



United
Women
in Faith

NORTHWEST TEXAS CONFERENCE

MAY 2023

NEWSLETTER

A NEW THING

2023 Theme for United Women in Faith of the Northwest Texas Conference

Isaiah 43:18-19 NIV

*¹⁸ "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past.¹⁹ See, I am doing **a new thing!** Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.*

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Throughout the newsletter find opportunities to attend conferences and worship. At the different events you will learn about United Women in Faith, make many new and interesting friends, and most importantly experience worship and spiritual growth. Scholarships to help incur expenses are available through our conference United Women in Faith. Please contact your District President or the Conference President for more information. These ladies are your points of contact for answers to question you have about United Women in Faith.

Conference President: Carolyn Cobb, (806) 627-8118

Abilene District: Jean Marsh, (325) 864-5563

Amarillo District: Jean Ann Gibson, (806) 282-1733

Lubbock District: VelvetLee Finckbone, (806) 317-9505

Northwest Texas Conference
United Women in Faith 2023
Calendar of Events

Updated 03-27-23

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
Now through May 2023	<i>United Women in Faith Sunday 2023</i>	Date and program arranged by local units and pastor
January 31, 2023	Gather unit census information for January-December 2022 as of December 31, 2022.	Send form to Brenda Breeden snoopyb1@suddenlink.net Or 1164 Yorktown Dr Abilene TX 79603
May 31, 2023	Yearly reports due (<i>Mission Studies, Mission Today, Reading Program, Memorials, Most Supportive Pastor nominations, and any remaining UWF Sunday reports</i>)	Send to name and address on the 2023 forms.
July 20-22, 2023	<i>Mission u</i>	McMurry University, Abilene
August 1, 2023	<i>Burning of the Candle honors and memorials due</i>	Send form to Conference Treasurer Donna Watkins 1417 Bell Plains Rd Abilene TX 79606
September 2023	<i>Una Gran Cena</i>	Amarillo
September 15-16	<i>NWTX Annual Celebration</i>	Faith Southwest Methodist Church, Amarillo 4415 Wesley St 79121 806.356.0985
October 13-14	<i>Fall Planning</i> for conference leaders	Best Western Levelland
November 11	<i>Leadership Development Day</i>	Lubbock, St. John's
January 28-30 2024	<i>37th UWF Texas Legislative Event</i>	Austin with virtual option
Spring 2024	<i>Spiritual Growth Retreat</i>	
June 21-23, 2024	<i>South Central Jurisdiction Quadrennial gathering</i>	St. Louis, Missouri Renaissance St. Louis Airport Hotel
May 15-17, 2026	<i>Assembly 2026</i> (International gathering of United Women in Faith)	Indianapolis, Indiana

Newsletter articles deadlines: December issue - November 1 May issue - April 1

August issue - July 1

CELEBRATE!

SEND YOUR UNIT REPORTS BY

MAY 31



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-SA-NC](#)

Celebrate your work! Share your accomplishments and ideas so we can learn from each other. We want to know how our programming is working for you. We look forward to receiving your yearly unit reports that are due May 31. (We set May 31 because many units do not meet regularly in the summer.) Your work will be recognized in the program book at *Annual Celebration*.

Find report forms -

~on nwtxconf.org under the tab for United Women in Faith.

~in the booklet you received at Leadership Development Day.

~in an email from your District President.

Please use only 2023 forms. Email or postal mail each report to the name and address on the report form. The following are due from each unit.

- **Memorials**
- ***Mission Studies***
- ***Mission Today***
- ***Most Supportive Pastor* nominations**
- ***Reading Program* individual member reports**
- ***United Women in Faith Sunday* reports not previously sent**

PartyLine

Lay Pastor Lisa Peterson from Trent UMC met with our PartyLine on March 3, 2023 and found 12 ladies ready to share an hour together. She shared Isaiah 43:18-19 and John 15:1-8.

Wilderness and grapevines—what do they have in common? Both need support.

Lisa took us through trellis-building to support our faith as we go through each day. We need to inspect that trellis and replace rotten columns, see that the paint is still showing God's beauty, study to keep it strong and growing, checking to see if it is under some stress in places, discern what it really needs to function. She gave us a history lesson of the Dessert Mothers and a plan of discerning the answer to: Is this where God wants me?

If you would like to join us, please let me or your district president know so that I can send you the Zoom link of our next meeting. We meet about six times a year.



Blessings to you on your trellis-building,

Brenda Breeden

snoopyb1@suddenlink.net

NWTxC Spiritual Outreach Coordinator



LIVING THE GOOD NEWS

Reflecting God's Love

Mission u 2023

Make plans to attend Mission u at McMurry University in Abilene this July 20-22. The Registration Form is on the next page of this newsletter.

This year's study, *Living the Kin-dom* by Riva Tabelisma gives fresh eyes to the Lord's Prayer. Often learned by rote, the Lord's Prayer is a rich guide for how we can live out God's plan for our lives. Tabelisma invites participants in this study to step away from our automatic recitation of the prayer and dive deep into the meaning of each line over the course of eight one-hour sessions. Each of the sessions examines a section of the Lord's Prayer from Matthew 6:9–13.

Our wonderful study leaders from last year, Marty Cash-Burless and Linda Elms are returning this year. They each got rave reviews last year, and I'm sure this year will be the same.

Of course, it won't be Mission u if we don't spend time together eating ice cream, visiting, worshiping, watching a movie, and doing mission work.

Our Mission Focus this year will be the SANE (Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner) Program. Program Coordinator, Susie Striegler, will share with Mission u participants the work and goals of the group, which is housed at Hendrick Medical Center in Abilene. We will have the opportunity to help by donating personal care products to the project.

Something new: spouses are encouraged to come along to Mission u 2023.

For more information, please contact Pam Zwickey at pdztx@yahoo.com or 806 355 4234.

We'll see you at Mission u!



United
Women
in Faith

Registration Form
NORTHWEST TEXAS CONFERENCE MISSION U
July 20-22, 2023
McMurry University, Abilene, Texas
Campus Phone 325-793-3800
Deadline: Postmark by July 8, 2023

But Wait, You can register online at: <https://forms.gle/EEQcsneusNEQwpFq5>

Name: _____
(Last) (First) (Gender)

Address: _____
(Street/PO Box) City/State/ZipCode)

Telephone: _____
(Home) (Cell) (E-mail Address)

Is this your first time to attend Mission u ? Yes No Diabetic Gluten Free Vegan
Share my contact information with National to receive events & mission work news. Yes No
Please list here or on the back any specific accommodation needs (wheelchair accessible, first floor?)

Spiritual Growth Study: *Living the Kin-dom through the Lord's Prayer*
Your Choice for Study Leader:
 Rev. Marty CashBurlless Linda Elms

List other languages you speak fluently besides English _____

Double Room On-Campus Fulltime:
\$ 20.00 Registration Fee
+ 104.00 Basic Double Room and 6 meals
Roommate Request: _____
\$ 124.00 Total Double Room & 6 meals

Single Room On-Campus Fulltime:
+ 44.00 Single Room Add'l cost
\$ 168.00 Total Single room & 6 meals

Online Fulltime Pmt: <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z9DX>

Commuter/Half time: (indicate which meals and #)
Days of attendance: _____
\$ 20.00 Registration Fee
+ Meals at \$10 each B L D (T pm-S noon)
+ \$22.00/night Double, Roomie _____
+ \$44/night Single
\$ _____ PLEASE MAIL w Form Total Commuter Cost

Make checks payable to: **NWTxC**
Mail registration & ck to: Jackie Berry
432-631-7895 5019 Mt Vernon Ct
berryjh1950@gmail.com Midland, Tx 79705

United Women in Faith—Northwest Texas Conference
Mission u Health Information
HAVE YOUR MEDICAL INSURANCE CARD WITH YOU

Emergency Contact-Name _____

Phones _____

I am allergic to the following:

Any medication we should know about? In case of an emergency, we will call 911.

Physician's name & phone number:

Other relevant information on back

Total Cost _____ Paid online \$ _____
Check Amount _____ Ck # _____



2022

Membership

Yes! We have finished the 2022 Census with 28 units reporting their membership on December 31, 2022. Those reports totaled 455 members for Northwest Texas Conference. Part II of the Census, the Survey section, will become available from National in May.

It is now so much more important to help us keep up-to-date on our Unit and At-Large District Memberships. If you no longer have a local unit, let your district president know that you want to continue to identify with United Women in Faith. With groups of ladies finding different ways to remain active in our organization, we want to be sure all our information, concerning reports and events, is distributed in a timely manner and to everyone interested. Send any rosters you may now have compiled directly to me.

As we want to support each of our groups, I'd love to have a copy of any calendar of your events, activities and programs planned for the year. I can share that with the conference team and others as some of us might like to attend!

I hope to see you at our conference events calendared in this newsletter for 2023 and that your 'Holy Habits' are strengthened throughout this year (see the Spiritual Growth Retreat article).

Blessings,

Brenda Breeden

snoopyb1@suddenlink.net

Spiritual Outreach Coordinator, NWTxC

Resources Announcement from United Women in Faith

New Web Store

The new web store is now live!

Visit uwfaithresources.org.

Questions about the new store? Visit [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#) on the new site to familiarize yourself with the offerings. Many resources are available for download at no charge. The Mission u study book is available to order for \$14.99.



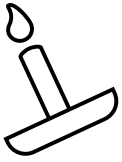
New Wineskins Workshops a Must for Every Member

2022 was our transition year to doing business as United Women in Faith, and now it's time to thrive! [The New Wineskins workshops available in PPT and webinar formats on our estore](#)—United Women in Faith resources— are key in helping **every member** understand why the changes underway are necessary to ensure that our movement continues to address the needs of women, children, and youth. Use the New Wineskins workshops in your local, district, or conference groups meetings for no charge.

Note: If the link will not open, press Control + Click with your mouse on your computer keyboard.

Reading Program Reports

Reading Program reports from individuals are due May 31. Send to your District Coordinator by email or regular mail by District: Abilene District--Jean Marsh, Amarillo District--Connie Villescas, Lubbock District--VelvetLee Finkbone. Please contact Conference Program Resources Secretary, Jeanne Ann Gibson for additional information by phone 806-282-1733 or email jagibson1948@sbcglobal.net



2023 Mission Minutes - Burning of the Candle

Deadline: August 1, 2023 * Do Not Use Old Forms-Amount Changes Each Year*

Unit Name: _____

District: _____

In our conference we collect special funds once a year to see how many “mission minutes” of the national mission budget we can sponsor. See the values listed below:

Year: \$8,704,411.00 Day: \$23,847.70 Hour: \$993.65 **Minute: \$16.56**

You can give a gift in memory or in honor of someone with a special gift to missions. Donations received by the deadline will be printed in the Annual Celebration program book. **The candle will burn during our gathering for the number of minutes our combined gifts will fund**, which will symbolize our conference’s collective impact on missions affecting women, children, and youth. All money collected will support the national mission budget. Please consider participating in this meaningful annual observance.

PLEASE NOTE: Include the name and address of recipient, or family member (if deceased) if you wish to have the gift acknowledged beyond printing in the program booklet. A card will be sent to acknowledge a gift was given in their honor/memory, and by whom.

Make checks payable to: NWTC UWFaith and include check with this form.

Please send this directly to the conference treasurer, not through your district treasurer.

Mail to: NWTC United Women in Faith
c/o Donna Watkins (Treasurer)
1417 Bell Plains Rd
Abilene, TX 79606

Questions? Call, text, or email
325-668-2894
dwatkins52@gmail.com

IN MEMORY OF	IN HONOR OF	If desired: Name/Address for Acknowledgment	GIVEN BY	AMOUNT

Copy for distribution and/or attach additional pages as needed

TOTAL ENCLOSED

Frances Curry
Legislative Report



[United Women in Faith Texas Legislative Event 2023](#)

This year's legislative event stands out for me from all others I've attended. There were more in-person attendees than before, even with the virtual option. (We were at capacity.) Critically important issues like gun violence, school vouchers, abortion, immigration, methane reduction, women's healthcare, voting rights, climate impacts, and LGBT rights made up the workshops and issue sessions. This is the first time I can recall the actual naming "abortion" as a topic; however, since abortion was and is the subject of bills being written by our state leaders, how could it not be included. Personally, I am proud to be among women who have the courage to tackle these contentious and life-altering public policy topics as followers of Christ.

The most dramatic difference in this year's Legislative Event had to do with the legislative priorities chosen by the attendees. This year, instead of whittling policy issues down to five on which to focus, there are twelve. Six statements support certain policy actions, and six statements oppose other policy actions. This is a more complete representation of the important justice issues facing our state and more clearly states what is important to Texas United Women in Faith.

You can find these Texas Legislative Event Priorities on page 16 in this newsletter.

Our NWTX Conference had 9 attending in person and 6 participating via Zoom. These included Brenda Breeden, Sherry Graham, Carolyn Cobb, Linda Elms, Sonia Sanchez, Christina Hamilton, Liz Rascon, John Curry, & me with virtual attendees being Jackie Berry, Jean Marsh, Pam Zwickey, Lila Hoobler, Barbara Shaw, and Jane Ann Stewart.

Due to ice and snow, many legislators had left Austin and were not available for visits on Tuesday. However, Liz, Sonia, and Christina (first timers from the Amarillo Wesley Community Center) did get to visit with Senator Kevin Sparks and his wife. They were surprised by all they learned and want to attend next year if they can. I hope many more will join us.



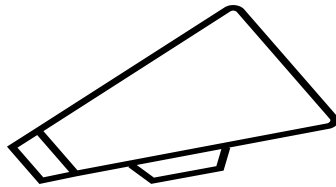
Special Thanks to These Ladies

for Providing Texas Legislative Event Silent Auction Gift Baskets

To Patricia Thompson, who donated her precious creation of a baby shark crib quilt, and to Jeanne Ann Gibson who added toys and books from the Amarillo District's silent auction gift basket.

To Brenda Breeden, Donna Watkins, Jackie Berry, Royce Daugherty, Katrina Robinson, and Jean Marsh who supplied items for two gift baskets from the Abilene District.

To Frances Curry, who put together a climate friendly basket of detergent sheets, composting materials, a self-eating book, etc., from the Lubbock District.



United Women in Faith Texas Legislative Event 2024

Mark the date

January 28-30, 2024.

The following information can be found on our website 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 Award, nomination information and previous award**
- **Newsletters, Northwest Texas, quarterly**
- **Program Bank for Units and Districts**
- **Racial Justice Book List**
- **Report Forms - Mission Today; Memorials; Mission Studies; Reading Program**
- **Scholarship Application for Events**
- **South Central Jurisdiction Newsletter**
- **Spiritual Growth Retreat 2023 registration and information**
- **United Women in Faith Sunday**



Spiritual Growth Retreat 2023 Mercy Retreat Center, Slaton

They say one picture is worth a thousand words. But there would never be enough pictures to show the supportive family atmosphere that transcended on our “24 hour” retreat March 31-April 1. Rev. Dr. Janie Noble led our retreat on ‘Holy Habits’, centering on scripture, service, solace, and prayer.

There were 42 in attendance at Mercy Retreat Center as we enjoyed a new facility located centrally within our conference at Slaton. Childhood friendships were reunited, long-time friends got updates on lives, new relationships were made, and long-ago co-workers met again. God’s presence was felt in every attendee as Janie led us in the many different types of prayers, including the Centering Prayer, Intercessory Prayer, Sentence Prayer, Breath Prayer, and Corporate Prayer. These prayers culminate in service and when love is shown in that service, it becomes an active verb that glorifies God. She reminded us that comfort does not promote growth, that spiritual growth changes life and glorifies God which is what our retreat was all about.



Enjoy the attached pictures and plan on being part of the attendees at the 2024 retreat.



Five current and past Conference Presidents. From left: Carolyn Cobb, Marge Savage, Peggy Wright, Linda Elms, Pam Zwickey.



Thirteen first timers attend retreat 2023. From left: Jean Gore, Shelly Seth, Shirley Olson, Gail Bonura, MaryRuth Grose, Karen Stacy, Wanda Ruppelt, Janie Noble, Suzanne Tjosaas, Yolanda Rivera, Sally Murrell, J’Lee McCaslin, & Mary Drake. See next page for more pictures.



Nancy Morgan,
our pianist

Rev. Dr. Janie Noble
Our Spiritual Leader



What's Happening at Amarillo Wesley Community Center?

- Remodeling and construction at the new South Campus (site of the former Kingswood United Methodist Church) continues. To make the site compliant with all safety and security codes, as well as ADA regulations, the kitchen area, restrooms, and security systems have been completely updated. Thanks to several generous donors the project is nearing completion. As the AWCC Executive Director, Dr. Liz Rascon-Alaniz, says, "We can finally see the light at the end of the tunnel." The Amarillo Wesley staff is working to get many final requirements finished, such as code inspections and completing the Texas Childcare Licensing requirements for the new campus. Current plans are to begin services on the South Campus in late April or early May. Several services that are currently housed at the Main Campus in east Amarillo will be moving to the South Campus as soon as possible.
- Two vans have recently been donated to the Amarillo Wesley for use in their various programs and ministries. One van was donated from the City of Amarillo and Potter County using funds from ARPA, the American Rescue Plan Act. The other van was donated by the Bivins Foundation of Amarillo.
- On April 29, 2023, the AWCC will host the Jim Waterfield Memorial Golf Tournament (Palo Duro Creek Golf Course). The golf tournament is an annual fund-raising event sponsored by the community center.
- *Una Gran Cena* 2023 will be held in September. More information (date, place, speakers) will be available later. *Una Gran Cena* is another annual fund-raising event that helps ensure that the ministry of Amarillo Wesley Community Center will continue to serve as it has for more than seventy years.



"Precious miles along with precious souls will be riding in this van." -- Robert Ruiz, AWCC Board Member

United Women in Faith

Texas Legislative Event Priorities 2023

SUPPORT

- Medicaid expansion under the Affordable Care Act
- 12-month postpartum Medicaid eligibility
- Women's access to and choice in all aspects of reproductive health care
- Strategies to encourage voter participation
- Science-based climate change mitigation, response, and adaptation
- Including more public voices at the Public Utility Commission

OPPOSE

- School vouchers or any other use of public funds to support private education
- New requirements or restrictions on voters or election administrators
- State funding for border militarization or anti-immigrant law enforcements
- Policies that constrain new renewable energy development
- Policies that give preference to a particular religious belief
- Policies that lead to persecution on the basis of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, or faith


(These policy positions fall within the umbrella of the National United Women In Faith advocacy emphases of Climate Justice and Racial Justice.)

TEXAS NEEDS YOUR HELP!!!

Helpful and hurtful bills are moving quickly from Senate & House committees to the floor for votes from now until the end of May. Find timely updates about issues that will matter to you by following these steps:

1. Search for www.texasimpact.org.
2. Under "Latest News" on the righthand side of the home page, move down to "ACTION ALERT WEEK OF _____."
3. Click on "READ MORE."



4. Under the  click to download the PDF.
5. Read through the various Action Alerts to find those that matter to you and your friends. Then contact your representative or senator to voice your feelings.

THANK YOU!

Upcoming Event Plans: Annual Celebration



The 2023 Conference Officers say:

**WE HOPE TO SEE YOU
AT ANNUAL CELEBRATION 2023
FAITH SOUTHWEST METHODIST CHURCH,
AMARILLO, SEPTEMBER 15-16, 2023.**

Leadership Development Day

A DAY OF FELLOWSHIP AND TRAINING

for your 2024 leadership roles as members or elected officers.

Save the Date! Leadership Development Day to be held on

Saturday, November 11, 2023 at St. John's Church in Lubbock

This is for all United Women in Faith members and friends. We embrace women of all denominations. Come and learn more about United Women in Faith

§§§§§§§

Scholarship, Discount,
Stipend...

...all words that are used in an effort to encourage attendance!

In March we all were able to enjoy the conference using the stipend to pay toward everyone's cost to attend the Spiritual Growth Retreat for 2023. We also were happy to help three

ladies attend the retreat by awarding them a scholarship for the remaining cost of attendance.

About five years ago, the Leadership Team instigated a fund set aside so that one day we'd be able to offer financial aid to members. It began as an incentive to help toward the expense of our School of Christian Mission or now called Mission u. Now you select the event where you need the financial assistance.

Event: Leadership Development Spiritual Growth Retreat Annual Celebration Mission u
 South Central Jurisdiction Meeting National Assembly

The application is found at <https://www.nwtxconf.org>, Ministries, United Women in Faith where it also states any requirements for each event. Sometimes funds may be limited, but if the cost of attending is keeping you home, please ask the leaders of the event about scholarships.



2024 SOUTH CENTRAL
JURISDICTION
Get June 21 - 23  St. Louis, Missouri
Together!

John 13:34



United
Women
in Faith



Together, we are building our legacy.

As a permanently invested endowment, the **Legacy Fund** will be an ongoing source of income, providing the assurance that our important work can always continue.

Giving to the **Legacy Fund** will support United Women in Faith in perpetuity. That's why gifts to the endowment fund are such a vital way to sustain and grow our capacity to serve and advocate.



The Legacy Endowment Fund Campaign

In 2014, the Legacy Endowment Fund Campaign was created and set a bold goal of raising \$60 million for the endowment. Through the generosity and efforts of women like you, we are confident this goal can be reached!

With every gift received in 2023 and beyond, we will secure the financial resources needed to deepen and expand our mission. Consider joining your legacy with ours and making a gift today.

Ways to Give:

By phone: 800-278-7771

Mail check to:

United Women in Faith

Attn: Legacy

475 Riverside Drive, Suite 1500

New York, NY 10115