



*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.*

### From your President

Greetings to Everyone!

"Blessed be the name of the Lord!" I pray that you are well and enjoying your summer whether you are traveling or staying home and enjoying time with your family. I have started putting together my boxes for Operation Christmas Child, getting a head start this year.

We had a good turn out for the Communion Brunch and we are looking for two churches to host next year's event. Please prayerfully consider hosting in 2025.

We are looking forward to our Annual meeting at the end of September in North Chili and hope you will plan to be there.

"Blessed are those who have learned to acclaim you, who walk in the light of your presence, O Lord. They rejoice in your name all day long; they exalt in your righteousness." Psalm 89: 15-16.

Be safe, be kind, be hopeful. See you in September!

Prayerfully yours,  
Karen Rood  
President of Genesee Valley District UWF

### 2024 Important Dates

- Mission U, July 25 - 27, Camp Asbury, Perry, NY.  
**Registration Deadline: July 5th**
- District Annual Meeting, Sat, Sept 28 9:30am, North Chili UMC
- UNY Conf Annual Meeting, Sat, Oct 19 10am Fairport UMC

### Communion Brunch

On March 23rd, Fairport and Geneseo UWF hosted our Communion Brunches. It turned out to be a snowy day and a few people were unable to attend. However, that did not affect the spirit of those that did. Both locations provided lovely food, faith, and fellowship. Five hundred and three dollars (\$503) was collected for the Legacy Fund.



We remembered our sisters in Christ who have passed reading each name:

**We serve.**  
**We advocate.**  
**We make a difference.**

Asbury UMC: Merelyn Israel

Fairport UMC: Janette Barley, Shirley Prudom,

Terrie Sleeman

Geneseo UMC: Katie Cooper, Gail Clemons, Shirley

Livingston, Elizabeth Parsons

Greece UMC: Nancy Granger, Judy Kroon, Gail

Mason, Keineth Stone, Patricia Whalen, Dawn

Zeller

New Light UMC: Janet Buckand, Joyce Ray

Penfield UMC: Christine Brooks, Ella Noble,

Catherine Thompson

## Mission Today

Is your Unit utilizing the Mission Today guidelines to keep your unit on track? You can do this by fulfilling our Promise to not only engage in "creative fellowship" but also to use the guidelines contained in Mission Today to help us to "expand concepts of mission, including social justice." As an optional suggestion to engage your members, I would like to propose that a copy of Mission Today be circulated to each of your members and ask them to check out No. 7 and No. 15 to ascertain if anyone would be interested in selecting one of the bullets under these particular numbers to complete the guideline, or work on it with one or more members of your unit. I would be glad to discuss this suggestion with you and help you with some ideas, i.e., Guideline 7(e) or 7(f).

My goal is to have at least five units completing Mission Today guidelines and submitting them to me by September 14th to earn recognition at the Gold, Silver, or Bronze level at our Annual Meeting September 28th. Thank you.

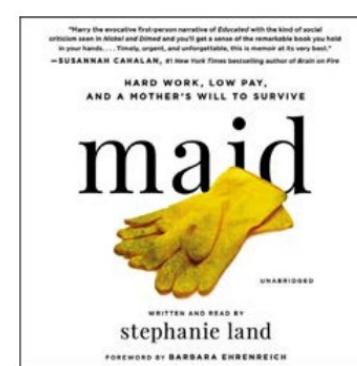
Gale Fischer Huber, Mission Today Coordinator

## Geneseo UWF Reading Group Idea

The Geneseo United Women In Faith reading group ask:

- Are you busier in the summer?
- Is it easier to relax with some Netflix than reading a book sometime?

You can watch the Netflix Miniseries "The Maid" (dated 2021) OR read the book **Maid: Hard Work, Low Pay, and a Mother's Will to Survive** (available to borrow from the OWWL Library system) written by Stephanie Land.



Either counts for the UWF reading program! The book is 288 pages; if you prefer video, the Netflix "The Maid" is a drama series about a single mother who works as a housekeeper to escape poverty and abuse. It is inspired by the memoir of Stephanie Land and stars Margaret Qualley, Nick Robinson, Andie MacDowell and more.

## SUMMER to FALL 2024

### “READ – LISTEN -- PRAY -- LEARN – ACT”

The Women in Faith 2024 Reading Program and our Program Resource Book “*Food, Faith and Fellowship*” are chocked full of exciting means to FEED your Mind and Spirit, GROW your Faith, and ENHANCE your Fellowship with other women.

Monthly Programs in our 2024 Resource Book can be adapted and used for any month or circle meetings, such as: “Living Water, Hospitality, Nutrition-Self Care, Earth Care, Food Justice, Food of the Earth” – All centering around the 3-F theme.

There are many great new books from [our 2024 UWF Reading Program List](#). Several Book Reviews are included elsewhere in this newsletter.

The 2024 list includes four intergenerational book “sets,” where an adult book is paired with a companion book to facilitate intergenerational reading and learning for youth or children. **Book sets include: *Blessed Youth, Braiding Sweetgrass, Carved in Ebony, and The 1619 Project*.**

For 2024, books from the 2019, 2020, 2021–2022, 2023, and 2024 Reading Program lists are all eligible for Reading Program reporting credit. You can find a combined list of all these books at [bit.ly/RPBookList](https://bit.ly/RPBookList).

You can also receive Reading Program reporting credit for:

- \* Listening to the Faith Talks Podcast: 1 credit in Spiritual Growth for 2+ episodes [Podcasts | United Women in Faith \(uwfaith.org\)](#)
- \* Listening to the Voices from the Field podcast: 1 credit in Education for Mission for 2+ episodes
- \* Reading **response** magazine: 1 credit in Nurturing for Community for reading one year (6 issues)
- \* Several movies are also available for Reading Program reporting credit, including *Hidden Figures*,

*Pushout, and The Hate U Give*. In determining the category for credit, identify the category of the original book and apply credit for the film to the same category.

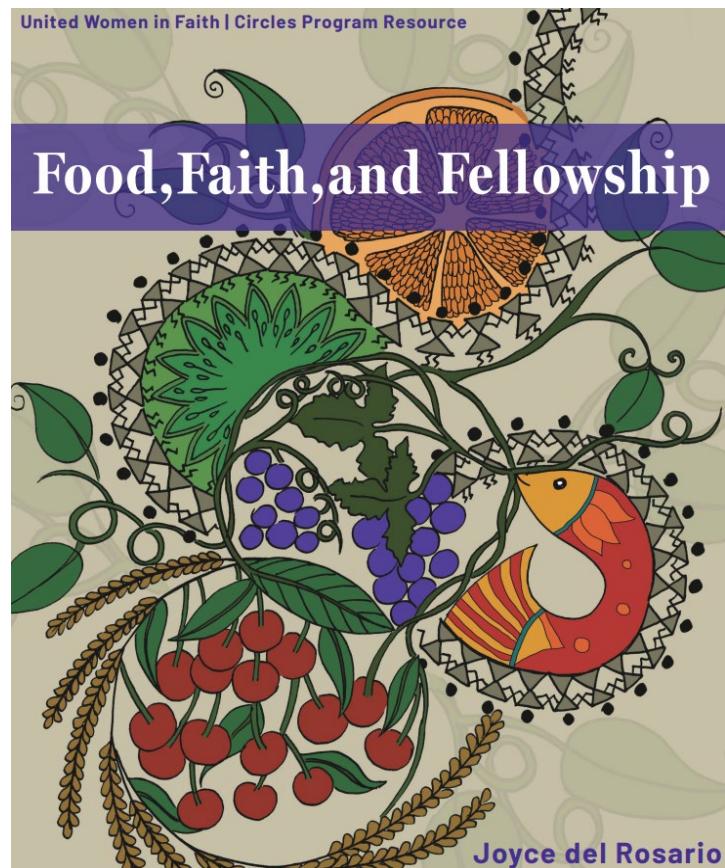
#### Reminder:

**>Your 2024 Reading Program input for those eligible for Certificates at our District Annual Meeting should be sent to me by Sept 14.**

You are all welcome to the table...Psalm 34:8... “Taste and see that the Lord is good.”

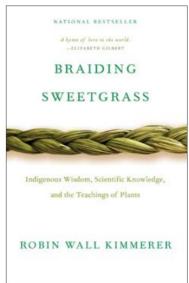
Yours for reading learning and challenge,  
Beverly Crawford

GVDUWF Program Resources  
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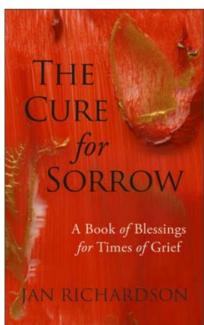
## SEVERAL BOOK SYNOPSIS

### From the Spiritual Growth Category:



***Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, And The Teachings Of Plants*** By Robin Wall Kimmerer, Milkweed Editions (2020)

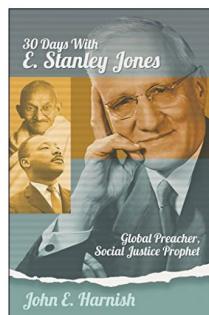
As a botanist, Kimmerer is trained to ask questions of nature with the tools of science. As a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, she embraces the notion that plants and animals are our oldest teachers. Here, she brings these two lenses together. Drawing on her life as an Indigenous scientist and a woman, Kimmerer shows how other living beings offer us gifts and lessons, even if we've forgotten how to hear their voices. She circles toward a central argument: that the awakening of ecological consciousness requires acknowledgment and celebration of our reciprocal relationship with the rest of the living world.



***The Cure For Sorrow: A Book Of Blessings For Times Of Grief*** By Jan Richardson Wanton, Gospeller Press (2016) When Jan Richardson unexpectedly lost her husband and creative partner, she did what she had long known how to do: She wrote blessings. These were no sugar-coated blessings. They

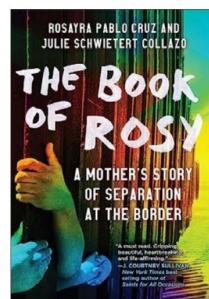
minimized none of the pain and bewilderment that came in the wake of a wrenching death. With these blessings, she entered into the depths of the shock, anger, and sorrow. From those depths, she has brought forth words that, with heartbreakingly honest, offer surprising comfort and stunning grace. Those who know loss will find kinship among these pages.

### From Education for Mission:



***30 Days With E. Stanley Jones: Global Preacher, Social Justice Prophet*** By John E. Harnish. Read

The Spirit Books (2022) 30 short, inspiring true stories about the life of E. Stanley Jones (1884-1973), described as the "greatest missionary since Saint Paul" in his day. Twice nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize for his ministry work in India, Jones was an author, statesman, interfaith leader, and a spokesman for peace, racial inclusion, and social justice. His work brought him into close contact with Mahatma Gandhi and other Indian leaders, and his writings are said to have influenced Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s nonviolent approach to injustice

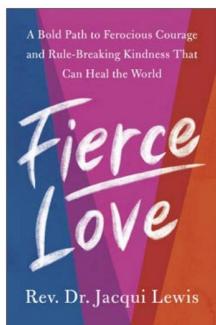


***The Book Of Rosy: A Mother's Story Of Separation At The Border*** By Rosayra Pablo Cruz And Julie Schwiert Harperone (2020)

This wrenching story shares the plight of the many families separated at the United States and Mexico border. Here,

Rosayra "Rosy" Pablo Cruz pens her agonizing tale of seeking asylum in the U.S. after fleeing her home country of Guatemala with her two young boys. After the brutal journey, they arrived at the Arizona border—only to be seized and forcibly separated under the Department of Homeland Security's new "zero tolerance" policy. She shares her painful but inspiring story about the cruelty of detention and the unbearable agony of being separated from her children in a strange land. Here, Harnish illustrates the timeless, loving wisdom that Jones believed lay at the core of Christianity.

## From Leadership Development Category:

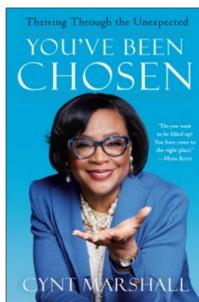


### ***Fierce Love: A Bold Path to Ferocious Courage and Rule-Breaking Kindness That Can Heal The World***

By Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis,  
Harmony (2021)

Lewis addresses how embracing the tenets of ubuntu can help bring about the change we seek in a world divided. Race and

ethnicity, caste and color, gender and sexuality, class and education, and religion and political party have become demographic labels that reduce differences to simplistic categories in which “we” are vehemently against “them.” But Lewis’s own experience—of being the first female and first Black minister in her church’s history, of being in an interracial marriage, and of making peace with childhood abuse—illustrates how empathy and forgiveness are the key to reversing these ugly trends.



***You've Been Chosen: Thriving Through The Unexpected*** By Cynt Marshall, Ballantine Books (2022) This relentlessly optimistic memoir by one of the most influential Black business leaders in America offers hope and guidance for navigating life's most difficult challenges.

Marshall has spent her life beating personal and professional odds while helping everyone she meets see how they are uniquely equipped to thrive. She grew up in a housing project with a violent father, but also a strong, devoted mother. She excelled at school and her professional life, overcoming overt and subtle racism to become, at 40, one of the first Black woman officers at AT&T. At 51, she was diagnosed with stage 3 colon cancer. Overnight, her life changed, but her commitment to serve others did not

## **GV District Annual Meeting - Sat Sept 28 @ North Chili UMC**

Join us for “Food, Faith, and Fellowship” on Saturday, September 28 9:30am at North Chili United Methodist Church. Our guest speaker will be Reverend Richelle Goff, Fairport UMC. We’ll worship together and celebrate a lunch together.

Registration Flyer at the end of this newsletter. Questions? Call Lori McComb, 585 739 8032



**Mission Today Unit Criteria****Revised: January 2024**

The purpose of the Mission Today Unit is to:

- Energize United Women in Faith to be more involved in mission, prayer, study and action.
- Increase contacts between units and mission personnel and projects so that United Women in Faith understand where the money goes
- Encourage use of mission resources
- Expand concepts of mission, including social justice

Criteria for a Mission Today Unit: The unit must complete a minimum of 18 (gold), 14 (silver), 10 (bronze) and include (4) of the asterisked items. Certificates will be distributed each year at the District Annual Meeting.

- \* 1 Use the Prayer Calendar at each general meeting of the unit to pray for persons in mission & their work.
- \* 2 The unit will make and meet its pledge to mission.
- \* 3 The unit will add at least one new member.
- \* 4 The unit will have at least one member subscribe to Response Magazine (suggest each unit purchase a copy to share).
- \* 5 The unit will use at least 1 program from the Program book during the year.(Possibilities - World Thank Offering and Call to Prayer and Self Denial, Officer's Installation), or use monthly program ideas, scripture litanies and/or prayers to develop a similarly themed program.
- \* 6 The unit, circle, or subgroup will conduct at least one Mission Study each year.
- \* 7 The unit will implement the Charter for Racial Justice Policies in at least one way during the year:
  - Read books or articles about other races & cultures and consider books found in the Reading Program
  - Hold a joint Vacation Bible School, worship, or event
  - Have a pulpit exchange or guest speaker
  - Encourage the church to sponsor a refugee family
  - Invite a guest/unit of a different race or ethnic group to join in a meeting or activity.
  - At least one member participates in a church or community "diversity" study or advocacy group.
- 8 At least one member of the unit (other than a District or Conference officer) will attend Mission U (School of Mission).
- \* 9 At least one member (other than a District or Conference officer) will attend a District or Conference event.
- 10 The unit will have at least one person join the new Climatejustice@uwfaith.org updated from JustEnergy4All webinar (starting March 20, 2024).

- 11 Members will write to five missionaries providing encouragement (Ex. Prayer Calendar, UM Missionaries, Facebook UWF Daily Prayer Guide.)
- \* 12 The unit will be a 5 Star Unit contributing to the 5 channels of mission giving: Pledge to Mission, World Thank Offering, Gift to Mission, Gift in Memory, Special Mission Recognition
- 13 The unit will support a mission project, such as Pink Bag Treatment, Gift Day, Kits (Health, School), Flood Bucket, Prayer Shawls, Food Bank or Soup Kitchen, etc.
- 14 Each general meeting will include a “Response Moment” where an article from Response Magazine will be lifted up as a way to share a mission story.
- 15 The unit will participate in the Campaign for Children. Possibilities for action include:
  - Help sponsor a church/community program related to children/youth needs
  - Sponsor a Children’s Sabbath (promoted by the Children’s Defense fund)
  - Get involved with children by mentoring, tutoring, joining a “Big Sister” program
  - Visit or volunteer at your local school
  - Attend or watch (cable) a school board meeting
  - Write letters, email, or call government officials
  - Submit letters to editor or join a blog promoting children and youth
- 16 Have at least one person from the unit, circle, or subgroup complete one of the Reading Programs.
- \* 17 Plan and participate in a United Women in Faith Sunday
- 18 The unit will invite a District or Conference Officer (other than a member of the unit) as a speaker.
- \* 19 Recite the Purpose of the United Women in Faith at all events.
- 20 Have at least one member participate or join Members & Leaders - United Women in Faith ([uわfaith.org](http://uわfaith.org))
- 21 Make a pledge to care for God's creation by becoming a "Green" UWF unit and take steps toward that goal.
- 22 One member will participate in a Spiritual Growth Retreat sponsored by any United Methodist group (including a unit or circle retreat) or participate in Faith Matters Bi-Monthly Podcasts.
- 23 Have at least one member visit and/or volunteer at a United Methodist Mission Center (for example, Utica, NY, or Harrisburg, PA).
- 24 Host a District or Conference Event.

## 2024 GV District Leadership Team

(MC=Mission Coordinator)

If you don't know who you should call, email our communications inbox [GVUWFCom@gmail.com](mailto:GVUWFCom@gmail.com)

President	Karen Rood 585-354-4897 kmaeroood36@gmail.com
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Spiritual Growth MC	VACANT
Social Action MC And Mission Today	Gale Fischer-Huber 585-247-3464 galefischerhuber@gmail.com
Education & Interpretation MC	VACANT
Membership, Nurture & Outreach MC	Lori McComb 585-739-8032 gvuwfcom@gmail.com
Program Resources MC	Beverly Crawford 585-905-2295 bjand4js@yahoo.com
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