

Coastal Bend District United Women in Faith

(Spring 2024 Newsletter)



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.

Greetings from UWF District President Kathy Anderson

Hi all,

Welcome to Spring!

I want to talk to you about what United Women in Faith (UWF) has brought to me over the years---Fellowship, Christian Growth, and meaningful, lasting Friendships. It has brought me an evolving growth in my Christian faith and the strength that this has brought to my life .

I believe within UWF you gain growth in your faith as you become involved or by your continued involvement in our organization. Help us to grow in our ability to help women, children and youth within our area and around the world.

Let us BUILD our organization to its full potential! Please come to the upcoming "Hospitality of the Heart" Gathering on Saturday, April 20, 2024. The story at top right has all the details.

Don't hesitate to contact me for details or if you have questions.

Everyone is invited! Please join us!



"Hospitality of the Heart" Gathering on Saturday, April 20, in Corpus Christi

All women in the Coastal Bend District are cordially invited to attend a gathering and potluck lunch on **Saturday, April 20**, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The location is Fellowship Hall at First United Methodist Church Corpus Christi, 900 S. Shoreline Blvd (downtown across from the Emerald Beach Hotel).

A registration fee of \$5 has been set to help with meeting and food preparations. Please register online at: <https://forms.gle/7tiuZhxTz6pmenc96>; you may pay your registration at the door when you arrive.

Bring your favorite salad...or a tray of sandwiches...or a tasty dessert to share with others. (Prepare your dish to serve 8-10). Tea, water, and paper goods will be furnished.

The program is titled "Hospitality of the Heart." Fellowship and information will focus on how United Women in Faith units can get reorganized and refocused on mission.

Come join us! If questions, please call UWF District President Kathy Anderson at 361-549-0202.



2024 UWF Officers Currently Serving



2024 UWF Officers --At the Coastal Bend District United Women in Faith annual meeting held Sept. 30, 2023, at UMC Beeville,, the following officers were elected: (front row, l-r) Kathy DeMeulle, Chris Garcia, Susan Ottopohl, Ancoise Jarbeaux, Kathy Anderson; (second row, l-r) Carole Salsberry, Linda Harrison, Cathy Chaney. Not pictured is Mary Hudson, who was absent. Go to Page 2 for list of officers and their contact information.

2024 UWF Officers & Contact Info

President--Kathy Anderson (FUMC Portland) - Email: kkandersonuwf@yahoo.com

Vice President--Annoise Jarbeaux (St. Peter's by the Sea, Corpus Christi) Email: annoisejar@gmail.com

Secretary--Linda Harrison (Kelsey Memorial UMC, Corpus Christi) Email: linda28th@gmail.com

Treasurer--Cathy Chaney (FUMC Beeville) Email: chaneycac@gmail.com

Communications/Rio Texas Conference--Ann Marie Cantu, titanialefey@yahoo.com

Mission Coordinator for Spiritual Growth & for Membership, Nurture & Outreach--Mary Hudson (FUMC Corpus Christi) Email: mkh1957uwf@gmail.com

Mission Coordinator for Social Justice & for Education & Interpretation--Carole Salsberry (St. John's UMC, Corpus Christi) Email: cjsalsberry@gmail.com

Communications Coordinator--Chris Davis Garcia (St. John's UMC, Corpus Christi) Email: garciachr1714@gmail.com

Secretary for Program Resources--Kathy DeMeulle (FUMC Corpus Christi); Email: kathy.demeulle@gmail.com

Chair, Committee on Nominations--Susan Ottopohl (Ingleside UMC) Email: texas361z@gmail.com

Member, Committee on Nominations--Kathy DeMeulle (FUMC Corpus Christi) Email: kathy.demeulle@gmail.com

ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER:

This newsletter will be prepared and published quarterly (March, June, September, December) by the United Women in Faith District Board. Please contact any officer if you have questions or want to correct your contact information.

Editor: Chris Davis Garcia, St. John's UMC, (361-244-4193)

Calendar of Events

Saturday, April 20, 2024: Coastal Bend District Meeting....10 am-1:30 p.m.; gathering at 9:30 a.m., at FUMC Corpus Christi, downtown at 900 Shoreline Blvd across from the Emerald Beach Hotel. See story and details on Page 1.

Friday, June 7, 2024: United Women in Faith Luncheon--held during the 2024 Rio Texas Annual Conference--at the American Bank Center, Corpus Christi; registration & program details available soon.

Friday and Saturday, July 12-13, 2024: Mission U at Oxford UMC in San Antonio; details to be announced. Save the date!

November 1-3, 2024--Conference Annual UWF Meeting, Lake Travis UMC; information to be posted on the Rio Texas UWF website.

Get Involved in the UWF Reading Program

By Kathy DeMeulle, Secretary for Program Resources

Hello Sisters in Faith,

Spring has sprung and it is the perfect time to read. Remember it's not too late to start the UWF Reading Program. The deadline to get your reading reports to me is June 1, 2024, at kathy.demeulle@gmail.com.

There are Four Reading Plans. To participate in the program, you need to read books on the approved reading list. All books from the Reading Lists 2018 - 2024 are acceptable; also reading response regularly, and listening to the podcasts Voices from the Field and Faith Talks.

For more information, please go to uwf.org/readingprogram or contact me.

Book Review

Below is a book review for **Crying in H Mart** by Karen Akkerman, Conference Secretary of Program Resources. **Crying in H Mart: A Memoir by Michelle Zauner**. New York: Vintage Books, 2021. 239 p. (Nurturing for Community Category, 2024)

This is a New York Times Bestseller and rightfully so. The opening sentence tells us the meaning of Michelle's memoir, "Ever since my mom died, I cry in H Mart." She tells us of her Korean upbringing, especially highlighting the special foods that her mother prepared for her as she grew up. When her mother became ill with a terminal cancer diagnosis, she vows to prepare the same delicious and healing dishes of her Korean childhood for her mother. And along with the food memories, she mentally examines her deep and unspoken feelings about her mother through the 25 years they had together. This is a moving and very personal testimony about growing up as a young woman of Korean heritage in America.

As she analyzes her relationships with her mother, father and extended family, her thoughts and fears will echo in one's mind long after the last page is turned. This memoir tugs and then pulls at the reader to understand how a mixed race young woman feels in America. Eventually the reader is immersed in her Korean culture. Highly recommended.

PHOTOS FROM THE ANNUAL MEETING

If you would like a copy of the 2023 annual meeting booklet (16 pages), please send an email to Chris Garcia at garciachr1714@gmail.com.

Thanks to These UWF Members Who Attended the 2023 Annual Meeting--Portland UMC--Kathy Anderson; Corpus Christi FUMC--Kathy DeMeulle, Ann Marie Cantu; St. John's UMC--Carole Salsberry, Chris Garcia, Glenda Sanders; Kelsey Memorial--Linda Harrison, Bertha Castaneda, Manuela Garcia, Hope Garza, Minnie Lopez; St. Peter's by the Sea UMC--Annoise Jarbeaux; Beeville FUMC--Cathy Chaney, Scotty Draper, Nellie Boenig, Kay Bowman, Verma Ford, Jonnie Jordan, Susan Vickery, Casandra Krueger, Camilla Palmer, Claudine Ramsey, Rev. Adrienne Zermeno; Port Lavaca UMC--Pam Gremminger; District Member--Andrea Gibbub.
(See the 2024 adopted District UWF budget on Page 5)



Everyone Can Promote and Participate in Mission Giving!

Mission Giving is the lifeblood of United Women in Faith. Mission Giving includes five channels -- or opportunities -- for giving:

- Pledge to Mission
- Special Mission Recognition
- Gift to Mission
- Gift in Memory, and
- World Thank Offering

- Funds that are undesignated, unrestricted and used to underwrite the total program of United Women in Faith at the local, district, conference, national, and international levels.

- Faith, hope, and love in action for women, children, and youth around the world

Mission Giving is a priority for every member of United Women in Faith. Every conference leader has a role to play in promoting Mission Giving through her specific office and through working together with the rest of the leadership team to develop strategies for the local, district and conference levels. See the latest UWF Handbook for further information.

Coastal Bend District UWF Surpasses \$15,000 Pledge to Mission!

By Cathy Chaney, Treasurer

The following Units & District Members contributed in 2023 to help the Coastal Bend District United Women in Faith surpass its goal of \$15,000:

- UNITS:
- Beeville FUMC,
- CC-FUMC
- CC Grace UMC
- CC Kelsey Memorial
- CC St. John's UMC
- CC-St. Peter's by the Sea
- Ingleside UMC
- Port Lavaca UMC
- Portland UMC
- Coastal Bend District, plus two District Members.

Our Budget was \$15,000 and we collected \$17,545.62. Thanks to everyone's help in exceeding our goal. The 2024 Proposed Pledge to Mission is \$10,000.

VERY IMPORTANT REMINDER!

United Women in Faith Is open to ALL women in faith, regardless of church or religious affiliation. UWF members do not need to be members of a United Methodist Church.

This inclusive stance opens doors to grow existing church UWF units and provides a venue for new units to get organized to meet the UWF Vision, Mission, and Purpose. (See Page 8)

Do you want to continue to be a member of United Women in Faith but do not have a unit at your church?

Over the years, church units of United Methodist Women have folded and/or become inactive because of an aging group and lack of younger members. If that's the case at your church, you can continue to be a member of UWF but not be attached to a church unit. **You can become a District Member!**

(See related story on Page 6 on steps to take to transition a unit to "inactive.")

Contact District Treasurer Cathy Chaney, at chaneycac@gmail.com or 361-815-0941. She will add you to the District Member list and send updates and forms to be completed. Also, if you have any other questions, feel free to reach out.

Do remember that all UWF units can include all women of faith who want to be involved in mission, regardless of their church affiliation. Everyone is welcomed at any UWF unit or gathering!

2024 Coastal Bend District UWF/UMW Budget

Administrative		415.00
Audit	200.00	
Postage	30.00	
Postage	25.00	
President's Expense	50.00	
Printing and Supplies	85.00	
Program Resources	25.00	
Travel (Mileage)		525.00
Events		2,125.00
Rio Texas UMW /UWF Annual Mtg*	660.00	
Mission u *	1,060.00	
District Leadership Training	50.00	
District Annual Meeting	150.00	
Rio Texas Annual Conference UMC	200.00	
Spiritual Growth Retreat/Day	5.00	
General Events		
Assembly Delegate		
Miscellaneous		100.00
Texas Impact	100.00	
TOTAL BUDGET		3,165.00
Proposed Pledge to Conference		10,000.00

Dear UWF units and friends:
The 2024 Coastal Bend District UWF/UMW Board approved the budget at left at the 2023 Annual Meeting. The budget reflects both Administrative, Travel, Events and Miscellaneous line items. The proposed pledge to Mission is \$10,000 for 2024.

Everyone can promote and participate in Mission Giving.

Please prayerfully consider your gifts to Mission throughout the year.



United Women in Faith (UWF) Has Many Resources for Enrichment

UWF offers many ways for women to enrich their lives, live their faith, and put love into action.

- Podcasts
- Response Magazine
- Reading Program
- Program Resources
- Prayer Guide
- Mission u Curricula
- Shop

Visit the UWF website at www.uwfaith.org and spend time exploring its rich website. You can also sign up to receive email updates about UWF work and how each of us can support UWF. In addition, UWF has a Planned Giving program whose Legacy Fund provides ongoing sources of income. The National Office of United Women in Faith is located at:

Church Center for the United Nations
777 United Nations Plaza, 11th floor
New York, NY 10017
(212) 682-3633
info@uwfaith.org

PROCEDURE FOR “INACTIVE UNITS”

United Women in Faith allows units to transition to inactive status. The process is described below. United Women in Faith cannot endorse disbanding units as the establishment of units in every UMC church is mandated by the Book of Discipline, ¶ 1901. Local Presidents will need to ensure that the following steps are performed for a unit to officially go inactive:

1. Notify Leadership

Unit president is to contact the district president and membership nurture outreach coordinator (or the conference membership nurture outreach coordinator, if needed) to report the decision and request assistance. Depending on the reason(s), the district or conference officers/coordinators may suggest a specific course of action, for example:

- Utilize the Census Analysis 2020 to determine where active units may be within the district for members of the unit wishing to remain active with United Women in Faith.
- Refer to the local bylaws, Article 1 Section 4b., which identifies other types of units, including how to form a cluster or charge unit.
<https://www.uwfaith.org/membersleaders/2021-2024-handbook/constitution-and-bylaws>
- Offer “challenges & solutions” scenarios from Leadership Development Days and develop a solution for this unit.
- Schedule a conversation with the district membership nurture outreach coordinator Membership Portal (myUMW)

2. Membership Portal (myUMW)

- Unit president shall send the name of the unit and members to the district membership nurture outreach coordinator and to the National Office indicating who will remain a member of United Women in Faith and who no longer is interested in membership. The National Office email is Membership@uwfaith.org
- Prior to going inactive, the unit president will offer each individual unit member an opportunity to remain a member through joining a district or online unit or the newly formed cohort All-Access Membership. Have them go to the United Women in Faith website to enter their information on the All-Access membership page (uwfaith.org/all-access-membership).

3. Funds

- It is required that the local treasurer will notify both the district and conference treasurers of the discontinuation and maintain communication with them throughout the process.
- The local treasurer must send the district and conference treasurers a report of the unit’s giving for the past 4 years, which they will forward to the national treasurer.
- Any remaining unit funds must be sent to the district treasurer. If there are designated or restricted funds, they should be sent to the national treasurer along with original documentation describing how the funds are to be used. The district treasurer will also require copies of the final audit/review financial report.

4. Evaluate & Report

- The local president will send the reason for going inactive and any other pertinent information to Membership@uwfaith.org.

SPECIAL NOTE TO:

PASTORS IN THE COASTAL BEND DISTRICT

If your church has an inactive unit of United Methodist Women and you need help to transition the unit to “inactive status” instead of disbanding (see story at left), please contact Coastal Bend District Treasurer Cathy Chaney (FUMC Beeville) for information and assistance.

INSPIRING QUOTE

From Carole Salsberry,
Mission Coordinator for Social Justice

Although I am still in Florida tending to family matters, I wanted to share with my sisters in Christ a quotation from the Rev. Bob Clark which has great meaning to me.

The Power of Stories To Drive Change

“Stories have an innate ability to catalyze change by shining a light on injustices, inspiring action, and fostering empathy. Through the lens of community storytelling, we empower individuals to share their lived experiences, amplifying voices that may otherwise go unheard. Whether it’s confronting social inequities, advocating for marginalized groups, or promoting environmental sustainability, stories have the power to ignite movements and drive meaningful transformation within communities.”

UWF News Around the District

2024 LEGISLATIVE EVENT

The annual UWF Rio Texas Conference Legislative Event was held January 28-30 in Austin. Anncoise Jarbeaux, a member of St. Peter's by the Sea UMC and vice president of the Coastal Bend UWF Board, attended the event with Dianne Rumfield, fellow church member and UWF Conference Treasurer. Key topics discussed focused on Women's Reproductive Rights and Voting in the 2024 election cycle.

STYLE SHOW FOR MISSIONS

Women in Faith at FUMC Corpus Christi held a Style Show and a silent auction on March 6. More than 150 attended, and UWF President Randy Heintze reported \$6,000 raised.

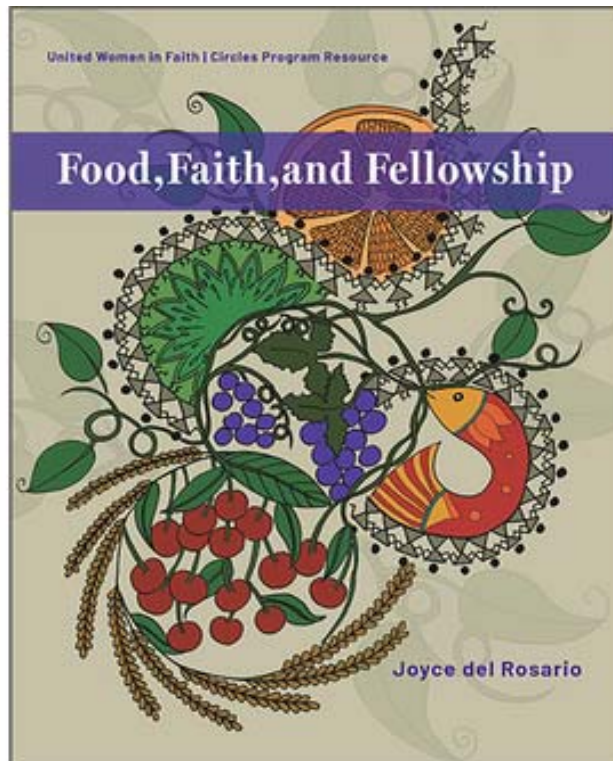
LADIES' TEA SUCCESSFUL

St. John's UMC sponsored a Ladies Tea and Silent Auction on February 10 to support Missions. Sixteen hostesses each decorated their tables with their personal china and dishes, and everyone enjoyed the event. About 140 attended. A program book featuring paid advertising helped contribute to the gross proceeds of about \$4,800, some of which was shared with the church.

INGLESIDE HAS WAFFLE BREAKFAST

Ingleside UMC's waffle breakfast on March 16 was successful.

Send your UWF information to Chris Davis Garcia, Communications coordinator for the Coastal Bend District UWF. garciachr1714@gmail.com



Here's a Great Resource Book for All UWF Units or Circles To Use

The **2024 United Women in Faith Program Resource** invites all to join at God's banquet table as we explore what it means to be a community – not just in our circle, but with all of creation.

Participants will embark on a journey about food, spiritual practices together, and God who dwells with us at the table. This is about us learning how to be good hosts as well as good guests at the table, in someone's home, at church, at school and work, and on the created earth.

Author Joyce del Rosario, director of Multi-Ethnic Programs at Seattle Pacific University, explores her heritage as a Filipina American and her personal experiences around food, faith, and family.

Monthly gatherings begin with a shared meal, followed by exploring Scripture, as well as hands-on activities that deepen understanding and encourage participants to look for ways to include and consider others. Take-home activities keep the learning going until you meet again.

You can also experience this resource in an online platform via Mighty Networks. Join and participate in local programs to grow in faith, participate in action, and connect with sisters!

Get your free Program Resource promotional poster and share the excitement and information about your upcoming program!



APPLAUSE

2023 RECOGNITIONS

FIVE-STAR UNITS

Beeville UMW/UWF

Grace UMW/UWF

Kelsey Memorial UMW/UWF

Port Lavaca FUMC UMW/UWF

FIVE-STAR WOMEN

Kathy Anderson, District Member

Ann Marie Cantu, FUMC Corpus

Christi UMW/UWF

Bertha Castañeda, Kelsey Memorial

UMC UMW/UWF

Kathy DeMeulle, FUMC Corpus

Christi UMW/UWF

Chris Garcia, St. John's UMC

UMW/UWF

Hope Garza, Kelsey Memorial UMC

UMW/UWF

Andrea Gibbud, District Member

Annoise Jarbeaux, St. Peter's by the

Sea UMC UMW/UWF

Susan Otterpohl, Ingleside UMC

UMW/UWF

Gloria Rivera, Kelsey Memorial UMC

UMW/UWF

Dianne Rumfield, St. Peter's by the

Sea UMC UMW/UWF

Carole Salsberry, St. John's UMC

UMW/UWF

Susan Vickery, Beeville FUMC

UMW/UWF

STUDY AWARDS

Approved Study Program Award -

Port Lavaca FUMC UWF

MISSION TODAY AWARDS

Port Lavaca FUMC UWF



Mujeres
Unidas
en Fe



United
Women
in Faith

Río Texas Conference

United Women in Faith VISION

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

MISSION

United Women in Faith seeks to connect and nurture women through Christian Spiritual formation, leadership development, creative fellowship, and education so that they can inspire, influence, and impact local and global communities.

PURPOSE

To be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

Greeting Cards for Sale!

The United Women in Faith organization has greeting cards for sale to units and individuals alike. Gift to Missions or Gift in Memory cards are a minimum of \$5 each. You may pay any amount above \$5. (This goes towards becoming a 5-Star Woman.)

Gift to Mission

Cards available include Celebrate New Life (Baby), Congratulations, Thank You, Thinking of You, Peace, Happy Birthday, Thoughts and Prayers, and an assortment of Christmas cards sold as singles or a 5-pack.

Gift in Memory

Cards available include In Loving Memory, Thoughts & Prayers, Gift in Memory.

Unit treasurers are encouraged to have a selection of cards on hand for you to purchase. If not, Cathy Chaney, District Treasurer, has a selection of cards on hand.

Gift In Memory (GIM)



Gift to Missions (GTM)

