

The Clarion Call

TWKUWF Conference Newsletter

May 2024

~ ~ A Word from the President ~ ~

Greetings and blessings to my TWK UWF sisters. We are all in a busy season now as spring and summer are with us. These are our seasons of gathering for various events as well as personal travel. What a blessing to be able to do both!

We held our **first** Charter for Racial Justice event on March 23 at John Wesley UMC in Nashville. It was an honest, eye opening discussion around the book "So You Want To Talk About Race" and real life experiences from our panel. We plan to make this an annual event for our conference and expand it into our districts. Thank you to our panel participants, planning team and those in attendance.

As I write this note, there are 29 of us who are planning to attend the SEJ Quadrennial meetings in Chattanooga April 19-21. We are looking forward to gathering in the community for music and worship, electing new delegates and directors. We proudly have two TWK UWF nominees for the Leadership Team - Delores Smith from our Mississippi River District has been nominated for SEJ Secretary and Holly Neal from the Caney Fork District has been nominated for Committee on Nominations.

Hope you are all planning to attend Mission u scheduled for July 11-13 at Scarritt Bennet in Nashville. Registration is open so don't be late!

The March/April 2024 Response magazine reports that United Women in Faith supports mission in 39 countries, provides 496 scholarships totaling more than \$1.1 million to students around the world, and supports women and children in 35 states, Washington, D.C., Canada and Puerto Rico. Check out this issue of Response to see the listing of this mission work. Job well done!

You are all doing great work. I realize sometimes it seems like a struggle, but you always keep "the train rolling". Please be in prayer for each other that we will continue to do God's work and provide blessings to many even when we struggle. I know you can all do it!

You are in my prayers,

Meredith Bingham President

~ ~ A Word from the Treasurer ~ ~

2023 Mission Giving

Hove my role as conference treasurer! During my tenure, I have experienced many joys. One of the most fulfilling was receiving news that for the second year the Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference exceeded our mission-giving pledge. Each year, local churches share their budgets with district treasurers to create the district budgets. District treasurers share their budgets with the conference treasurer to create the conference budget and determine the amount the conference plans to pledge to mission giving. In 2023, the conference pledged \$120,000 in mission giving to support women, youth, and children locally, nationally, and globally. The conference, through the work of the district treasurers and amid distressing changes, exceeded the pledge by giving \$142,985. Thanks to all local units and to the amazing district treasurers; Beth Adams, Ann Boone, Lauren Boswell, Gail Eubanks, Terry Guertin and Valerie Lavery, Susan King, Michelle Martin, Debbie Miller, and Beverly Mintmire, for all your efforts in support of TWK UWF. Through the turmoil and sadness of disaffiliations, United Women in Faith has continued the work of creating safe and healthy spaces for women, youth, and children. To God be the glory!

Geralyn J. Seals, Conference Treasurer

~~ A Word from the Spiritual Growth Coordinator ~~

Dear Sisters-in-Christ,

My heart is full with UWF. Welcome Home the study for Mission u is going to be so awesome and intergenerational. You don't want to miss it.

Our Conference Charter of Racial Justice panel discussion was informative as we seek to dismantle racism.

And now as I participate in the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference UWF we are "Happy" celebrating the Legacy of United Women that have gone before us. I am happy for each of you as you faithfully serve God and neighbor bringing about God's kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.

I encourage all of us to continue with deep faith to live our purpose as we are securing God's future for all.

May the Lord be with your spirit. And may his grace be with all of you. Love and blessings, Holly

~ ~ A Word from the Membership, Nurture and Outreach Coordinator ~ ~

LET'S TALK ABOUT THE PRAYER CALENDAR!

I have been subscribing to the Prayer Calendar for some time now and I use it as part of my daily morning devotional. There is a wealth of goodness in each day's information:

- Sunday A picture and brief comments about a ministry we help support.
- Monday A reflection from a representative of an organization giving information about what it does.
- Wednesday A mid-week prayer to use.
- ♣ Thursday A Bible verse which covers what we should be doing.
- Friday A list of birthdays of missionaries, deaconesses, and other staff.
- Saturday A space for taking notes.

Also included are the lectionary readings for each day of the week as well as daily prayer opportunities.

Weekly birthdays of staff are included as well. Their emails are listed so folks can send them birthday greetings. I often receive responses from these people sending me their newsletter, giving up to date information as to what is going on in their ministry. I will be periodically sending out some of these responses so we can see the work that is going on.

The Prayer Calendar is a wonderful way to see what is going on in the organizations that we financially support, and it is so refreshing to see where our money goes. It is my hope that your units are using the Prayer Calendar in your meetings and that you will use it as a personal resource.

Blessings to you and yours, Nita Wright

~ ~ A Word from the Education & Interpretation Coordinator ~ ~

Greetings from Education and Interpretation

First, I want to follow up on my last newsletter article with this reminder about the importance of your units having a pledge service each year. I hope your units are planning to have a pledge service for 2025 this June. I know that seems strange, but in order for districts, conferences and our national organization to plan budgets they need a good idea of our financial individual pledges to mission.

Now let's talk about an additional way to add to those mission giving dollars. Called by Name-Candle Burning for Mission is a simple method to acquire additional funds for mission giving. Funds received from candle burning do not take the place of individual pledges but do go to mission giving. Candles may be burned at local meetings, or any United Women in Faith sponsored event and during worship services with your pastor's permission. Occasions for burning candles in the sanctuary during worship includes Mother's Day, Father's Day, Veterans Day, graduations, birthdays, anniversaries, etc....and you can involve your congregations!!!! Honorees may be anyone living or deceased who the donor wishes to recognize. The minimum donation for 2024 is \$11.23 per minute which is the amount of money United Women in Faith spends per minute on missions for women, children and youth. On special occasions a supplement to the worship bulletin or program may be prepared with information about candle burning ministry with a list of donors and honorees. Local treasurers should remit the funds quarterly to the district treasurer on the remittance form on the line Called by Name.

While the \$11.23 per minute for missions is a good number, it is below the 2022 number of \$13.91 per minute. While we all recognize that covid and disaffiliations have had an adverse effect, we can find creative ways to fund missions just like our founding mothers. Candle burning for missions may be one way for your unit to do just that.

Oh---and have you registered for Mission u? I hope to see you there!!!!!!

Blessings, Katie Harris, E&I coordinator

~~ A Word from the Program Resources Coordinator ~~

Hello Fellow United Women of Faith

I would like to encourage each and every one of you to read at least 5 books from the 2019-2024 reading list. We have so many good books on the list. Five books in a 12-month period are not a lot of reading.

* Where can I find the books?

You can access books at your public library, ask the library to request books from other libraries, from your local bookstore, or through an online retailer. Starting this year, you can also purchase most of the 2024 Reading Program books at bookshop.org/shop/uwfaith. United Women in Faith receives 10% back on all purchases from our virtual shelves.

* How can I recommend a book?

If you would like to suggest a book for consideration for a future Reading Program catalog, you can do so using the link available at uwfaith.org/read.

* How can I learn about upcoming events and keep connected to the community?

O If you would like to join our mailing list, visit bit.ly/RPMailList.

O We also invite you to join us in the Reading Enthusiasts discussion group on Mighty Networks where you can post, learn about upcoming events, and share with others about your favorite books. For people who are new to Mighty Networks: bit.ly/reading-enthusiasts. For people who are already on Mighty Networks: bit.ly/reading-enthusiasts-MN.

* My favorite websites regarding the reading list are:

- UWFaith.org go to the top right and click on Member log in this will take you to the member portal.
- hrumw.weebly.com This is the Harpeth River District website. It has the book list as well as books I have read and recommend.
- UWFaith.org/digital

Happy Reading!

Bobbi Toombs The Crazy Book Lady

<u>* What I am reading now</u>

Church of the Wild - Spiritual Growth - 2024

Whether disillusioned by the church or unfulfilled by traditional expressions of faith, many of us long for a deeper spirituality. Coping with an unraveling vocation, identity, and planet, Loorz turned to the wanderings of spiritual leaders and the sanctuary of the natural world, eventually co-founding the Wild Church Network and Seminary of the Wild. With an Eco spiritual lens on biblical narratives and a fresh look at a community larger than our own species, Church of the Wild uncovers the roots of faith and helps us deepen our commitment to a suffering earth by falling in love with it.

~~ A Word from the Communication Coordinator ~~

Hi!

I'd like to give you a peak into the Calendar on the hrumw.weebly.com website. Believe it or not, all conference events are listed, as well as several other things. The events are even color coded! Lol!!

So, here we go:

Religious holidays – olive green

Fun days - light blue - like Mother's Day, cheer up the lonely, meteor shower, plus many more!

District events - maroon dots

Conference events - dark blue dots

National UWF - light green

Local unit events - purple - Harpeth River District units

Deadlines – orange

If you would like to know where an event is and how to get there, I've got ya covered! Click on the event on the calendar.

There will be an upside-down teardrop. Click on the address provided and it will open to a map with the option of directions.

Now, isn't that just cool!

Happy Mother's Day!

Janet Pierce

Pdj1169Dgmail.com

Please be in prayer for the family of Jessie Inez Boyd Brown, who died on Monday, April 8, 2024. Mrs. Brown was the mother of the Rev. Kimi Brown, who serves as pastor at Shady Grove UMC in Duck River, TN.

The Celebration of Life for Mrs. Brown took place on Tuesday, April 16.

Cards of condolence may be sent to:

Rev. Kímí Brown 1670 Sunset Rd. Brentwood, TN 37027

~ ~ Conference Executive Team Meeting ~ ~

The Conference Executive Team met 3/9/24 at Centerville UMC.

The highlight of the meeting:



~ ~ Charter for Racial Justice ~ ~

On Saturday, March 23, 2024, the Charter for Racial Justice Committee of the TWK Conference of United Women in Faith sponsored a panel discussion on racism using the book "So You Want to Talk About Race" by Ijeoma Oluo as a guide. The event was held at John Wesley UMC in Nashville and was hosted by its local UWF unit who provided delicious refreshments for breakfast and lunch.

The moderator of the panel, Ms. Alana McLaughlin, was spectacular. She is the host of the "Perspectives with Alana McLaughlin" television show, which airs on Fox 17 and the CW networks on Saturday and Sunday mornings. She led the panelists and the attendees in a powerful discussion designed to meet the objectives set forth by the Charter for Racial Justice, a social justice creed of the national organization of United Women in Faith. Those objectives include the following:

- · To understand racism and its harmful behaviors.
- · To create opportunities in local churches to deal honestly with racism and the social distance between members, thereby deepening the Christian commitment to be the church where all racial groups and economic classes come together.
- · To raise awareness of the continuing needs for equal education, housing, employment, medical care, and environmental justice for all members of the community, and to create opportunities to work for these things across racial lines.
- · To challenge discriminatory government policies and lead the Church in advocacy to protect the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of all people.

The outstanding panel consisted of: (1) Dr. Gloria Pillow, retired college educator and author of several books on racism and segregation in education;(2) Eleanor Summers, retired educator in the public school system, healthcare professional in the mental health environment, and graduate of a segregated school system; (3) Kimberly Henry, Director of the Governor's Office of Diversity Business Enterprise. The panelists introduced themselves and expressed how issues of race have impacted their journeys. Race is a difficult topic to talk about. However, the panelists shared their experiences, their stories, and their opinions with care. They created a safe environment with their open, humorous, relatable communication styles. The moderator guided the panelist to explore topics such as stereotyping; affirmative action; microaggressions; racism in education and the school to prison pipeline; diversity, equity and inclusion; and how racism impacts the pursuit of life, liberty, and happiness.

Submitted by Pam Nelson



Guest Panelist (left to right): Ms. Kimberly Henry, Ms. Eleanor S. Summers and Dr. Gloria T. Pillow Moderator: Ms. Alana McLaughlin

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Pain is temporary.	
Quitting is forever.	
	~~ Unknown
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Mission u July 11-13 Scarritt Bennett Nashville

Work on Mission u 2024 is moving right along!

Registrations are coming in. Study leader training has wrapped up.

The leadership team is getting everything organized and planned for the opening and closing worship services, as well as the plenary.

The study leaders are excited about the curricula for adults, children and youth.

We need your help by:

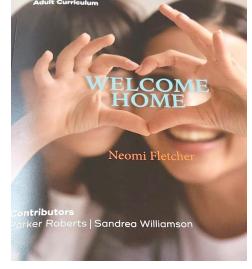
- Sending your registration in! (If you haven't already done so.) Registration deadline is **June 3, 2024**.
- Inviting others to attend! Mission u is not just for UWF members. You can invite anyone...friends, family, folks from other churches/denominations...anyone you think would enjoy being part of this great event.
- Inviting children and youth!! The study for these classes will be wonderful this year.
- Praying!

Pray for the study leaders and leadership team as they work to make this year's Mission u a blessing to all who are part of it.

The registration packet can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 615-948-1518 or owenpeggy@gmail.com

Blessings, Peggy Owen Mission u Dean



PURPOSE

We are:

A community of women whose purpose is to know God and 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.

~ ~ Book Report ~ ~

Suggestions for 2021-2022

Education for Mission:

~ Gum Moon: A Novel of San Francisco Chinatown - Jeffrey L Staley

In 1898, three-year-old Chinese American girl Mei Chun Lai is sold to a cruel brothel keeper, where a sympathetic prostitute befriends her. Two years later, at the height of a plague quarantine, a young Methodist woman rescues Chun and places her in a home for abused and trafficked girls. The home is destroyed in the 1906 earthquake and fire. Chun (aka "Maud") and a group of seven other Chinese children embark on a cross-country singing tour to raise funds to rebuild. When their home matron suffers a breakdown, 13-year-old Maud must lead the band of children home.

Based on a true story.

~ One Dress. One Year. One Girl's Stand Against Human Trafficking -

Bethany Winz & Susana Foth Aughtmon

*** Youth - May read children's and youth books after reading 10 books.

When sixteen-year-old Bethany Winz learned about the millions of men, women and children around the world trapped in slavery, she wondered: How can anyone do that to another human being? And why aren't we doing something? Journey with her as she wears the same black dress every day for a year to focus attention on the lack of choices people in modern-day slavery face and raises money to help end human trafficking.

Leadership Development:

~ Becoming - Michelle Obama

Michelle Obama has emerged as one of the most iconic and compelling women of our era. As First Lady of the United States of America—the first African American to serve in that role—she helped create the most welcoming and inclusive White House, while establishing herself as a powerful advocate for women and girls and standing with her husband as he led the nation. In her memoir, Michelle Obama chronicles the experiences that have shaped her—from her childhood on the South Side of Chicago to her years as an executive balancing motherhood and work to her time spent at the world's most famous address.

~ Hidden Figures: The American Dream and the Untold Story of the Black Women Mathematicians Who Helped Win the Space Race - Margot Lee Shetterly

Before Neil Armstrong walked on the moon, a group of African American female mathematicians were among those who served as NASA's "human computers," calculating fight paths and playing a crucial role in America's space program. Moving from World War II through NASA's golden age—touching on the civil rights era, the Space Race, the Cold War and the women's rights movement—this book interweaves a rich history of humankind's space explorations with the intimate stories of five courageous women whose work forever changed the world.

Based on a true story.

Nurturing Community:

~ Before We Were Yours - Novel - Lisa Wingate

This riveting, wrenching and ultimately uplifting tale is based on one of America's most notorious real-life scandals—in which Georgia Tann, director of a Memphis-based adoption organization, kidnapped and sold poor children to wealthy families all over the country. The narrators are present-day attorney and heir apparent to her father's Senate seat, Avery Stafford, and Rill Foss, a young girl growing up with her siblings on her family's Mississippi River shanty boat in the 1930s.

~ The House on Lowell Street - Novel - Linda A. Keane

Rose Morrison's comfortable life as a banker's wife is upended when her husband dies and leaves her with formidable debt. To help support herself and her son, she takes in two seamstresses from the corset factory. But trouble is brewing at the factory, where a union contract is about to expire, and Rose finds herself confronted with confusing moral choices. Based on a true event: the strike of the Kalamazoo corset workers in 1921.

Social Action:

~ Separated by the Border: A Birth Mother, a Foster Mother, and a Migrant Child's 3,000-Mile Journey - Gena Thomas

In 2017, five-year-old Julia was separated from her mother, Guadalupe, during a harrowing journey from Honduras to the United States. Gina Thomas, a Spanish-speaking missionary who became Julia's foster mother, witnessed firsthand the ways migrant children experience trauma. Weaving together the stories of birth mother and foster mother, this book shows the human face of the immigrant and refugee, the challenges of the immigration and foster care systems, and the tenacious power of motherly love.

~ Small Great Things - Novel - Jodi Picoult

During a routine checkup on a newborn, labor and delivery nurse Ruth Jefferson is told that she's been reassigned to another patient. The parents are white supremacists and don't want Ruth, who is African American, to touch their child. When the baby goes into cardiac distress the next day while Ruth is alone in the nursery, a gripping series of events unfold that will lead readers to question everything they know about privilege, power and race.

Spiritual Growth:

~ Sleep, Pray, Heal: A Path to Wholeness & Well-Being (Healing Memoir Book 1) - Donna Fado Ivery

When a two-hundred-pound glass partition fell on Donna Fado Ivery's head resulting in brain injury, disability, and chronic pain, she could no longer count on walking, speaking, or thinking. How would she

care for her infant, her preschooler, her husband, and herself? How would she continue to serve as pastor? With humor and humility, this inspirational memoir speaks to Donna's struggle through medical, social, and church prejudice with the abiding support of family and the Holy Spirit. Sleep, Pray, Heal charts the path through hardship and despair and offers a map—through scripture, theology, poetry, painting, and storytelling—to faith, healing, recovery and well-being. Sleep, Pray, Heal shares good news in a novel way.

Suggestion: Spiritual Growth:

~ Glimpses of Heaven: God's Gifts of Grace in Daily Life – Roela Victoia Rivera

As you know, I enjoy sharing quotes from books I have read. I started to write some quotes about grace from this book. I suddenly realized that I would never be able to share all the quotes that spoke to me. I encourage you to read this book, which was written by a "legally blind woman of faith who saw heaven". I believe you will be blessed as well. Janet Pierce

Those who love me, I will *deliver*;
I will *protect* those who know my name.
When they call to me, I will *answer* them;
I will *be with* them in trouble,
I will *rescue* them and *honour* them.
With long life I will *satisfy* them,
and *show* them my salvation.

Psalm 91:14-16 NRSV

~ ~ District News ~ ~

Caney Fork River ~

The ladies of Caney Fork will be sponsoring a Baby Shower to benefit Plateau Pregnancy of Crossville. Plateau Pregnancy is a not-for-profit organization designed to help women (and men) of all ages overcome life's circumstances and past choices so that they can provide life for their babies and children. They have 3 programs: Care providing maternal assistance, pregnancy testing, parenting classes and delivery classes. This program assists their clients in Choosing Life for their children. Truth is a whole health sex education program and Hope provides healing and recovery support for loss of a child, prior abortion, addictions and abuse. They welcome financial support as well as special skill volunteers.

The Baby Shower will be hosted by the UWF unit at Fairfield Glade UMC and will be held on Saturday, May 18th in the church fellowship hall at 231 Westchester, Fairfield Glade, TN. The event will be from 10 am to 12 noon. Attendees are asked to bring a gift to support Plateau Pregnancy including diapers, new or gently used clothing, baby wipes, diaper

cream, baby Tylenol and other medical supplies. All district units have been invited as well as all disaffiliated Methodist churches and several community churches in the area. For further information please contact the district team at caneyforkriverdistrictuwf.umw@gmail.com.

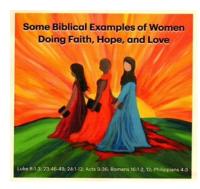
The district is also promoting attendance at Mission u and has several members attending the spring retreat at Beersheba. At least 5 members of the district and conference teams will be attending the SEJ event at Chattanooga.

Submitted by Susan King District President

Harpeth River ~

The Harpeth River district experienced two magnificent events in February, both of which were very moving and underscored our Purpose, our Mission, and our reason for being United Women in Faith.

Sunday, February 11th was a new experience for Janet Pierce and myself as we had the pleasure to be a part of the reorganization service for the Unit at First United Methodist Church Savannah. The service recognized and celebrated their commitment to rejoining the United Women in Faith. President Judy Rice will lead a group of 41 ladies, many of which were present for the service. We are delighted to have them in our district.



Rev. Dr. Lloyd Doyle's Proclamation of God's Living Word, "Some Biblical Examples of Women Doing Faith, Hope and Love," highlighted several extraordinary acts of women, their worth and roles in the early church, including those who followed Jesus and financially supported him and his twelve disciples. Rev. Doyle's message was reaffirming to all of us as followers of Jesus Christ.

I learned that UWF has a basic theme song. "Many Gifts One Spirit" #114 UMH, which we sang, and was commissioned for the 1973 Assembly of the Women's Division and has become an affirmation and celebration of what is wonderful about our organization, our diversity, and our gifts.

The Saturday prior, February 3rd, Mt. Pisgah United Methodist Church hosted our Faith Lift which featured guest speaker Rev. Kimi Brown from Shady Grove UMC. All I can say is WOW! Her message highlighted "So, You Want to Talk About Race," by Ijeoma Oluo. As part of the UWF School to Prison Pipeline Campaign, the leadership of our UWF conference has asked all Districts and Units to read and study this book in order to acknowledge and address issues of racial injustice.

Rev. Brown's message was powerful. She shared personal experiences and thoughts on the topics Ms. Oluo addresses in her #1 New York Times bestseller. The author's desire is to elicit honest conversations about race and racism in America. Rev. Brown's emotional message was moving and gave many of us the impedance to get involved to better understand racial injustice. Please see the flier in this newsletter which outlines the School to Prison Pipeline Campaign.

Brian Zralek, Organizing Director for Nashville Organized for Action and Hope (Noah) was the guest speaker for the Harpeth River's Partners in Mission held on Saturday, April 6th at Coleman Memorial UMC in Lawrenceburg,

Although the crowd was small, the spirits were high as Brian shared the history and mission of NOAH while engaging each attendee by asking them about their involvement in United Women in Faith and what they like best about being a part of the organization.

His presentation highlighted issues that affect the poor and marginalized communities, which often face systemic disadvantages, limited access to opportunities, and unequal treatment in various aspects of life, including education, employment, healthcare, housing, and criminal justice.

NOAH's programs emphasize social and emotional learning (SEL) which is necessary to advancing equity and excellence in education. SEL can help students better understand their emotions and thoughts, to become more self-aware, and to develop more empathy for others.



Brian Zralek, Organizing Director for NOAH Beth Stockwell, President Harpetb River

While NOAH is based in Nashville, the organization also has a presence in the Memphis and Chattanooga areas. Seventy organizations and nonprofits are affiliated with NOAH with three representatives from each on the board.

"We are people powered," stated Zralek, who explained that "listening sessions" are held every few years in communities and NOAH has several task forces concentrating on Affordable Housing, Education, Criminal Justice, and Economic Equity, Jobs and Transportation.

A number of United Methodist Churches and pastors are involved with NOAH and Brian stated he'd like to see more churches, their members, and the United Women in Faith get involved across the state. Any District or Unit who would like to have Brian or another representative from NOAH attend a meeting, he can be reached at (615) 905-6624 or bzralek@noahtn.org

Submitted by Beth Stockwell District President

Metro ~



Metro District is excited about their upcoming spiritual growth event, being held this coming Saturday, April 27. The morning event will be held 9:00-11:00 am, at Emmanuel United Methodist Church in east Memphis.

Have you ever been overwhelmed by life, and feel like you are the only one facing the challenges in front of you? You are not alone! Titled "We're in this Together," this event will bring women from across the Memphis area to share a morning of light refreshments, fellowship, and spiritual growth. Guest speaker, Rev. Tondala Hayward will share insights and encouragement unique to women, whatever their circumstances. Together, we will continue to grow gracefully into sisterhood, so that we can transform lives in churches, communities, and beyond.

Rev. Tondala Hayward is currently serving as Campus Minister for University of Memphis Wesley Foundation.

If you are in the Memphis area this weekend, please join us! For more information contact us at uwfmetro@gmail.com

Mississippi ~

My, how time flies! Mississippi River District has been busy since the last Clarion Call. The last couple of months were filled with activities and wonderful programs. We came off a great District Mission Study with Rev. Marie King in February to having our Quarterly Book Study in March. Our next book will be "Captive in Iran" by Marziyeh Amirizadeh and Maryam Rostampour and we will be discussing it on June 16. Anyone can join this discussion via Zoom. All you need to do it email our Social Action Coordinator, Marlene Simpson for the zoom invite.

April was filled with 2 wonderful programs. Our Social Action Day, April 6, was given by Restore Corp who is the West Tennessee resource for Human Trafficking. They are out of Memphis and work closely with the Police to help women caught in the web of Trafficking to have a way out. Very interesting and informative about this terrible blight on women's (and young boys) human rights.

April 27 saw our Spiritual Day Apart at McCabe United Methodist Church led by our Spiritual Growth Coordinator, Virginia Mohundro. This gave us a time for reflection and wonderful fellowship.

Looking forward to Annual Conference in June at FUMC in Murfreesboro. I know this is for the whole church, but with the situations and splits in the United Methodist Church, being together is important to

support and feel supported by all. Also, don't forget to send in your registration to Delores Smith for Mission u coming up in July. Scarritt Bennett needs the numbers in attendance 30 days in advance thus the JUNE 3 deadline.

Ladies, we all are a little shell shocked from the last couple of years. We will get through this as God is leading us to bigger and better avenues of service. I'm including several pictures from some of our programs. We need to Keep the Faith!

From the desk of Marilyn Ramsey





Purpose ~

What a Great God we have! Sitting in my hotel room looking out over the mountains in Chattanooga, I am amazed at God's beautiful creation. I can't possibly imagine the sky could get any bluer than is at this moment. I am attending the SEJ Quadrennial Meeting this weekend and I am excited to see who and what God puts in my path.

The Purchase District United Women in Faith are up to great things this year. In March we had an Officer Training Day. As we did in the past, we offered training at Reidland UMC and at the other end of the district, South Pleasant Grove

UMC. The turnout was wonderful, and the ladies learned more about the office they hold in their own units. Our district team also had a delicious meal together between the trainings.

April 13 was the district Spiritual Growth Event. Our topic this year was Hope, Peace, and Joy: In a Chaotic World! Cindy Garrett was our speaker and WOW what a splendid job she did discussing Intimacy with Jesus – Jesus asked his disciples, "Who do you say that I am?" Matthew 16:15 in session one then on to session two, Christ in You, the Hope of Glory! Colossians 1:27. Calvert City UMC women were an astounding host, serving up lunch for us and making sure we were comfortable. Cindy is an amazing woman of God.

The Purchase District will have a Leadership Team meeting in June then August 24th our district Mission u will be held at Murray First UMC.

I am so proud of all the happenings the ladies are putting so much love into this year. I will close out this article with scripture from Romans 8:28 "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to His purpose."

Jennifer Rose President



2024 United Women in Faith Officers Tennessee Western Kentucky Conference

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Communications	Janet Pierce (Harpeth River)	931-242-0428
Coordinator	698 Highway 50, Centerville, TN 37033	pdj1169@gmail.com
Program Resources	Bobbi Toombs (Harpeth River)	615-516-9428
Coordinator	9925 Debra Drive, Murfreesboro, TN 37129	bobbitoombs@att.net
Nominations Chair	Pam Nelson (Cumberland River District)	615-596-7465
	917 Waldkirch Ave., Nashville, TN 37204	pam.nelson@rvtllc.net
		pamnelson2564@yahoo.com
Dean - Mission u	Peggy Owen (Harpeth River)	615-948-1518
	-007 (1

	1116 Maddox Road, Centerville, TN 37033	owenpeggy@gmail.com
Assistant Dean -	Delores Smith (Mississippi River District)	731-487-0084
Mission u	808 S. College Street, Trenton, TN 38382	smithumw@gmail.com
	808 3. College Street, Trenton, TN 38382	Sinitiumw@gman.com
Program Advisory	Beth Brown (Mississippi River District)	731-885-7218
Group	258 E Hwy. 22, Union City, TN 38261	sebrown1@bellsouth.net
Director, UMW		
National	Caroline Martin (Stones River District)	615-207-5809
Office	2079 Stoney Meadow Dr., Murfreesboro, TN 37128	cbmartin67@gmail.com
SEJ Nominating	Melba Mitchell (Mississippi River District)	731-780-0873
Committee Member	3820 Highway 19 W, Brownsville, TN 38012	melbamalibu@att.net
Confessor	Class of 2024	Class of 2024
Conference Nominations	Class of 2024 Marilyn Jeanes	Class of 2024 Marie Lamon
Members	(Tennessee River)	(Metro)
Tricing Cio	846 Lane Avenue	211 Leaning Tree Lane
	Jackson, TN 38301	Memphis, TN 38109
	731-217-1739	901-789-2242
	mayjeans@aol.com	glamon6@gmail.com
	Class of 2025	Class of 2027
	Mozell Starks	Melba Mitchell
	(Metro)	(Mississippi River)
	1880 S Lauderdale	3820 Highway 19 W
	Memphis, TN 38106	Brownsville, TN 38012
	(H) 901-774-4541 (C) 901-827-0597	731-780-0873
	starksm@bellsouth.net	melbamalibu@att.net
Bishop	William McAlilly	615-329-1177
	304 Perimeter Park Dr. Suite 2	bishop@twkumc.org
	Nashville, TN 37211	
District Presidents	Susan King (Caney Fork River)	Evelyn Tade (Cumberland River)

24 Woodland Ter	187 Harbor Drive
Crossville, TN 38558	Old Hickory, TN 37138
931-678-1889	615-477-7754
sking30224@att.net	evelyndtade@aol.com
Beth Stockwell	Contact Meredith Bingham
(Harpeth River)	(Metro)
201 Drew Drive	267 River Commons Cir.,
Pulaski, TN 38478	Memphis, TN 38120
931-637-7534	901-355-4573
bethstockwell7534@gmail.com	mbingha@bellsouth.net
Marilyn Ramsey	Jennifer Rose
(Mississippi River)	(Purchase)
3068 Maple Street	7176 Old US Hwy 45
Milan, TN 38358	Boaz, KY 42027
731-414-8461	270-832-0731
marilynramsey@me.com	jen.rose22@yahoo.com
Margaret Fisher	Contact Meredith Bingham
(Red River)	(Stones River)
247 Rossview Road	267 River Commons Cir.,
Clarksville, TN 37043	Memphis, TN 38120
931-338-5537	901-355-4573
mfisher0844@gmail.com	mbingha@bellsouth.net
Beverly Mueller	
(Tennessee River)	
1047 Old State Route 22	
McKenzie, TN 38201	
731-358-4642	
blm61@icloud.com	

The Kin-dom is Among You

Drawing Closer to God and One Another Tennessee Western Kentucky United Women in Faith Mission u 2024

Adult Curriculum *Welcome Home* by Neomi Fletcher uses the image of home to explore how living in close proximity to the kin-dom is like making a home with God. Participants are invited to develop practices for building healthy, welcoming communities as a result of being anchored in the abiding love of God.

Youth Curriculum *Cultivating Symbiosis: The Nature of God's Kin-dom* by Nica Sy - In Creation, we see the power of symbiosis, or interdependent relationship. The youth curriculum explores the idea of symbiosis between our relationships with one another and our relationship with God. By drawing closer to one another and our world, we draw closer to the kin-dom.

Children Curriculum *Me in the Kin-dom* by Kathy Cook - The children's curriculum uses the Lord's Prayer as a lens to help us see that we are all members of the family of God. Children will begin to understand that the kindom is living with Christ and one another on earth as in heaven.

Will you join us?

Thursday, July 11 – Saturday, July 13 Scarritt Bennett Center

1027 18th Avenue South, Nashville, TN 37212-2126

Registration form is attached and open now through June 3, 2024 to assure for meals, rooms, and study books. Be sure to register now!

IMPORTANT INFORMATION TO CONSIDER WHEN REGISTERING

- -Scarritt Bennett does not have elevators in the lodging buildings. If you are unable to use stairs, please indicate in the space provided on the application form and a first floor room will be secured for you. (Note: There are elevators in the building where classes are held.)
- -We are pleased to offer a study for children (ages 6-11) and youth (ages 12-17). During non-class time, the children and youth should be with their accompanying adult.
- <u>Please carefully review the lodging options and their sleeping arrangements for children/youth</u>. Children/youth in a room of their own will be suitemates with their accompanying adult. The 2 rooms are separated by a bathroom that they will both share. Most rooms have a twin bed.Scarritt Bennett has a limited number of rooms with a standard double bed. A child/youth can share a double bedroom with their accompanying adult.

2024 MISSION project – Edgehill UMC – 1502 Edgehill Ave., Nashville, TN More information to come on the specifics of this project.

TWK CONFERENCE UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH - MISSION u 2026

Scarritt Bennett Center – 1027 18th Avenue S. Nashville, TN 37212 July 33/35, 2024

Registration deadline is June 3, 2024 - To assure housing, meals and study books

Name	Pho	one		
Address	Email_			
			Male	
City	StateZip		Female	
Church	District		Laity	
			Study Leader	
Firsttime attendee				
EMERGENCY CONTA		D -1-4: -		
Name		Relatio	nsnip	
Pl	none – day	Night		
	**********	****	*******	*****
ACCOMMODATIONS	:44 P		1	
Are you Staying at Scari	ritt Bennett Or Commuting	Or Virt	ual	
Suitemate (separate room	n/shared bathroom)			_
Do you require a first-flo	oor room Yes No			
Special needs-Allergies,	Medical Concerns, Health and/or Di	etary needs:		
Maka ahaisa of as	lult study leader - 1st and 2nd cho	ica filled in an	dan of registration dat	- manaixad
	Rev. Dr. Chris Haynes		_	
Please indicate children			I gaoi tobai a	NS TESPOJ
	ng Children (6-11 yrs)	Caroline Marti	in-Youth (12-17 yrs)	
REGISTRATION FEES	S: (All registration fees include t	he study book)	ı	
•	s.dinner thru Sat.Breakfast)	\$175		
` `	reakfast thru Sat. breakfast)			
`	Fri.breakfast thru Sat.breakfast)	\$ 85		
Virtual - includes stud	•	\$ 35		
Children/Youth in their		\$ 75		
Children/Youth sharing room/bed with accompanying adult \$50				
(See cover page of registration form for children/youth rooming options.)				

Mail registration and check, payable to TWK Conference United Women of Faith, Mission u,

to: F gmt gu''Uo kij, Registrar, : 2: ''U0'Eqmgi g''Uv''Vtgpvqp''VP '5: 5: 4, 953/6: 9/22: 6

uo ky wo y @gmail.com - mail no later than June 3 (Send only this page of

registration.)

BIOS OF MISSION U STUDY LEADERS – 2024 (As submitted by individual leaders)

ADULT CLASSES

REV. DR. CHRIS HAYNES is an elder in the Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference UMC. He has pastored churches in middle and west Tennessee since 1999. He has an M.Div. from Vanderbilt University and a Ph.D. in Sociology of Religion from Drew University. He currently serves as lead pastor at Christ United Methodist Church in Franklin, TN. In his free time, Chris enjoys visiting national parks and hopes to hike the Appalachian Trail one day.

HOLLY NEAL is a life long Methodist and her membership is at Fairfield Glade UMC in Crossville TN. She has served in many roles in her local church - over 25 years as a youth volunteer and youth Sunday School teacher. She served as the District Director of Lay Servant Ministries, the District Lay Leader, Tennessee Conference Lay Leader (2012 - 2021) and is a Certified Lay Minister (2011-present). She is a third generation Woman's Society of Christian Service/ UMW/United Women in Faith member providing leadership in her local unit, district and now as the TWK UWF Spiritual Growth Coordinator. Holly is looking forward to exploring together the good news of the kin-dom (reign of God) and the heart of Jesus and what fresh vision it offers us as we seek to be in mission today.

REV. DR. BIRGITTE THAARUP FRENCH. Pastor Bee is a lifelong United Methodist, she grew up as a PK (Pastor's Kid) in Copenhagen, Denmark. In 1983 she became a medical missionary with the General Board of Global Ministries and for the next 13 years she served in Zaire, (now Congo,) Algeria and Kenya. Moving to Atlanta in 1997 Pastor Bee received her Master of Divinity from Candler School of Theology at Emory University, and a Doctor of Ministry from Memphis Theological Seminary.

Pastor Bee has served several churches in the N.GA and Memphis annual conferences. She currently serves at Colonial Park UMC in Memphis, and as Dean of the conference Licensing School. She serves on the Executive Committee of the Board of Ordained Ministries and as a RIM mentor. She leads women's retreats, and is an adjunct professor at Memphis Theological Seminary teaching, Theology and Practice of Worship. She is married to Niels French and together they have two children, Fletcher lives in Chattanooga with Casey, and daughter Hanna lives with Jeppe in Aalborg, Denmark. In her free time Pastor Bee reads mysteries, loves to cook a good meal, bake bread and knit. Her favorite scripture is from 1John 4:7- 9 Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him.

BETH ADAMS is a life long Methodist though not always a member of the Methodist Church. Her membership is in the First United Methodist Church in Martin, Tennessee. Beth is very blessed to enjoy retirement, 'grandmothering' and volunteering. One great blessing is 'subbing' as a Certified Lay Speaker which pushes her in thought and study. She is very grateful to be able to learn new things – learning to put siding on a house recently - and from amazing young pastoral leadership in her church as well as the experience Wesley values – that the mystery of God is to be glorified (and that man's 'understanding' may be often overrated. personal not pastoral interpretation). Following a work career of 25 years in community services for folks who dealt with differences and ending with 17 years as a special education teacher, volunteering opportunities are readily available even in her small community of Dresden. She is married with three grown children, five grandchildren and three greatgrandchildren.

CHILDREN'S CLASS

Primary Study Leader: LaSonia Scantling – I am a longtime member of Gordon Memorial United Methodist Church. I am one of the coordinators of the children's ministry. I am over the dance ministry and also part of the worship team. I am truly passionate about working with a children's ministry that this gives me joy of working with them teaching a children's church. I also work full time at Vanderbilt Children's for almost 30 years on the Pediatric Operating Room. A mother of two and four beautiful grandchildren. I have taught Mission u for the past five years we had children involved and also the exercise session of the conference. God has truly blessed me and he continues to bless me to do what I do. I often tell others to always be grateful and positive in everything you do. I'm truly proud to be a child of God.

Assistant Leader: TaHandshea Scantling - Bio to come

YOUTH CLASS

Primary Study Leader: Caroline Martin- I am Caroline Baldridge- Martin. I am a United Women in Faith legacy. I have been a member since I was a little girl. I helped my mother and aunt with mission projects and feeding the sick and shut in.

I am a member of Key Memorial United Methodist Church in Murfreesboro TN. where I have served as the Children and Youth Coordinator. I currently serve as National Director of United Women In Faith. I had the pleasure of serving on the Tennessee Conference United Methodist Women a total of eight years as Secretary, Education & Interpretation, Communication Coordinator, Dean & Assistant Dean of Mission u. I LOVE United Women in Faith because of the fellowship with women from all over the world and it has help me to grow in my Faith journey.

In my free time, I like to make prayer beads, prayer bracelets, paint and crochet. I have two children Charles and Kandice. I am very excited about this years Mission u Because It will be my first year as a youth study leader. I can't wait see everyone in July.

Assistant Leader: Jerlean Bass is a native Tennessean, born in Brownsville and raised in Jackson, TN. Jerlean attended Tennessee State University where she received a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Business Administration. As a career field, she chose the banking industry and currently works as a Senior Loan Quality Control Specialist. Jerlean is an active member of Gordon Memorial United Methodist Church and has held several leadership roles within the church, such as Sunday School Superintendent, Christian Education Chairperson, and most recently Homecoming Chairperson. Jerlean also works with the Usher, Finance, Greeters, Hands or Hope, and BMCR ministries.

Jerlean has been active in United Methodist Women, now known as United Women in Faith, since first joining Gordon Memorial. She has held offices on the local and conference levels. On the conference level, she has served as Assistant Dean, Dean of School of Mission (currently Mission U), Secretary and Vice President and locally has been Treasurer and Link Chairperson.

Jerlean enjoys traveling, cooking, all types of music and meeting new people but above all else, she is a child of God. She walks and talks with God daily and cannot do anything without his guidance. Her guiding like in her walk with Christ is Psalm 23.

TWK CONFERENCE UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH 2024 MISSION U July 11-13, 2024

Scarritt Bennett Center – Nashville, TN The Kin-dom is Among You

SCHEDULE

DAY/TME	<u>ACTIVITY</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
Thursday, July 13		
1:00-3:00 PM	Mission u team & Study Leaders (Meeting and set up)	Laskey Hall
3:00-4:00 PM	Hands on Mission project	Edgehill UMC
3:00-5:30 PM	Registration open	Laskey Hall Lobby
3:00 PM	Dorm check in	Laskey Hall Registration
4:15-5:00 PM	Opening Worship Practice	Laskey Great Hall
5:30-6:30 PM	Dinner	Susie Gray Dining Hall
6:45-7:30 PM	Plenary Practice	Laskey Great Hall
6:45-8:00 PM	Fellowship, Games, Crafts	Laskey-Room TBD
8:15-8:45 PM	Vesper Service	Wightman Chapel
Friday, July 14		
7:30-8:30 AM	Breakfast	Susie Gray Dining Hall
7:30-9 AM	Registration	Laskey Hall Lobby
8:45-9:30 AM	Opening Worship & Introductions	Laskey Great Hall
9:30-11:30 AM	First Class Session*	See Room assignments below
11:30 AM-12:30 PM	Lunch	Susie Gray Hall
12:45-3:30 PM	Second/Third Class Session With 15 min. break-leader discretion	Same as previous session
3:30-4:00 PM	District Group Photos	See sheet w/details
4:00-5:00 PM	Plenary	Laskey Great Hall
5:00-5:30 PM	District Group Photos	See sheet w/details
5:30-6:30 PM	Dinner	Susie Gray Hall
6:45-7:30 PM	Closing Worship Practice	Laskey Great Hall
6:45-8:00 PM	Fellowship, Games, Crafts	Laskey-Room TBD
8:15-8:45 PM	Vesper Service	Laskey Great Hall
Saturday, July 15 (Attendees mus	sh check out of dorm by 10:30 AM)	
7:30-8:30 AM	Breakfast	Susie Gray Dining Hall
9-00-11:00 AM	Final Class Session	Same as previous sessions
11:15 AM-12:15 PM	Closing Worship w/Offering & Communion	Laskey Great Hall
12:30-1:30 PM	Mission u Team & Study Leaders Meeting, clean up and wrap up	Laskey
*CLASS ROOM ASSIGNMENTS		
ADULT CLASSES	Rev. Chris Haynes -Laskey Great Hall	Holly Neal – Laskey Room B
	Beth Adams - Laskey Room C	Rev. Birgitte French – Laskey Room A
CHILDREN' CLASS	LaSonia Scantling & TaHandshea Scantling -	
YOUTH CLASS	Carolyn Martin & Jerlean Bass – Laskey Clyde & Mary Room	
GAMES & CRAFTS	Games: Laskey Rooms A & B Crafts: Laskey Room C	

The offering taken during the closing worship will go to Mission Giving.

Calendar of Events

May 5 (Sun.) National Day of Prayer

May 12 (Sun.) Mother's Day
May 18 (Sat.) Armed Forces Day

(this day is for those currently serving in the United States)

May 19 (Sun.) Pentecost

May 27 (Mon.) Memorial Day

(this day is to remember those that died while serving)

Jun. 14 (Fri.) Flag Day

Jun. 15 (Sat.) District Treasurers' report due to Conference Treasurer

Jun. 16 (Sun.) Father's Day

Jun. 17-19 (Mon.-Wed.) TWK Annual Conference Murfreesboro First UMC

Jun. 19 (Wed.) Juneteenth

Jun. 20 (Thurs.) Summer starts – longest day of the year

Jul. 4 (Thurs.) Independence Day

Jul.11-13 (Thurs.-Sat.) Mission u Scarritt Bennett

Jul. 24 (Wed.) Clarion Call submission deadline to Communication Coordinator

July 26 (Fri.) Summer Olympics begin

July 28 (Sun.) Parent's Day

Aug. 3 (Sat.) 10 am Conference Executive Team Meeting McKenzie First UMC

Aug. 4 (Sun.) Sister's Day

Aug. 12-13 (Mon.-Tues.) Annual Perseid Meteor Shower - Peak

Aug. 16 (Fri.) District Reports due to Conference Officers

Aug. 26 (Mon.) Women's Equality Day

(Day to celebrate women being granted to vote.)