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**2024 Theme**

**Working Together, Pressing On**

**James: 2:22 NIV**

22 You see that his faith and his actions **working together**,

And his faith was made complete by what he did.

***Philippians 3:12 NIV***

12 Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived

At my goal, but I **press on**, to take hold of that for which Christ

Jesus took hold of me.

**Need Help...Contact:**

**Conference President:**

Carolyn Cobb, 806-627-8188, cobbcgj0@gmail.com

**District Presidents:**

Abilene-Jean Marsh, 325-864-5563, wjmarsh@gmail.com

Amarillo-Jeanne Ann Gibson, 806-282-1733, [jagibson1948@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jagibson1948@sbcglobal.net)

Lubbock-VelvetLee Finckbone, 806-317-9505, VelvetLee\_F@hotmail.com

# CONFERENCE LEADERSHIP TEAM

**President – Carolyn Cobb 806-627-8118**

**Vice President – Patricia Thompson**

**Secretary – Linda Elms**

**Treasurer – Jackie Berry**



**Communications – Nancy Morgan**

**Mission Action (Social Action) – Frances Curry**

**Program Resources – Jeanne Ann Gibson**

**Spiritual Growth, Membership – Brenda Breeden**

**Committee on Nominations Chair – Sharon White**

**Committee on Nominations Member – Donna Watkins**

**National Program Advisory Group Member – Pam Zwickey**

**Standing Rules Chair – Brenda Breeden**

**Charter for Racial Justice Policies Chair – Carolyn Cobb**

**Conference Representative to Amarillo Wesley Community Center –  
Rita Wynn**

**Mission u Dean – Pam Zwickey**

**Mission u Assistant Deans – Brenda Breeden, Deanne King**

**Abilene District President – Jean Marsh**

**Amarillo District President – Jeanne Ann Gibson**

**Lubbock District President – VelvetLee Finckbone**

***SAVE THE DATE – JANUARY 28-30, 2024***

**TEXAS UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH LEGISLATIVE EVENT 2024**  
***"A New and Serious Response"***

**Access – [texasimpact.org/uwf-2024](https://texasimpact.org/uwf-2024)**

Holiday Inn Austin Midtown 612-451-5757  
 6000 Middle Fiskville Rd, Austin, TX 78752

*United Women in Faith welcome all women of faith from across the state who are committed to justice, freedom, and opportunity for all people, especially women and children. Presented in partnership with TEXAS IMPACT, the event includes two days of speakers, inspiration, and workshops where women connect to prepare to put faith into action. On Tuesday, attendees will visit the Capitol and meet with lawmakers.*

**Hands down the best advocacy & leadership training for women of faith anywhere!**

**Fees:** Online virtual participation- \*only \$35 this year \*  
 In-person participation: \$150 if registering by Dec. 8, 2023  
 \$180 if registering after Dec. 8, 2023  
 For scholarship info., go to [uwf-reg@texasimpact.org](mailto:uwf-reg@texasimpact.org).

**Room Costs with breakfast (UWF code):**  
 2-person occupancy \$129/night  
 3-4 person occupancy \$149/night

\*To register online, to download a registration form, or to get updates, just search [www.texasimpact.org/UWF-2024](https://www.texasimpact.org/UWF-2024) Problems? Contact Frances Curry, [fcurry4587@gmail.com](mailto:fcurry4587@gmail.com) or [432-940-4587](tel:432-940-4587).



## PartyLine

Our conference-wide, small group, online ministry so we can visit without driving, will be continuing through 2024!

Come join us about every other month and share life together as we are led by a spiritual leader. Our last session for 2023 was November 5 with Rev. Betsey Heavner as our facilitator using the theme of “Preparing our Hearts for the Holidays”.

If you have not been a part of this group, and want to be, please contact me so I can add your e-mail to our addresses. You will then receive the zoom link to participate. The facilitator has the option of setting the day and time, so it is not always the same. I hope we can match your schedule, allowing you to join us in 2024!

Brenda Breeden  
Conference Spiritual Outreach Coordinator  
[snoopyb1@suddenlink.net](mailto:snoopyb1@suddenlink.net)

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## South Central Jurisdiction Quadrennial Meeting

Who – All members and friends of United Women in Faith

When – June 21-23, 2024

Where- St. Louis, Missouri

How do I get more information? How do I register?

Access [umwscj.org](http://umwscj.org) At the top of the page, click on 2024 Quadrennial Event.

Choose information or registration. On the registration page, click on the appropriate item and follow instructions. On the same page, you will make a reservation for your hotel room.





**Spiritual Growth Retreat 2024  
United Women in Faith  
Mercy Retreat Center  
Slaton Texas  
March 22-23, 2024**

**Last year's group wants to invite you to come in 2024  
to our 24-hour retreat.**

**We will enjoy our second year at Mercy Retreat Center.**

**We'll come together for Spiritual Growth,**

**Fellowship,**

**And**

**Revive our passions for mission & relationships.**

**This year's cost of attend will be \$79.00 which includes a stipend from our conference for each attendee, so everyone can find it affordable for**

- **An overnight stay where linens are provided, and all should be able to stay on the bottom floor this year using two wings of the center.**
- **Three homemade meals to enjoy.**
- **Our Abilene District is preparing the program and can announce that Rev. Dot Lea will be our spiritual leader in 2024. More details coming.**
- **Amarillo District will process our registration and Shelly Seth will be our registrar.**
- **Lubbock District will offer hospitality throughout the retreat.**

**Find you a roommate and plan to drive to Slaton next March. Enjoy the quiet spaces provided by the facility and get to know Mark and Gail Meuer and their staff at Mercy Retreat Center.**

**More information will be sent out as plans develop for us to have a wonderful experience.**

**Invite, Invite, Invite**



United  
Women  
in Faith

**Registration Form – Spiritual Growth Retreat**

**Northwest Texas Conference**

March 22 (v-in 4:00) – March 23 (v-out 2:00)

Mercy Retreat Center

605 S. 19<sup>th</sup> St. Slaton, TX 79364

Online Registration at: <https://forms.gle/oEmfASi7WvNHSxm8>

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Gender \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

District \_\_\_\_\_ Local Unit \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Special Dietary Requirements (Gluten-Free, Diabetic, Vegetarian, Other-please list)

Any Accessibility Needs (first floor only, help with food trays, etc. please list)

**FULL RETREAT** – Includes Lodging 2/room and 3 meals = \$79.00

(Total cost to attend is \$112.00 to Mercy Retreat Center, **but** our conference is subsidizing \$33 per attendee for 2024.)

Scholarship Recipient – Partial \$ \_\_\_\_\_ or Full \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Source of Funding \_\_\_\_\_ (local/district/conference) \_\_\_\_\_

(Some may require an application process, check with you district president)

Roommate Requested: \_\_\_\_\_

**Make check payable to “NWTC United Women in Faith”**

**Mail check** with this completed form to: *Shelly Seth*

*110 S. Avondale*

*Amarillo, TX 79106*

Questions: [shellyseth@yahoo.com](mailto:shellyseth@yahoo.com) 806-674-6566

You may also pay online at: <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z9DX>

**Registration Deadline: Registrar to receive by March 12, 2024**

**Roommates:** Each room houses two twin beds. Some rooms have private bathrooms, some are suites with a bathroom between, and some bathrooms are located within 3-5 rooms. This year we will be using two wings of the facility to try to keep everyone on the first floor.



United  
Women  
in Faith

**The Kingdom is Among Us, Luke 17:21**  
**Drawing Closer to God and to One Another**

**Mission u 2024 July, 11-13**

**McMurry University in Abilene, TX**

Join us at Mission u as we explore what it means to draw closer to God and one another. Jesus told his followers the kingdom was among them (Luke 17:21). What does that mean? Who does Jesus say will inherit the kingdom? How do we transform ourselves and our communities in ways that bring us closer to the kingdom and the kingdom closer to us? Dive into these questions and more at Mission u 2024 as we examine Scripture together and join in worship, fellowship, and action.

In the second year of *Living the Kin-dom*, we will deepen our study to include the ways Jesus preached and ministered a *proximity* to the kingdom. Jesus said those inheriting the coming and future kingdom were those typically pushed outside the hierarchies of belonging – the hungry, the stranger, and the prisoner (Matt 25:40). Not only would they inherit the kingdom, but to enter the kingdom we have to become like children (Matt 18:1-5), be more righteous than a Pharisee (Matt 5:20) or be poor in spirit (Matt 5:3). Furthermore, the Lord's prayer speaks well to the second year of the curricula when we will be exploring the proximity of the kind-dom. This second study will focus on the invitation to posture our lives and transform ourselves in ways that bring us *proximity* to the kingdom and the kingdom in *proximity* to us.

Join us at Mission u as we explore what it means to draw closer to God and one another. Jesus told his followers the kingdom was among them (Luke 17:21). What does that mean? Who does Jesus say will inherit the kingdom? How do we transform ourselves and our communities in ways that bring us closer to the kingdom and the kingdom closer to us? Dive into these questions and more at Mission u 2024 as we examine Scripture together and join in worship, fellowship, and action.

Scholarship funds are available for Mission u. An updated form will be included with the registration form in May.

Complete details about Mission u will be published in the May, 2024 conference newsletter.

Pam Zwickey, Dean [pdztx@yahoo.com](mailto:pdztx@yahoo.com)

**Mission u has a new date, as noted above.**



## LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT DAY

This year LDD was in Lubbock at St. John's Church on November 11<sup>th</sup>. Attendees chose classes to attend that met their needs for the office they held. Opening was a spiritual growth time through worship. The districts had a time at the end of the day to meet and address needs of their area. The St. John's United Women in Faith made sure a delicious lunch and snacks were provided. The group also had the opportunity in mission to donate to Lubbock Impact.

### HOPE. EMPOWER. HEAL.

Lubbock Impact has ministries and programs in the areas of Food, Clothing, Healthcare, and Spiritual Growth.

**The Hygiene Closet was the focus for the Leadership Development mission project.**

**Based on needs, the LDD attendees brought items for the hygiene closet:**

- ✓ toilet paper,
- ✓ full sized shampoo
- ✓ men's and women's body wash
- ✓ men's and women's deodorant
- ✓ pods laundry detergents
- ✓ body lotion for dry skin
- ✓ children's underwear adult and children's toothpaste and toothbrush
- ✓ children's/baby shampoo
- ✓ men's and women's razors
- ✓ pads or tampons for women



## Program Resources



All your favorite United Women in Faith resources are now available through **United Women in Faith Digital**, our new online space. (Go to <https://uwfaith.org/blog/2023/united-women-in-faith-digital/> to learn more.)

Deepen your faith and lead your community with these incredible resources. The 2024 Digital Bundle includes:

- 2024 Daily Prayer Guide
- 2024 Program Resource—with access to monthly Community Gatherings on Zoom
- 2024 Mission u Adult Curriculum

[Purchase Your 2024 Digital Bundle for \\$39.99!](#)

Each resource can be purchased individually but when you purchase the digital bundle you receive **20% off!** Go to [uwfaith.org/resources](https://uwfaith.org/resources) to purchase. Print resources bundles are also available through December 2023. Refer to the August 2023 NWTX Conference newsletter.

## 2024 Reading Program

- The 2024 Reading Program Catalog and 2019-2024 complete title list are now available at [uwfaith.org/resources](http://uwfaith.org/resources) as well as previous catalogs for 2019-2023.
- You may select from four reading plans. Eighteen women in Northwest Texas Conference were presented certificates of recognition for completing reading plans at Conference Annual Celebration in September.
- A new virtual page at [bookshop.org/shop/uwfaith](http://bookshop.org/shop/uwfaith) is where you can browse and purchase most of the 2024 Reading Program books while earning 10% back for United Women in Faith. You may also choose a local bookshop in your area which can earn a rebate based on your total purchase.
- There are many titles chosen for women, youth and children which you might consider for your holiday gift-giving.

Contact your Conference Program Resources Secretary: Jeanne Ann Gibson  
by phone 806-282-1733 or by email [jagibson1948@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jagibson1948@sbcglobal.net)

### Gift to Mission or Gift in Memory Greeting Cards

Stop by the display tables at Conference events to browse the greeting cards referenced in the Amarillo District report elsewhere in this newsletter. Each card purchased will support gift to mission giving. Payments accepted by check, cash or credit card.

## *Eleanor*

### *A Spiritual Biography*

*Harold Ivan Smith, author*

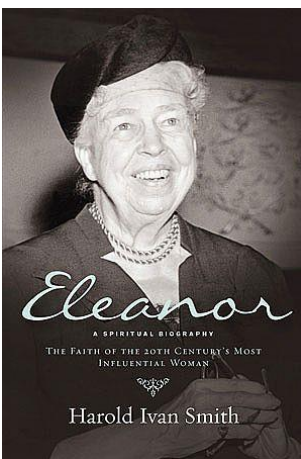
Eleanor Roosevelt would have been a good member of United Methodist Women. She shared our advocacy.

Eleanor was raised with wealth and social privilege, yet raised in a dysfunctional family. Social and economic privilege was a detriment to her in many ways, but it allowed her to receive a good education and have connections that helped her achieve her goals.

Eleanor was raised with Christian beliefs. Yet, her formative years of Christianity were very structured. Her education taught her to think for herself. Eleanor read the Bible and interpreted it for herself; she did not follow the biased and discriminatory interpretations of her day. She wanted to follow the teachings of Jesus as he actually spoke and taught.

Eleanor did not lead a charmed life. During adulthood she endured a dysfunctional marriage, loss of a child and other loved ones, hatred and death threats – yet she persevered.

Eleanor herself was a prolific writer who worked for a better world, not just in thinking, speaking, and donating, but in action. She accepted all diversity of people.



The book's cover states that this biography is about the faith of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century's most influential woman. As a student and teacher of history, I learned a lot of history that is not in history books. The author discusses origins and understandings of prejudice, too much of which lingers today. The book is very readable and holds one's attention.

Category: Leadership Development

Review written by Carolyn Cobb

## United Women in Faith Resources

### On Our Conference Website

The following information can be found on our website [nwtxconf.org](http://nwtxconf.org) under the **MINISTRIES** tab. Click on **United Women in Faith**; then click on the desired document. You may save or print the documents from this site.

- Advocacy
- **Burning of the Candle**
- Calendar of Events
- **Destinations for Information (Facebook and Websites)**
- Five Channels of Giving
- **Most Supportive Pastor**
- Newsletters
- **Program Bank for units and districts**
- Racial Justice Reading List
- **Registration Forms**
- Report Forms
- **Scholarship Application for Events**
- South Central Jurisdiction Information
- **United Women in Faith Sunday**



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### SUPPORT UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH BY WEARING A T-SHIRT

To purchase, select one of the links



Anyone may order a T Shirt from the following sources. Both sites will have photos, choices, and ordering information. If you need help with ordering, contact Pam or Carolyn.

1. Access [uwfnorthtexas.org/uwf\\_merchandise](http://uwfnorthtexas.org/uwf_merchandise) A few of these were displayed and sold during Annual Celebration.
2. Access [www.bonfire.com/move4mission2023](http://www.bonfire.com/move4mission2023) Part of the proceeds benefit United Women in Faith.

## What's Happening at the Amarillo Wesley Community Center?

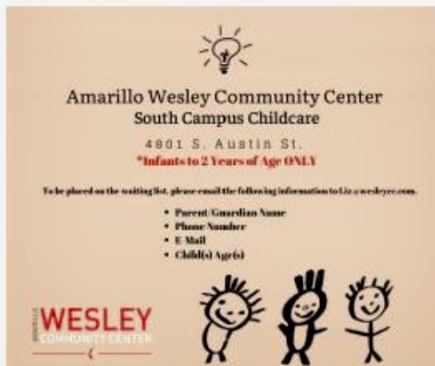
There is always something exciting happening at the AWCC! For instance...



*The Senior Citizens group enjoyed an outing to the Fall Festival held at the Sunset Center Art Institute.*



AWCC gives a big “Thank You” to Bowie Middle School for giving some love to our South Campus! These awesome students put down sand, spray painted benches, organized classrooms, picked up trash, and more!



*The new South Campus is nearing completion of all necessary construction and licensing processes. The ministry of Amarillo Wesley Community Center continues to bless and enrich the lives of many people.*

**UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH UNIT MEMBERSHIP/CENSUS REPORT  
FOR 2023 NORTHWEST TEXAS CONFERENCE  
Time Period: 1-1-23 to 12-31-23**

Unit Name	Unit President	Year <b>2023</b>
Church	Unit President Address	
District	Unit President E-Mail	
Submitted by	Unit President Cell Phone	

2023 MEMBERSHIP DATA REPORT	
Number of Members REPORTED LAST YEAR AS OF 12/31/2022	
Number of New Members ADDED IN 2023	+
Membership DECREASE in 2023 due to death, moved, other	-
<b>TOTAL CURRENT MEMBERS ON DECEMBER 31, 2023</b>	=

PLEASE LIST NAMES AND CONTACT INFORMATION FOR YOUR UNIT'S NEW MEMBERS			
Name	Address	Cell Number	E-Mail

Please list additional names/contact information on a separate sheet of paper

PLEASE LIST NAMES OF YOUR UNIT'S DECEASED MEMBERS DURING 2023	

PLEASE LIST NAMES OF THOSE WHO MOVED, LOST TOUCH DURING 2023	

Please list additional names on the back or a separate sheet of paper

Mail this form to Brenda Breeden, 1164 Yorktown Dr. Abilene Tx 79603 or [snoopyb1@suddenlink.net](mailto:snoopyb1@suddenlink.net) and a copy to your district president in January 2024.

**Application for Scholarship Funds as a Reimbursement**  
**Northwest Texas Conference-United Women in Faith**  
**Year of Event Request \_\_\_\_\_**  
**(Please Print)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_, State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ First time attendee  Repeat attendee

- Event:**  **Leadership Development Day**    **Legislative Event**    **Spiritual Growth Retreat**  
 **Annual Celebration**    **Mission u**    **South Central Jurisdiction**  
 **National Assembly**

I will accept partial funds as I will ask if funds are also available from my unit or district.

I will register and will attend entire event.

Additional information you want the approval committee to know:

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You will be notified about the amount of your award. Registration and full payment are expected and then, after the event, you will receive a reimbursement form to send with applicable receipts to the treasurer. Send application to:

**Jackie Berry, 5019 Mt. Vernon Ct, Midland Texas 79705**

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Church \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Application will remain open until two weeks before an event. First to apply will receive first consideration as funds are available. Please call Brenda at 325-672-6985 with questions.

UMW Bookkeeping Purposes: Date of approval \_\_\_\_\_ for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

Updated October 2023





## United Women in Faith Sunday

Each local unit should hold this annual special Sunday on which United Women in Faith celebrate 155 years of service to women, children, and youth around the world.

Select a date by May 31, 2024 that works for your church. Plan the observance with your pastor and involve your pastor(s) in the service.

Soon after your observance, send the report form. Include a copy of the worship bulletin and materials distributed.

Observance guides are on our website or your district president can send the information packet. Some information is in your *Leadership Development Day* booklet.

### Northwest Texas Conference United Women in Faith 2024 Calendar of Events

Updated 11-22-2023

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
Now through May 2024	<i>United Women in Faith Sunday 2024</i>	Date and program arranged by local units and pastor
January 28-30, 2024	<i>37<sup>th</sup> UWF Texas Legislative Event</i>	Austin with virtual option
January 31, 2024	Gather unit census information for January-December 2023 as of December 31, 2023.	Send form to Brenda Breeden <a href="mailto:snoopyb1@suddenlink.net">snoopyb1@suddenlink.net</a> Or 1164 Yorktown Dr Abilene TX 79603
March 22-23,	<i>Spiritual Growth Retreat</i>	Mercy Retreat Center, Slaton
May 31, 2024	Yearly reports due ( <i>Mission Today, Reading Program, Memorials, Most Supportive Pastor nominations, and any remaining UWF Sunday reports</i> )	Send to name and address on the 2024 forms.
June 21-23, 2024	South Central Jurisdiction Quadrennial gathering	St. Louis Missouri Renaissance St. Louis Airport Hotel
July 10, 2024	Conf. Leadership Team Arrives	McMurry University
July 11-13, 2024	<i>Mission u</i>	McMurry University, Abilene TX
August 1, 2024	<i>Burning of the Candle</i> honors and memorials due	Send form to Conference Treasurer Jackie Berry 5019 Mt. Vernon Ct Midland TX 79705
September 2024	<i>Conference Annual Celebration</i>	Lubbock District will host
September 2024	<i>Una Gran Cena</i>	Amarillo
October 2024	<i>Fall Planning</i> for conference leaders	
Nov. 21-23, 2024	National <i>LDD</i> for Conference Team	virtual
May 15-17, 2026	<i>Assembly 2026</i> (International gathering of United Women in Faith)	Indianapolis, Indiana

Note the date for Mission u has changed, as noted above.

Future Events to be planned – *Leadership Development Day*

Newsletter articles deadlines: December issue - November 1    May issue - April 1 August issue – July 1

## Reports From Our Districts

### Abilene District



The Abilene District Annual Meeting was held on Saturday, August 19, at St. Paul Abilene. We began with registration, breakfast nibbles, worship and our business meeting.

David Adams with the International Rescue Committee, presented a very informative program about their agency structure, purpose and their work in the Abilene and Midland areas. Attendees brought items the IRC needed in their work with refugees.

Bruce Morgan, David Adams (IRC volunteer coordinator), and Jean Marsh with some of the items gathered for the IRC.

### Amarillo District

2024 Leadership Team includes Jeanne Ann Gibson, President; Pam Zwickey, Vice President; Shelly Seth, Secretary; Patricia Thompson, Treasurer; Patricia Hutchinson, Spiritual Growth Coordinator; Pam Zwickey, Membership, Nurture, Outreach Coordinator; Connie Villescascas, Program Resources Coordinator; Sue Howard, Social Action Coordinator; Jane Ann Stewart, Education & Interpretation Coordinator; Phyllis Miranda and Beverly Elmore, Committee on Nominations; Becky Harp, Past President. Election of new officers was held at the District meeting following Annual Celebration in September. Contact information will be published in the 2024 Amarillo District Directory to be emailed in January.

Gift to Mission and Gift in Memory cards are available from the District Treasurer upon request, your local unit treasurer plus Program Resources Secretary display at LDD. You support missions of United Women in Faith by purchasing a card for a minimum of \$5 or any amount above as you desire. Greeting cards include: new baby, congratulations, peace, in the service of Christ, special day, thank you, thinking of you, encouragement, happy birthday, Christmas, in memory or thoughts and prayers.