



The Voice

A Newsletter for
Cumberland River District
United Women in Faith



**We are building for
the future...**

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President's Greeting

Assembly 2022 was well represented by the Cumberland River District, with Evelyn Tade, Georgia Maclin and Annette Dorris as we drove to Orlando. We also hooked up with Connie Bergquist from the Belmont unit. The TWK Conference was also well represented when we gathered for a group photo. Imagine being among 2,000 women, listening to amazing singers and music led by an all women band. Keynote speakers that I enjoyed included Heather McTeer Toney, Environmental Justice liaison for the Environmental Defense Fund and senior advisor to Mom's Clean Air Force. U.S. Secretary of the Interior, Deb Halland spoke via video on the moral responsibility women of faith have when it comes to climate change and environmental reform. Our own Janet Wolf was the theologian-in-residence, preaching throughout the weekend. When we weren't gathered together, we attended workshops. Some of them were not exactly how they were described, but still interesting none the less.



Pam Tate, President
CRD UWF

The Experience Hall was the site of more than 35 exhibitors. Various agencies and ministries that are represent and supported by the Methodist Church had booths. There was Fair Trade crafts from Jerusalem, African clothing and Latin

America selling handmade products. If you wanted to travel to the Holdy Land, there was a gravel agency with information. Several seminaries had booth too. A popular area called Mix and Mingle, was an area to gather and relax and make a few crafts.

Next Assembly will be 2026 in Indianapolis, Indiana, which is much closer to home.

Pam Tate, President, Cumberland River District UWF



Several ladies from our TWK UWF leadership team attended Assembly and took time for a picture together.



Your representatives from the Cumberland River District at Assembly. L-r: Evelyn Tade, Connie Bergquist, Pam Tate, Georgia Maclin, Annette Dorris



Sondrea Tolbert, Executive Director at Scarritt Bennett was staffing a booth representing Scarritt Bennett during Assembly 2022.



More than 3,000 gathered in Orlando, Florida, and online for United Women in Faith's Assembly 2022, held May 20-22 at the Orange County Convention Center. Twenty-four countries and all 50 states were represented at the event with the theme "Turn It Up." [Read more at Women Turn It Up at Assembly 2022 | United Women in Faith \(uwfaith.org\)](#) and check out the photos of this inspiring event on [our Flickr page!](#) Photo by Mike DuBose/UMNews

Cumberland River District Honors Our Unit Presidents

Thanks so much to our unit presidents who attended a special luncheon on June 4 at Scarritt Bennett. The CRD UWF district officers wanted to honor you to let you know we appreciate your challenging work. We wanted to show our appreciation for keeping your units going and attending district events over the past couple of years. We understand it's been difficult for many of our units to meet due to the Covid virus. Many of you had to get creative in order to keep your units going and staying in touch with your sisters in faith. Plus, it was good to see so many of you in person.



Evelyn Tade,
Vice President
CRD UWF



CRD UWF District officers recognized their unit presidents for their hard work during the past few years. The lunch was held at Scarritt Bennett, and an enjoyable time was had by all who attended.

We also shared with the presidents several important aspects of the recent Assembly of United Women in Faith in Orlando, Fla.

We want to send a special thank you to Scarritt Bennett's staff for letting us use their facility and the wonderful lunch and tour. Many of our sisters have never had a tour of Scarritt Bennett and was glad to see it.

Many of our attendees complimented Scarritt Bennett and our district for a wonderful and informative luncheon.

Evelyn Tade, Vice President
Cumberland River District United Women in Faith



Sondrea Tolbert, director at Scarritt Bennett, speaking at the Unit Presidents lunch.

Faith Lift 2022 - Purses with Purpose



Rev. Heather Harriss and Annette Dorris getting ready to bless the purses donated to our Faith Lift Social Action project "Purses with Purpose."

Cumberland River District's Faith Lift spiritual and project day was a true blessing this year. We are so pleased with our district units' participation, especially with this social action project.

This year we followed the lead of our sisters at Key Stewart in Gallatin and held a "Purses with Purpose" project. The project goal focused on serving women in domestic violence shelters throughout our district. Ten units

donated over 120 purses that we then filled with items a woman fleeing a violent situation may need. Most times when a woman can get away, she isn't thinking about packing a suitcase or purse. She just needs to immediately leave when she has a chance.



Rev. Heather Harriss provided an inspirational talk on Pouring Out Your Heart.



L: Sevaryus Robb provided beautiful music for our CRD Faith Lift program. R: Georgia Maclain, Spiritual Growth coordinator, opened the program with prayer.

Women from our district's churches also donated over \$1700 toward purchasing items to fill the purses. Over 55 of our sisters joined together at Key Stewart to fill and bless the purses. The love was palatable!

Prior to our work, we worshiped with our speaker, Rev. Heather Harriss, Associate Pastor at Belmont UMC in Nashville. Her message touched our souls and motivated our action. After our work we fellowshiped together over lunch. It was great to get to know women better in our district.

Thanks to all who participated and donated. You made the day a true blessing for all.



CRD UWF registering for the 2022 Faith Lift Social Action program at Key Stewart UMC.

Cynthia Bennett, Social Action Coordinator
Cumberland River District UWF



CRD UWF ladies are filling their purses with purpose with a vast selection of needed items.



CRD UWF ladies select bags to fill with needed items and messages of love and hope.



The Hermitage UMC UWF coming together at the 2022 CRD Faith Lift program. L-r: Annette Dorris, Gwen Byrnes, Evelyn Tade, Dixie Tolbert, Anne Buckner, Lynn Farris and Linda LaRowe.

Need to Know:

2022 Calendar for United Women in Faith

Cumberland River District

- October 8 District Annual Meeting at John Wesley UMC

TWK Conference

- July 14-16 Mission u at Scarritt Bennett
- August 20 Conference Social Action Day at Centenary UMC
- September 17 Conference Annual Meeting at Brentwood UMC
- Sept. 30 – Oct. 2 Fall Retreat at Lakeshore

Conference Social Action Day

Clara Ester a former member of Centenary who was active in the civil rights movement during Rev. James Lawson tenure will be our speaker for Social Action Day held at the historic Centenary United Methodist Church in Memphis, TN.

Our focus will be multifaceted dealing with racism, trafficking, Criminalizing Black Girls and Interrupting the Pipeline from School to Prison, Clara will talk to us about how to organize our efforts to be most effective.

Be on the lookout for registration details and make plans now to join us on August 20.

Unit Due Dates Coming in August!

District Woman in Mission of the Year Award Nominations

It's time for all of our Cumberland River District United Women in Faith to start thinking and working on their nomination for our District Woman in Mission of the Year Award. Please send your nominations to Cathy Hays and contact her if you have questions. She will be sending out additional emails as reminders before the **due date of August 6**.

There are many deserving women in our district who meet the guidelines, so start making your nomination selection now. The nomination form, includes "CRITERIA FOR NOMINATION," is attached to this newsletter email. Be sure to send in your nomination by using this form only. Presidents, please make sure all of your local Unit members receive a copy, as nominations can be made by all CRD UWF members.

Cathy is always glad to help you in any way she can and to hear from you to answers your questions. Her contact information is email: cathyhays24@gmail.com and phone: 615 382-0118 (answering machine is always on so if she is not available please leave a message and she will get back to you just as soon as possible.

Reading Program Reports

The reporting **deadline for the Reading Program is August 15**. Program Resource Coordinator, Gay Parks will e-mail each unit a **report form on August 1**.

If you have any questions about the UWFaith Reading Program, please contact Gay at gayparks@att.net.

Some Things You Might Not Know About the Reading Program

- Reports are due by August 15, but you actually have until the end of December to complete your reading. The report is more a report of what members expect to read by year's end rather than what they have read by the middle of August.
- Because of the pandemic, books you read in 2021 and 2022 count toward completion of any of the reading plans.
- Any of the books from the 2015-2022 reading list that you have read in 2021 or 2022 count.
- Some books including the Mission Study books are marked in the Reading Program Catalog as Bonus Books. That means they each count as two books toward any reading plan.
- Faith Talk Podcasts count in the Reading Program too. Listening to two of these podcasts counts as one book. Listening to three podcasts counts as a Bonus Book in the Spiritual Growth Category. If you missed the live Faith Talk podcasts, you can find all of them at <https://uwfaith.org/resources/podcasts/>.
- Children and Youth books counts for adults as well.
- There are three movies that count as books, Just Mercy and The Hate You Give count under the Nurturing for Community category and Pushout counts under the Social Action category.

Memorial Reports Due in August

Local UWF Unit Presidents please start working on your Memorial Reports. They need to be submitted to Georgia Maclin, Spiritual Growth Coordinator at georgia_r_99@yahoo.com before August 8, 2022.

Submit the names of our UWF sisters who went to be with our heavenly father beginning on September 1, 2021, through the present time.

If you have questions or need additional information about this report, contact Georgia at her email provided above or by phone at 615-668-3249.

2021 Unit Survey

Units make your voices heard by completing the 2021 Unit Survey. There is still plenty of time, as the **due date is August 30**. Normally the Membership, Nurture & Outreach officer of each Unit completes the Survey, but anyone designated by the Unit president can fill it out for your Unit.

Just click on the **2021 Unit Survey link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TZSYN2B>** and complete all the information asked for.

If you have questions or need help completing the Survey, please contact Cathy Hays by email at cathyhays24@gmail.com or by phone at 615 382-0118.

Unit News

Ukrainian War Hardships Presentation Held by the Belmont UFW

On May 19, Belmont's United Women in Faith presented a live-streamed presentation from the church featuring three Ukrainian women in conversation with Jane Dubose, ESL teacher and Belmont member.

Sasha Gorkovenko and her friends Oksana and Olesia shared information about how the war in Ukraine is affecting them and their families in Ukraine. Sasha and Olesia have been in Nashville for some time; Oksana arrived, along with her two young children, only recently. Oksana's husband remains in Ukraine, fighting for his country.

The women shared stories about the struggles Ukrainians are facing – constant fear, constant bombing and noise, shortage of every-day needed supplies such as medicines, diapers, feminine hygiene products as well as food.

Belmont UFW has helped Oksana raise funds to purchase needed shoes and clothing for her husband. Oksana's children were with her during the presentation and would not leave their mother's lap or her side – a reminder of the trauma children experience, as well as adults, during separation from family and home.

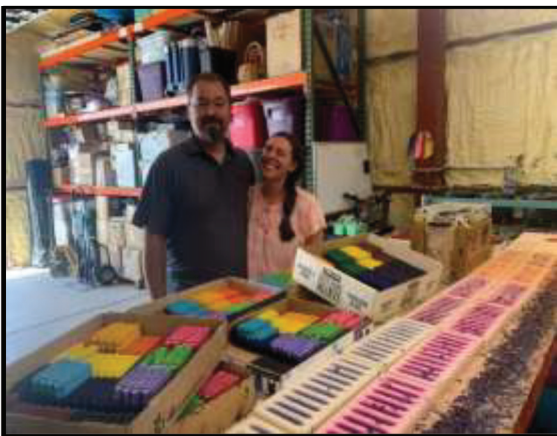
Financial assistance may be given through our denomination's relief organization – UMCOR.



The Ukrainian flag continues to fly high after enduring months of war with Russia.

Hendersonville United Women in Faith Learn about Crazy Crayons

At the June meeting of the Hendersonville First UMC United Women in Faith, circle member Sue Groves presented a program about Crazy Crayons, a project she is promoting locally to recycle used crayons.



L-r: Kim and Atilla Martonosi, proprietors of Crazy Crayons which Sue visited in Tucson, Arizona.

Crayons are made from paraffin, a petroleum-based product, thus are not biodegradable. More than 500,000 pounds of crayons are discarded every year, most ending up in our landfills.

The National Crayon Recycle Program recycles unwanted, rejected, broken crayon into new crayons through partnership with Crazy Crayons. This keeps thousands of pounds of waxy sludge out of the landfill and puts fun, uniquely shaped crayons back into the creative hands of children.

For more information on the project, visit crazycrayons.com.

Women's Day Celebrated by the John Wesley UWF

The John Wesley United Women in Faith local unit celebrated Women's Day on May 29, 2022. In keeping with the UWF Mission Study from last year, the theme was Finding Peace in an Anxious World, and the colors were shades of the peaceful ocean. Rev. Stacey Haralson gave a powerful and inspiring message and the Women's Choir blessed the service musically. We had the highest number of in-person attendance at John Wesley since the pandemic.



L-r: John Wesley UWF
Janice Hayes, Carol
Overton and Minister
Sharon Duke.



The John Wesley Women's Choir provided inspirational
music at the Women's Day celebration.



Rev. Haralson preaching the
word during Women's Day.



L-r: First lady Janice Hayes, Acis Adkins, past
president, Sandra Moore, current president, and
Kim Henry, vice president.



L-r: First lady Janice Hayes, the
speaker Stacey Haralson and the
worship leader Carol Overton.