



The Clarion Call

TWK UWF Conference Newsletter

February 2025

~ ~ A Word from the President ~ ~

Greetings, Sisters in Christ,

As we boldly move forward in our journey as United Women in Faith, I wish you all a Happy New Year!

Thanks to the marvels of technology, on a frigid evening not long ago, Geralynn from Memphis joined us in the warmth of our own homes in Crossville, Chapel Hill, Murfreesboro, Nashville, Milan, and Clarksville, TN, and Calvert City, KY. Geralynn graciously shared her gift of teaching, guiding us on how to set up and conduct Zoom meetings. This technology equips us to connect with our district counterparts and with one another in ways that were unimaginable just a few years ago. It's a powerful tool to keep our connections alive and thriving.

I look forward to continuing to build and strengthen my relationships with each of you. To ensure you receive (and respond to) my emails, please take a moment to add my email address to your contact list or server's address book.

I know we will all join in prayer for Peggy Owen, who recently stepped down as Dean of Mission u due to her diagnosis and the challenging treatments she now faces. Let us pray for Peggy's strength and comfort and for the compassion and wisdom of her health care team.

We also lift up Delores Smith, who has stepped up from Assistant Dean to Dean of Mission u while managing her own health challenges. Let us surround her with prayers of encouragement.

When called upon, I pray each of you will step forward and help where needed. And even if not specifically asked, I encourage you to discern where help is needed and volunteer your time and talents. No one can do everything, but each of us can do something. When we come together in this way, we embody our vision of turning faith, hope, and love into action for women, children, and youth around the world.

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid, do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9

Blessings and love,

Karen Saunders
President, TWK UWF

~~ A Word from the Vice-President ~~

Greetings Sisters of Grace,

I hope you are well and are looking forward to Spring...I know I certainly am. I'm excited about new things unfolding...whether they be flowers in my flower beds or the new things happening within our organization!

My name is Penny Story. I'm the wife of Rev. Randy Story and mother to three adult children. I live in Calvert City, Kentucky in the Purchase District. I joined United Methodist Women in 1989. That year our conference officers voted to award two young women who were new to UMW a scholarship to attend the 1990 National Assembly in Kansas. I was one of the two. I went and quickly became hooked on UMW, now United Women in Faith! A district officer, Eleanor Strickland, took me under her wing, so to speak, and encouraged me to attend every conference and district event, and I did. I called her my UMW mother. I have worked in the Purchase District office as administrative assistant to the district superintendent for 11 years and hope to retire from that position.

My main role as vice president is to guide the conference leadership team in its responsibility for planning and implementing program and events to strengthen mission and fulfill the Purpose. One of those programs is the TWK UWF Conference Annual Meeting which is going to take place at Gordon Memorial UMC beginning at 10:00 a.m. on September 27th. Stay tuned for more information but go ahead and ink it in on your calendar. I went last year and was so glad that I did. The speaker, Alana McLaughlin, was phenomenal. It was definitely worth my time!

As I reminisce of my time with my 'UMW mother' it makes me wonder, who have I been a mother to over the years, and it also makes me wonder who have you been a UMW/UWF mother to? Have you ever thought about that? I highly recommend it. You never know that person may also become a local, district, and conference officer, and maybe even a national officer.

Penny Story
Vice President

~~ A Word from the Spiritual Growth Coordinator ~~

Please save the date for the

UWF Fall Retreat

at Lake Shore

Sept 5 - 7, 2025

Theme: Carrying Our Faith Forward

Details will be coming soon.

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

Greetings to All,

As your units plan your programs for 2025, I want to encourage you to consider adding "A Call to Prayer and Self Denial" to the list. You can find resources for this in the 2025 program book (Carrying Our Faith Forward) or free at uwfaith.org/CallToPrayer. The 2025 program is titled "Bold Women Transforming Communities". The special offering will support economic development and microenterprise projects, vocational training, life skills, and livelihood training internationally. Specifically, funds will support the work of United Methodist conference women's teams that design and lead projects that make a direct impact on improving the lives of their families and community members. Funds raised will also support the work of Regional Missionaries who partner in this work. This program will help your members learn some new history about our organization and learn more about our collective impact in the world. Please consider observing this in your units.

Also, I want to encourage your units to have a special fundraiser during this year with the proceeds going to mission giving. This would be in addition to the individual pledges that your unit members commit to ... just think if every unit could send in just an additional \$100, that could add up to an even greater impact for women, children and youth.

Blessings,

Katie Harris

kh14@united.net

931-637-1778 (text or call)

~~ A Word from the Communication Coordinator ~~

Happy New Year!

I just wanted to say "Hello!"

From a communication point of view, we have a lot going on.

First, the Newsletters. They are published in February, May, August, and November. They are not only for the officers to write articles. They are for every district as well! I encourage you to submit articles for the "District News" section. Pictures are a bonus and add a lot to your article. If you would like to submit something, please send it to me by the 24th of the month prior.

Second, Facebook. Yes! We have a Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/tennesseewesternconferenceunitedwomeninfaith/>

(I didn't decide the name. 😊) Here you will find a book suggestion every other month, reminders, plus a host of other posts. Send me your favorite quote or scripture. I will randomly select 1 or 2 to put in the newsletter &/or Facebook page.

Third, Reading Program. I am a big cheerleader with Bobbi Toombs, our Crazy Book Lady, about the Reading Program. This lends me the opportunity to mention a website worth knowing. www.hrumw.weebly.com This website is your link to a lot of information about the Reading Program: the guidelines; lists of books - alphabetically, by category, bonus books; book reports and podcasts/movies.

We have a lot of communication going on! So, keep communicating by sending me an email: pdj1169@gmail.com

Janet Pierce

Conference Communications Coordinator

~~ Mission u ~~

Save the Date!!

Mission u—Practicing Hope Together

June 12-14

Scarritt Bennett

More information to follow.



~~ Assembly 2026 ~~

United Women in Faith Announces Call for Workshop Proposals for Assembly 2026

United Women in Faith is excited to announce that the Call for Workshop Proposals for Assembly 2026 is now open! The 2026 Assembly, themed “Dream it, Believe it, Do it!” will take place in Indianapolis, Indiana, May 15-17, 2026. The deadline for submitting workshop proposals is March 3, 2025.

Workshops are a highlight of our Assembly, providing participants with opportunities to explore a wide range of topics and deepen their engagement. We invite you to submit a workshop proposal that aligns with our mission and resonates with our community.

We have three distinct workshop categories:

- **Inspire:** Deepen spiritual awareness and enrich the soul
- **Influence:** Focus on personal and professional development
- **Impact:** Emphasize service, action, and advocacy

Please go to assembly.uwfaith.org/eSites/821058/Homepage to create a profile and begin your submission.

For more information, please contact Assembly Workshop Producer Jessica Tulloch at assemblyworkshops@uwfaith.org. Don't miss out! Submit your proposal before the March 3 deadline at 11:59 p.m. (PT).

Space is limited, so we encourage you to submit your proposals as soon as possible.

Join us in making Assembly 2026 an unforgettable experience!

Contact:

Jay Rollins

Assembly Communications Producer

Email: jrollins@uwfaith.org

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.

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*Endure trials for the sake of discipline.*

*Hebrews 12:7a (NRSV)*

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Check out

CONNECT

monthly news from UWF

<https://mailchi.mp/uwfaith.org/connect-september-11017591?e=22cfce8656>

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~~ *Book Report* ~~

### Suggested Reading for 2020

#### Education for Mission

*When Others Shuddered: Eight Women Who Refused to Give Up* - Jamie Janosz

Learn about eight women (Fanny Crosby, Mary McLeod Bethune, Nettie McCormick, Sarah Dunn Clarke, Emma Dryer, Virginia Asher, Evangeline Booth, and Amanda Berry Smith) who were called to serve God and change the world. Their stories inspire us to follow God's calling in our own lives and teach us that each individual person can make a difference.

#### Leadership Development

*Which Way Lord?* - Rob Fuquay

Through many detours, adversity, and time spent thinking about his life, Paul completely reoriented his understanding of faith and God's purpose for his life. God placed Paul in a community that shared God's love with him, and Paul underwent several years of training in preparation for his ministry.

Discover how to discern and follow God's leading, explore ways God can use you and your life experience, respond to God's signals, endure hardships and doubts, and persevere with hope and faith. Rediscover the truths that you are wonderfully made, created for purpose, and equipped to live a life of significance. Join us in traveling together to find your purpose.

### Nurturing for Community

*Tilly and the Crazy Eights* - Monique Gray Smith

Tilly impulsively agrees to drive eight elders on their ultimate bucket-list road trip. This adventure with "the Crazy Eights" will transform them all in ways they could not predict. The Crazy Eights each choose a stop on the way to their ultimate destination, the Gathering of Nations Pow Wow in Albuquerque. The trip proves to be powerful medicine as they laugh, heal, argue, and dream along the way.

### Social Action

*What Comes with the Dust* - Gharbi M. Mustafa

This slim, profound novel illuminates the plight of those living under the Islamic State as well as the spirit of the Yazidi people--similar to how *The Kite Runner* and *The Swallows of Kabul* shed light on the Taliban regime. It tells the story of Yazidi women Nazo and Soz as they fight to survive.

### Spiritual Growth

*40 Days with Wesley* - Rueben P. Job

This engaging daily devotional weaves quotes and excerpts from John Wesley, the father of Methodism, with inspirational readings on faith and prayer from Rueben P. Job, well-known leader in spiritual formation. Each selection offers a simple daily pattern of reflection with a prayer, Scripture, and short readings that make this daily devotional an easy read. You'll also find that this book makes a wonderful gift or award for anyone who needs reassurance and inspiration.

### BONUS: 2025 Education for Mission

*The Bookwoman's Daughter: A Novel* - Kim Michelle Richardson

Bestselling historical fiction author Kim Michele Richardson is back with the perfect book club read following Honey Lovett, the daughter of the beloved Troublesome book woman, who must fight for her own independence with the help of the women who guide her and the books that set her free.

In the ruggedness of the beautiful Kentucky mountains, Honey Lovett has always known that the old ways can make a hard life harder. As the daughter of the famed blue-skinned, Troublesome Creek packhorse librarian, Honey and her family have been hiding from the law all her life. But when her mother and father are imprisoned, Honey realizes she must fight to stay free, or risk being sent away for good.

Picking up her mother's old packhorse library route, Honey begins to deliver books to the remote hollers of Appalachia. Honey is looking to prove that she doesn't need anyone telling her how to survive. But the route can be treacherous, and some folks aren't as keen to let a woman pave her own way.

If Honey wants to bring the freedom books provide to the families who need it most, she's going to have to fight for her place, and along the way, learn that the extraordinary women who run the hills and hollers can make all the difference in the world.

Have you ever heard:

To make God laugh, tell him your plans for tomorrow!

Well, I came across a verse when the Lord laughs:

“... but the LORD laughs at the wicked,  
for he sees that their day is coming.” Psalm 37:13 (NRSV)



For your address book

[UWF Website](#)

[TWK Conference Website](#)

[Harpeth River District Website](#)

Two priorities of Focus for 2025:

[Ending Mass Incarceration/Criminalization of Communities of Color,  
with a focus on Interrupting the School-to-Prison Pipeline](#)

[Climate Justice, with a focus on Just Energy for All](#)

[Facebook](#)

[UWF Faith Talks](#)

[UWF Podcasts & Webinars](#)



*~~ District News ~~*

*Metro ~*

As we begin a new year, some may be considering personal goals of improvement, such as more exercise, better eating habits, adding a Bible study, or more time in prayer. I'm sure we are all a bit reflective when beginning something new or looking to make a change.

In addition to our personal goals for change, collectively as United Women in Faith, we also are called to take social action to make positive changes for Christ in our communities. An area of immediate need of help is the food insecurity of children here in the Metro District. Nearly 1 in 3 children go home from school to little or no food. How can this be? Where do you start to address this problem? What if your church or unit of UWF is small? Can you make a difference with a crisis of this magnitude? The answer is YES! As United Women in Faith, we are a powerful, fearless force, driven by God's love, and united in sisterhood, with our focus on women and children in need.

We are excited to partner with Mid-South Food Bank to change the lives of children who need us. Women will learn about what's happening, and how we can help make a difference. The event is free, but the time they will spend is invaluable.

Those attending will be asked to bring any of the following (individually wrapped/packed): Tuna Pouches, Mac and Cheese Cups, Granola Bars, Rice Krispy Treats, Cups of Peanut Butter (Jif), Instant Oatmeal packets, Instant Grits packets. These items are used in Mid-South Food Bank's children's programs and are a way we can provide immediate assistance. From there we will learn ways to help for the days and weeks to come.

Attendees are encouraged to bring a friend. Our events are open to all women who seek to join us in demonstrating Christ's love. Together, we can put Love in Action.

Metro District Social Action Event  
 Love in Action  
 Helping Children in the Memphis Metro Area  
 Saturday, March 29 ~ 10:00 am - 12:00 pm  
 Featuring Guest Speakers from Mid-South Food Bank  
 Held at Colonial Park United Methodist Church  
 5330 Park Ave – Memphis, TN 38119  
 To register for this free event, please email us: [uwfmetro@gmail.com](mailto:uwfmetro@gmail.com)

Blessings and Happy New Year,  
 Ellen Martin  
 Metro District President



*~ ~ Officers ~ ~*

**2025 United Women in Faith Officers  
 Tennessee Western Kentucky Conference**

|                              |                                                                                         |                                             |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| <b>President</b>             | Karen Saunders (Caney Fork River District)<br>127 Hedgewood Point, Crossville, TN 38558 | 401-603-8454<br>karanns@aol.com             |
| <b>Vice President</b>        | Penny Story (Purchase District)<br>3113 Calvert City Rd., Calvert, KY 42029             | 270-703-6645<br>penpenstory@gmail.com       |
| <b>Secretary</b>             | Beth Stockwell (Harpeth River District)<br>201 Drew Dr., Pulaski, TN 38478              | 931-309-0577<br>bethstockwell7534@gmail.com |
| <b>Treasurer</b>             | Geralyn Seals (Metro District)<br>2731 Davies Plantation Rd., Cordova, TN 38016         | 901-603-5820<br>geralyn.seals@att.net       |
| <b>Mission Coordinators:</b> |                                                                                         |                                             |
| <b>Spiritual Growth</b>      | Holly Neal (Caney Fork River District)<br>28 Hampton Square, Crossville, TN 38555       | 931-265-0824<br>hneal56@yahoo.com           |



|                                       |                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                          |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Membership</b>                     | Nita Wright (Stones River District)<br>203 Brookhaven Trail, Smyrna, TN 37167                                                                            | 615-828-9279<br>nita_wright@bellsouth.net                                |
| <b>Social Action</b>                  | Melba Mitchell (Mississippi River District)<br>3820 Highway 19 W, Brownsville, TN 38012                                                                  | 731-780-0873<br>melbamalibu@att.net                                      |
| <b>Education &amp; Interpretation</b> | Katie Harris (Stones River District)<br>2981 Beasley Road, Chapel Hill, TN 37034                                                                         | 931-637-1778<br>kh14@united.net                                          |
| <b>Communications Coordinator</b>     | Janet Pierce (Harpeth River District)<br>698 Highway 50, Centerville, TN 37033                                                                           | 931-242-0428<br><a href="mailto:pdj1169@gmail.com">pdj1169@gmail.com</a> |
| <b>Program Resources Coordinator</b>  | Bobbi Toombs (Harpeth River District)<br>9925 Debra Drive, Murfreesboro, TN 37129                                                                        | 615-516-9428<br>bobbitoombs@att.net                                      |
| <b>Nominations Chair</b>              | Pam Nelson (Cumberland River District)<br>917 Waldkirch Ave., Nashville, TN 37204                                                                        | 615-596-7465<br>pam.nelson@rvtlc.net<br>pamnelson2564@yahoo.com          |
| <b>Committee on Nominations</b>       | Class of 2025<br>Mozell Starks (Metro District)<br>1880 S. Lauderdale<br>Memphis, TN 38106<br>(H) 901-774-4541 (C) 901-827-0597<br>starksm@bellsouth.net |                                                                          |
| <b>Mission u Dean</b>                 | Delores Smith (Mississippi River District)<br>808 S. College Street, Trenton, TN 38382                                                                   | 731-487-0084<br>smithumw@gmail.com                                       |
| <b>Program Advisory Group</b>         | Deaconess Garlinda Burton<br>(Cumberland River District)<br>104 Fitzpatrick Ct., Nashville, TN 37214                                                     | 615-497-1398<br>garlindabee@gmail.com                                    |
| <b>SEJ Conference Member</b>          | Holly Neal (Caney Fork River District)<br>28 Hampton Square, Crossville, TN 38555                                                                        | 931-265-0824<br>hneal56@yahoo.com                                        |
| <b>SEJ UWF</b>                        | Delores Smith (Mississippi River District)                                                                                                               | 731-487-0084                                                             |

|                            |                                          |                                   |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Secretary</b>           | 808 S. College Street, Trenton, TN 38382 | smithumw@gmail.com                |
|                            |                                          |                                   |
| <b>Bishop</b>              | David Graves                             | 629-203-7260                      |
|                            | 1908 Grand Ave., Nashville, TN 37212     | bishop@twkumc.org                 |
|                            |                                          |                                   |
| <b>District Presidents</b> |                                          |                                   |
|                            | Susan King<br>(Caney Fork River)         | Evelyn Tade<br>(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<br>(Harpeth River)        | Ellen Martin<br>(Metro)           |
|                            | 201 Drew Drive                           | 3736 Sunrise Ridge Dr.            |
|                            | Pulaski, TN 38478                        | Bartlett, TN 38135                |
|                            | 931-637-7534                             | 901-569-4165                      |
|                            | bethstockwell7534@gmail.com              | egmartin4165@icloud.com           |
|                            |                                          |                                   |
|                            | Marilyn Ramsey<br>(Mississippi River)    | Jennifer Rose<br>(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<br>(Red River)           | (Stones River)                    |
|                            | 247 Rossvie Road                         |                                   |
|                            | Clarksville, TN 37043                    |                                   |
|                            | 931-338-5537                             |                                   |
|                            | mfisher0844@gmail.com                    |                                   |
|                            |                                          |                                   |
|                            | Beverly Mueller<br>(Tennessee River)     |                                   |
|                            | 1047 Old State Route 22                  |                                   |
|                            | McKenzie, TN 38201                       |                                   |
|                            | 731-358-4642                             |                                   |
|                            | blm61@icloud.com                         |                                   |
|                            |                                          |                                   |
|                            |                                          |                                   |

*~~ Calendar of Events ~~*

|                          |          |                                                                                               |                     |
|--------------------------|----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| February                 |          | American Heart Month<br>(One awareness is: American women's #1 health threat – Heart Disease) |                     |
|                          |          | Black History Month                                                                           |                     |
| Feb. 2 (Sun.)            |          | Groundhog Day                                                                                 |                     |
| Feb. 7 (Fri.)            |          | Send Card to a Friend Day                                                                     |                     |
| Feb. 14 (Fri.)           |          | St. Valentine Day                                                                             |                     |
| Feb. 17 (Mon.)           |          | President's Day                                                                               |                     |
| Feb. 17 (Mon.)           |          | Random Act of Kindness Day                                                                    |                     |
| March                    |          | Women's History Month                                                                         |                     |
| Mar. 5 (Wed.)            |          | Ash Wednesday – Lent Begins                                                                   |                     |
| Mar. 8 (Sat.)            |          | International Women's Day                                                                     |                     |
| Mar. 17 (Mon.)           |          | St. Patrick's Day                                                                             |                     |
| Mar. 19 (Wed.)           |          | Let's Laugh Day                                                                               |                     |
| Mar. 20 (Thurs.)         |          | First Day of Spring                                                                           |                     |
| Mar. 22 (Sat.)           |          | International Goof Off Day                                                                    |                     |
| April                    |          | Keep America Beautiful Month                                                                  |                     |
| Apr. 8 (Tues.)           |          | Be Kind to Lawyers Day                                                                        |                     |
| Apr. 10 (Thurs.)         |          | Siblings Day                                                                                  |                     |
| Apr. 13 (Sun.)           |          | Palm Sunday                                                                                   |                     |
| Apr. 19 (Fri.)           |          | Good Friday                                                                                   |                     |
| Apr. 20 (Sun.)           |          | Easter                                                                                        |                     |
| Apr. 24 (Thurs.)         |          | Clarion Call submission deadline                                                              |                     |
| Apr. 25 (Fri.)           |          | Arbor Day                                                                                     |                     |
| June 12-14 (Thurs.-Sat.) |          | Mission u                                                                                     | Scarritt Bennett    |
| July 12 (Sat.)           | 10:00 am | Charter for Racial Justice                                                                    | TBD                 |
| July 25 (Fri.)           |          | Clarion Call submission deadline                                                              |                     |
| Aug. 2 (Sat.)            |          | Conference Executive Team Meeting                                                             | Gordon Memorial UMC |
| Sept. 5-7 (Fri.-Sun.)    |          | Women's Fall Retreat                                                                          | Lakeshore           |
| Sept. 27 (Sat.)          | 10:00 am | Annual Conference Meeting                                                                     | Gordon Memorial UMC |
| Oct. 25 (Sat.)           |          | Clarion Call submission deadline                                                              |                     |
| November                 |          | District Officer Training                                                                     | Zoom                |