscented
- Sanitary Napkins: Long super ultra-thin—Unscented
- Bath-size soap (3 oz bar or larger)—No Ivory or Jergen's
- Flushable wipes (42 count)—Unscented
- Travel sink-size laundry detergent (.25-.45 oz)
- *\*\*We will provide the one-gallon re-sealable bag and 4-gallon bathroom trash bags*

A second way to share is bringing items for Emma Norton Services. Items included on their winter donation needs list are:

- Household cleaning supplies
  - Disinfectant
  - Floor Cleaner
  - Sponges
  - Dish Soap
- Disposable masks
- Reusable period products
  - Pregnancy tests
- Ethnic hair care

Thank you for all the ways you give! See you in North Mankato!

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A story from Midwest Mission Distribution Center (MMDC) near Springfield, MO:

**A.God. Moment.** Basic hygiene supplies were being collected for Turkey. The humanitarian aid contact stated that they needed sizes to be uniform and the different items be put in one bag to pass out to individuals. When MMDC heard about this, they said that's exactly what their Personal Dignity Kit is, and why the kits are always ready for when a disaster hits! Each kit contains shampoo, a toothbrush, toothpaste, a bar of soap, a hand towel, a washcloth, deodorant, and a razor. And they had a number of kits ready to be sent to Turkey! WOW! Your donations, volunteer hours, and prayer allowed MMDC to quickly respond to the request. Through destruction and chaos, we look for how God is working, and rely on the Spirit to guide us into action.

**DAY APART is June 13 at Montevideo UMC**

Southern Prairie District Day Apart planning is underway. You will want to attend and bring a friend for a day of spiritual renewal on Tuesday, June 13. Montevideo United Women in Faith will be our host. **Mary Gehrke of Luverne** will talk about becoming a Deaconess and the responsibilities of a Deaconess. Mary has worked as a mental health therapist and will bring insight to staying mentally fit.

**Southern Prairie District UWF**

**DAY APART at Montevideo UMC**

**Tuesday, June 13, 2023**

**9:00 am – 3:00 p.m.**

Join women from around the Southern Prairie District in a day focused on the work of Deaconesses and a time of spiritual renewal.

Program leader is Deaconess Mary Gehrke of Luverne

Registration Form: \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Contact Info (phone): \_\_\_\_\_

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

Church: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

**Return registration by June 6 to:**

**Sharon Lutz, 515 So. 13<sup>th</sup> St, Montevideo, MN 56265**

**Sharon's phone: 320-269-7706**

The local UWF unit at **Redwood Falls UWF** made **471 more pillowcase dresses** over the past two years. During Covid they had a hard time finding a place to send them. However, they found they could send the dresses to MMDC in Illinois. At the end of February 2023, the shipment went to Jamaica. What a fabulous mission! Thank you Redwood Falls UWF!

## Mission u 2023? Let's make it happen!

By Spiritual Growth Coordinator Christie Brown and Social Action Coordinator Shirley Durr

We are collaborating as the Dean Team to help bring Mission u to Minnesota this summer. Our first step was to register for the Dean training in April.

### **We need you!**

We are looking for people who can be study leaders. Is that you or someone you know? Please let us know by April 2 if you can lead the study (described in the box on the right) or recommend someone we can ask to lead the study. You can contact Shirley at [shirley.durr@gmail.com](mailto:shirley.durr@gmail.com) or Christie at [rlb1949@msn.com](mailto:rlb1949@msn.com) or 651-388-3124.

Training starts April 15 and study leaders need to register before that date.

### **When? Where? How much?**

Mission u will take place sometime in July. Specific dates, times, number of sessions, and venue will be decided by the study leader(s) and the Dean Team before June. Cost will depend on the venue and the number of study leaders. The Dean Team will decide whether we offer in-person, virtue, hybrid, or all of these choices after we meet with study leaders and assess our budget.

### **Keep watching for updates**

We will be advertising information with details via flyers, email, Facebook, and website when everything is determined.

All Mission u curricula are designed to motivate, inform, and enrich our commitment to global ministry.

## Mission u 2023



### LIVING THE GOOD NEWS

## Reflecting God's Love

Join us at Mission u as we explore the good news and what it means for our lives!

Jesus' teachings in the Gospels proclaim the good news of the kin-dom or reign the kin-dom 90 times in the Synoptic Gospels! What does the Bible tell us about God's *basileia* and why do we call it the kin-dom? For Jesus, the kin-dom was not simply something to talk about but something we could live and experience. From the Lord's Prayer to the beatitudes to the parables, this good news is at the heart of Jesus' preaching, teaching and ministry.

Come! Let's explore together the heart of Jesus' good news and what fresh vision it offers us as we seek to be in mission today.

The curriculum will be based on *Living the Kin-dom: Exploring the Lord's Prayer as a Spiritual Practice for Social Transformation* by Riva Tabelisma, with the possibility of adding Youth and Children curricula, depending on study leaders and interest.

Southern Prairie UWF District events in 2023. Put them on your calendar!

Spring Gathering      Saturday, April 22      at Belgrade UMC, North Mankato  
 Day Apart              Tuesday, June 13          at Montevideo UMC  
 Fall Gathering        Saturday, Sept. 16        at Jeffers UMC

Also: The Conference UWF Annual Meeting is October 7 at Hastings UMC

**MISSION TODAY 2022**

Church	City	Members	Active
Hope UMC	Blue Earth	43	21
First UMC	Windom	17	
Trimont UMC	Trimont	9	
Oakwood UMC	New Ulm	14	
Faith UMC	Waseca	34	29

**STAR UNITS in 2022**

**Gold Star: Windom**

**Five-Star Units:**

- Balaton
- Elmore
- Hector
- Centenary Mankato
- Cornerstone Marshall
- Middle Creek
- New Ulm First
- Oakwood New Ulm
- Redwood Falls
- Trimont
- Waseca
- Wells

**Keep up with  
 United Women in Faith  
 in these ways:**

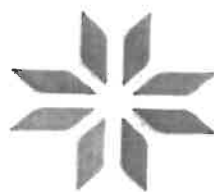
[www.mnconfumw.com](http://www.mnconfumw.com)  
 - for events, District Connections and  
 The Fresh Connection

[www.uwfaith.org](http://www.uwfaith.org)  
 - for news, events and inspiration

[www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)  
 -Minnesota United Women in Faith

[www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)  
 - United Women in Faith

[www.youtube.com/c/uwwomenfaith/videos](http://www.youtube.com/c/uwwomenfaith/videos)  
 - watch current UWF videos



**UWF units which became inactive in 2022:**

- Fairmont                      1/26/2022
- Lamberton                    2/24/2022
- Open Doors, Wells            2022

# Southern Prairie District UWF

## Spring Gathering

Saturday, April 22, 2023

Belgrade Avenue UMC, 386 Sherman St., North Mankato

8:30 Registration and Emma Norton Coffee Time

9:00 Gathering Time begins

Program Theme: Missing Indigenous Women

Speaker: Pastor Dawn Houser

Please register by April 15

Registration is \$12 (includes lunch)

Make checks payable to Southern Prairie UWF

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Contact info (phone/email) \_\_\_\_\_

Church \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

Special Dietary needs \_\_\_\_\_

Return registration information by 4/15 to

Deb Anderson, 2038 Roe Crest Drive, North Mankato, MN

56003 or [debraandersondja@gmail.com](mailto:debraandersondja@gmail.com)



# United Women in Faith

Southern Prairie District  
9184 377<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Blue Earth, MN 56013  
Attn: Judith Clark

Nonprofit Organization

US POSTAGE PAID

Blue Earth, MN 56013

Permit No. 50

Return Service Requested

## *Change of Address? Let Us know!*

Have you moved? Do you have a *change of address* or a *new email address*?

We hate for you to miss the Southern Prairie District Outreach for United Women in Faith because we have an incorrect address for you. The USPS will eventually return your undelivered newsletter to the communications coordinator, or your incorrect email will bounce back to her. But if you correct the information, you won't miss out! Send changes to Judith Clark at 9184 377<sup>th</sup> Ave, Blue Earth, MN 56013, or contact her at [classicalgal@hotmail.com](mailto:classicalgal@hotmail.com) or text her at 218-251-1939.

To subscribe to the free online newsletter **FRESH CONNECTION** for the Minnesota Conference of United Women in Faith go to <https://www.mnconfumw.com/>