



OUTREACH FALL 2025

Prairie Winds District

United Women in Faith

**Plan to join us on September 20, 2025, at Hope UMC in Blue Earth, MN,
for Prairie Winds Area UW in Faith FALL GATHERING
as we focus on Mission and Social Action.**

Reverends Brittany Radford and Genia Garrett will offer a panel discussion on social action as related to black women in ministry. Brittany is the Minnesota Conference Director of Racial Equity and Justice. One of the things she has done is launch a Cross Racial-Cross Cultural Bible Study, which Hope UMC has been using. Genia is the pastor at First United Methodist Church in Redwood Falls. During their discussion, you will be able to ask questions of these two remarkable women as we learn from each other.

At the Fall Gathering we will have an opportunity to **pack meals for Midwest Mission Distribution Center (MMDC)** which has a site in Jefferson, IA. These Blessing Bags are nutrient-dense meals filled with vitamins, dehydrated vegetables, soy, and rice. Each bag feeds 6 people and costs \$2.00 per bag to cover ingredients (a portion paid by attendees fees with remainder sponsored by Hope UMC). During half an hour of this hands-on-mission, we plan to pack 400 Blessing Bags which will feed 2,400 individuals! What a great way to feed so many of the world's hungry people. Many of you may want to take the information for this MMDC mission back to your own congregation!

Additionally, at the Fall Gathering, we will hold a Memorial Service to remember the UMF women who died this past year (since September 21, 2024), share in Communion, catch up with friends, and reacquaint you to the Leadership Team. Check out the lists of items that you are invited to donate to Emma Norton Services or MMDC. Lunch and Emma Norton Coffee/Tea will be hosted by Blue Earth Hope UWF. At the end of the day, you'll receive a treat bag from the Glenville UWF members. Don't miss this Fall Gathering! We have a full day planned!

Address for Hope UMC in Blue Earth is **12080 380th Ave, Blue Earth.**



Directions from junction of I-90 and Hwy 169: Driving south on 169 into Blue Earth, take 44 West at the roundabout. (Green Giant will be on your left, Bomgaars on your right.) At the water tower, turn right/north. Go up the hill and cross over I-90. Hope UMC is immediately after that on your right/east side.

The Purpose of United Women in Faith

United Women in Faith shall 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.

Presidential Greetings to our Prairie Winds District Friends,

I just came in from doing a bit of weeding and cutting back a cactus that sprang up several years back. My, but that nasty plant can hinder one's weeding and pruning, and at the same time be so glorious when it blooms in the spring which is why it continues to live on the south side of my garage. I am attracted to the bright yellow blooms in the spring. It has an ability to survive freezing winters and sizzling dry summers all while I carefully tweeze thorns out of my hands, arms, and legs as I tend to the other plants nearby which need a bit of deadheading and relief from the weeds. In a way, Hope is like a cactus.

I just returned from the 2025 Mission u study on Hope which reflected on Hope in a different light. Hope brings comfort, keeps us moving forward, sustains us to complete the race. But there are also moments that Hope is embedded in grief, tragedy, and hardships we wish to escape, avoid, even hide from. When we come through the hard stuff, we can depend on God's promise to always be with us and sustain us. Now that's worth the effort!

Spend some time in the quiet of nature. Listen and thank God for the goodness. Ponder the path God asks you to walk to make a change in our world.

Hope and peace be with you,

Betty Stancer, Prairie Winds District President

Bstancer10@gmail.com 507-430-9263

UWF CONFERENCE - ANNUAL FALL GATHERING "Hope in Action"

Saturday, October 11, 2025, at Alexandria UMC

You are invited to join United Women in Faith from across the state for an enjoyable day of education, spiritual growth, fellowship, and fun! The women of Headwaters District will host the Annual Gathering at Alexandria United Methodist Church, 2610 6th Ave E in Alexandria.

Our keynote address "Native American Boarding Schools: The Generational Impact" will be delivered by Rev Dawn Houser. She will explore how boarding school experiences shaped family relationships, today's related issues, and how we can influence changes within our communities. Dawn is currently serving as pastor at Aitkin UMC, chairs the MN Conference Committee on Native American Ministry (CONAM), and co-chairs the North Central Jurisdiction Committee on Native American Ministries.

The Day will begin with Check-in/Muffins for Emma at 8:00 a.m. The program will start at 9:00 a.m. and run until 2:30 p.m. The morning program (9:00 am - noon) will be livestreamed at www.youtube.com/@AlexUMC/streams.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT RETREAT October 12-13, 2025

Following the Conference Annual Fall Gathering at Alexandria UMC, Conference and District Leaders will attend the Leadership Development Retreat (LDR) This training is designed to help strengthen leadership skills, as well as providing learning, worship, and fellowship. LDR is an important component of serving as an officer in United Women in Faith. Officers will receive an email in mid-August with details about the event and lodging information.

Register for both Annual Gathering and LDR at: <https://forms.gle/bYotr9zpQetRbwaQA>.

2026 Slate of Officers – to be approved at the Fall Gathering, 9/20/25

Executive Officers

President	Betty Stancer
Secretary	Deb Anderson
Treasurer	Melody Saunders
Program/Vice Pres	Open
Nominations	Open

Appointed Officers

Member Nurture Outreach	Sylvia Farrells
Education and Interpretation	Nancy Iverson
Social Action	Open
Spiritual Growth	Belinda Alkula
Communications Coordinator	Judith Clark
Emma Norton Representative	Marilyn Nickels
Reading Program (Conference)	Connie Scott

Our newest Executive team member is **Belinda Alkula**. Belinda was born in England into a military family. She traveled extensively with the military as a child and as an adult. She worked as a high school English teacher, a geriatric social worker, and in a variety of civil service positions throughout her 30-year civil service career (in the USA and in Europe). Belinda served as president of her local church's UMW unit, as vice president and spiritual growth/membership coordinator of the UMW district in western Montana, and as the spiritual growth mission coordinator and Mission u Dean for the Mountain Sky Conference UMW/UWF. She is married to the Rev. Dr. Charles Alkula, Director of Spiritual Care, Thorne Crest Senior Living Community in Albert Lea, MN and pastor at Glenville, UMC.

We need NAMES for the Memorial Service at Fall Gathering

Every fall, we remember the women from our local United Women in Faith units who have died in the past year (since September 21, 2024). Please send the names of deceased women from your unit so your loved ones can be recognized at the District Fall Gathering. Also, include the name of the church they attended.

Please send this information to Judith Clark at classicalgal49@gmail.com.

Please send these names **prior to September 18** so we can prepare for the Memorial Service.

UWF PRAIRIE WINDS AREA BUDGET

Pledge		2025	2026
	Mission Pledge	\$35,000	\$25,000
	Emma Norton Pledge	<u>10,000</u>	<u>8,000</u>
Total Pledge		\$45,000	\$33,000
Officer Expense			
	Miles	\$2,000	\$2,000
	Postage	500	500
	Supplies	500	500
	Meals/Lodging	400	400
	Literature (Response, etc)	300	300
	Books – Reading Program	400	400
	Social Action	<u>500</u>	<u>500</u>
		\$4,600	\$4,200
Newsletter		\$1,500	\$1,000
Registration – Mission U		<u>3,000</u>	<u>3,000</u>
		\$4,500	\$4,000
Conference and District			
	Spring Gathering	\$500	\$500
	Day Apart	300	300
	Fall Gathering	500	500
	Retreat		
	Officer Recognition	200	200
	Scholarship	200	200
	Dependent Care	200	0
	Audit	<u>500</u>	<u>500</u>
		\$2,400	\$2,400
Total A & MD		\$11,500	\$10,600

A couple of notes on the **2026 proposed budget**: We have removed the expense for a retreat as that is no longer held. We have put books and dependent care at \$0 because the book expense is now a part of the conference, not the district, and we have not paid out dependent care for a while, so are questioning the need. We have also reduced our Pledge to Mission and Emma Norton Pledge as we are not meeting our goals, and we do want to have realistic goals that could be met with a bit of effort.

FIND UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH ONLINE

United Women in Faith website:

uwfaith.org

This is our primary website. Here you will find the latest news and information about UWF programs, initiatives, and events. It's where you connect with other members and get involved.

Facebook:

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

Instagram:

[Instagram.com/uwomenfaith](https://www.instagram.com/uwomenfaith)

Twitter:

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

On Facebook, be sure to “like” UWF. On Instagram & Twitter, make sure to “follow” UWF pages!

Minnesota UWF website:

uwfaithmn.com

Minnesota UWFaith Facebook group:

[Facebook.com/groups/127497622121/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/127497622121/)

This group is for members of Minnesota UWF and all who are interested in UWF. Follow the link and press “join the group” and posts will appear on your newsfeed.

Greetings from Melody Sanders, your Prairie Winds Area (District) Treasurer:

Information for local UWF Treasurers

I would like to invite all treasurers to **join me for lunch** at the Fall Gathering. I have some materials I would like to share from the National Training I attended in July. Good information about how we manage money and document our mission. It would also be good for me to put a face to a name. I will also have **pins and forms** for your taking. You will need to pay \$40 each for the pins. I will be sending out letters in October to each of you to summarize your giving as of October. Remember, I need to receive **all money by the end of November** to have it count in the 2025 budget year. Send remittance to me at 2733 – 80th St, Granada, MN 56039

Information for Prairie Winds Area Membership

You do not need to be a member of a local UWF unit to give to missions. If you wish to contribute to the Pledge to Mission or the Pledge to Emma Norton, and have the Area get credit for it, please send me a check and I will bring it to the conference. *Prairie Winds Area does not get credit if the money does not go through the Area Account.* Local units are becoming fewer, but the United Women in Faith is a very important group in serving the needs of women, children and youth.

Blessings to all. I am looking forward to seeing you in September. ~Melody

Have any additional questions about UWF money? You can contact her at 507-236-0824 or email her at melody.sanders@outlook.com.

What is United Women in Faith? We are women like you, a powerful, fearless force driven by God's love and united in sisterhood. With a focus on women, children, and youth, we act for justice and transform communities. Join us, because love in action can change the world.

Make a meaningful impact. Put your talents, energy, and ideas to work. You'll find flexible opportunities for spiritual growth and ways to act for social justice, support your community, live your faith, and enrich your life.

It's all about you! You can get involved at a local church unit in your own community. Or you can opt for our individual All-Access membership, with easy online access to member resources nationwide. Either way, you choose to engage when, where, and how best fits your life.

Find information about membership and the latest news about United Women in Faith programs, initiatives, and events at uwfaith.org.

All bold spiritual women are invited to join the United Women in Faith.

Invite your neighbors - they do not have to be a United Methodist.

Women like YOU change the world!

From Nancy Iverson
undothree@gmail.com
Social Action Coordinator

During the Planning Team/Executive Team meeting in July I was asked to change jobs for next year from Social Action Coordinator to Education & Interpretation Coordinator. So here I am on the last day sending in a contribution for the Prairie Winds UWF Area fall OUTREACH for Social Action.

When Sally Vonner, United Women in Faith General Secretary/CEA spoke at Epworth United Methodist Church in Minneapolis in July of 2023, she challenged us to take Jesus' love into the world. She borrowed and "altered" a Michael Jackson quote.... "If you want to make change you have to start with the 'woman' in the mirror."

At Mission u this year, I heard that "I cannot do all the good the world needs, but the world needs all the good I can do." Perhaps by attending the events I've listed below and by exercising our RIGHT to vote we can learn more about taking Jesus' love into the world.

Nancy

From Belinda Alkula
Belinda.Alkula@gmail.com
Spiritual Growth Mission Coordinator

Grace and Peace!

I am really looking forward to serving as your district spiritual growth mission coordinator! It will be fun to connect with you amazing, faithful women in the Prairie Winds District and share our faith journeys! I trust that God will equip us to grow in our faith and accomplish spectacular things together – all for the benefit of women, youth, and children everywhere. Since our district is in the south, I want to conclude with a joyful "Yee-haw! Praise be to God!"

Every blessing to you and yours!

Belinda

"Live in such a way that those who know you but don't know God will come to know God because they know you." ~Author unknown

Important Dates to put on your calendar:

September 20, 2025	Prairie Winds Area Fall Gathering at Hope UMC, Blue Earth
October 11, 2025	Conference Annual Gathering at Alexandria UMC, Alexandria
October 11-12, 2025	Leaderships Development Training for leaders, Alexandria UMC
November 4, 2025	Election Day
January 22, 2026	Executive Team Zoom meeting 6:30 pm
April 18, 2026	District Spring Gathering; <i>executive officers meets briefly afterwards</i>
May 15-17, 2026	ASSEMBLY 2026 in Indianapolis, Indiana
June 9, 2026	District Day Apart
June 17-19, 2026	Minnesota Annual Conference in St Cloud
July 14, 2026	Executive Team meeting at Belgrade UMC
July 24-26, 2026	Mission u in person at Koronis (earlier dates for virtual)
September 19, 2026	District Fall Gathering
October 10-11, 2026	MN Conference Annual Gathering & Leadership Development

DONATIONS ACCEPTED

for Emma Norton Services and Midwest Mission Distribution Center

At the Fall Gathering, you have the opportunity to bring needed items and we will make sure they reach the appropriate donation center.

Items to donate for Emma Norton Services:



Household cleaning supplies: Disinfectant, floor cleaner, sponges, dish soap, Clorox wipes, paper towels

Baby supplies: Diapers, wipes, formula, pacifiers

Art supplies: art hanging hardware, glue, epoxy, jewelry making materials, good quality brushes/sponges, watercolor paper, watercolors, tissue paper, empty journals

General household needs: Queen size sheets and comforters, towels, brooms, non-stick pans

Items to donate for Midwest Mission Distribution Center (MMDC):



Specific Needs include:

Children's underpants sizes 10-14

Women's underpants sizes 5-8

They also take: Sewing machines, sewing supplies, fabric over 1 yard

Walkers, wheelchairs, crutches, orthopedic supplies, canes

Shower seats, hospital/home care beds & mattresses

IV poles, knee scooters, bandages, gauze, working nebulizers

Disposable diapers (adult or baby), Onesies 0-6 months

Rakes, hoes, shovels, saws, hand tools

Bicycles, soccer balls and cleats, volleyballs, basketballs

They can NOT accept: bed rails, commodes, CPAP machines, grab bars, glucose

monitors/diabetic supplies, Hoyer lifts, oxygen bottles, or toilet risers.

From Connie Scott: Conference Reading Program/Lending Library

The UW in Faith Minnesota Reading Program/Lending Library, which is in its first year as a conference level program, is off to a great start!

The list of books in our library is now available online at uwfaithmn.com or by contacting Connie Scott to receive the list by email/snail mail.

Certificates presented at the district Spring Gatherings reflected the books read in 2024. I am proud that the 20 readers representing all four areas in Minnesota read a total of 169 books! I think we can expect the rest of 2025 to continue our trend of more readers and more books read! Receiving certificates for Prairie Winds Area were: *Jean Doeden, Eileen Furth, Phillis Kuehl, Sara Beth Modders, Marilyn Nickel, Melody Sanders, Betty Stancer, Nancy Iverson, and Connie Scott.*

The most important objective of the Reading Program is to revive reading as a FUN CHOICE! If you would like to work with me on a Reading Program Team, let's chat.

Connie Scott connielulu55@msn.com

We still have TWO 2025 Minnesota Conference Books for Discussion this fall:

Social Action	September 8	<u>Our Missing Hearts</u> , Celeste Ng
Spiritual Growth	November 10	<u>Spiritual Practices for Soul Care: 40 Ways to Deepen Your Faith</u> , Barbara I. Peacock

These Zoom calls are from 7:30 – 8:00pm The link and discussion questions will be sent out the week before the call.

United Women in Faith ASSEMBLY 2026 will be May 15-17, 2026, in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Attend Assembly 2026 and celebrate who we are and what we can achieve together. Unite, recharge, and deepen your faith with inspiring speakers, powerful worship and workshops to create meaningful change in your life and your community. Connect with passionate women from around the world who share your commitment to justice and spiritual growth.

It's time to talk, time to dream, and time to build because when women of faith put our love into action, we are unstoppable. Come be transformed at Assembly 2026!

Let Marian Hansen know if you plan to attend: marionha@wtca.net or 218-539-0954)

Registration opens September 2, 2025, at <https://assembly.uwfaith.org/website/82390/>.

Discounted early registration fee of \$365 runs from September 2 through November 30, 2025.

Prairie Winds Area United Women in Faith Fall Gathering and Annual Meeting
Saturday, September 20, 2025

Hope United Methodist Church, 12080 - 380th Ave, Blue Earth, MN 56013

8:30 – 9:15am Registration and Coffee/Tea for Emma Norton Services

9:15am – 3:00pm Gathering Time

Focus on Mission and Social Action

Discussion: Rev Brittany Radford, Director of Racial Equity and Justice and Rev Genia Garrett, pastor First UMC, Redwood Falls, PLUS a hands-on opportunity with Midwest Mission Distribution Center

Our day will also include: Annual meeting, Election and Installation of District Officers, Singing together, Fun, Devotions, Memorial Service, Communion, Information on Missions, Update on Emma Norton Services, Food, Friends, Reading Books, and more. You won't want to miss this event!

Giving opportunities: Offerings for Emma Norton Services and for our Prairie Winds District Pledge

Items needed for Emma Norton Services (see list elsewhere)

Underwear donations for Midwest Mission (girls size 10-14; women size 5-8) and items on MMDC list.

\$20 Registration includes lunch. Please **register by September 13, 2025, to**

Maggie Johnson, 10820 – 435th Ave, Blue Earth, MN 56031

Or text information to her at 507-525-6430

Registration information:

UWF Unit _____ City _____

Person submitting form: _____ Email or phone _____

Names of those registering on this form to attend:

Total Registrations _____ x \$20 each = \$ _____ (Make check to Prairie Winds UWF)

Any special needs, including dietary? _____

Request child care or dependent care voucher (up to \$35)? _____



Prairie Winds District UW in Faith
OUTREACH Spring 2025
9184 377th Ave
Blue Earth, MN 56013
Attn: Judith Clark

Nonprofit Organization
US POSTAGE PAID
Blue Earth, MN 56013
Permit No. 50

Return Service Requested

This fall, a Unit Survey will be available to be completed by your unit president or anyone in the unit with computer skills. Questions are related to how your unit or group is thriving in sisterhood, faith, and action, and how you are committed to act boldly for justice and to transform communities. Answering the questions will take about 15-20 minutes.

Your responses matter. Your answers will allow the United Women in Faith National Office to:

- Deliver more resources on the areas that matter most.
- Gather engagement data based on region.
- Celebrate all the work you are doing on behalf of women, children, and youth.

When it comes out, you will find the survey at <https://uwfaith.org/unit-survey/>

Thanks for completing the UWF Unit Survey!

As always, if you have a change of address – either snail or email – let me know. We would hate for you to miss the Prairie Winds District UWFaith news! Send changes to the return address or email address below. For those who are presently receiving a copy of OUTREACH via USPS, if you are able to receive it via email, we encourage you to do so. Simply email your address to me at classicalgal@hotmail.com saying that you want a copy online and I will place you on our email-only list.

ALSO: To subscribe to the free online newsletter FRESH CONNECTION sent out by the Minnesota Conference of United Women in Faith, go to <https://www.umfaithmn.com>.