



# The Clarion Call

TWK UWF Conference Newsletter

May 2025

---

*~~ A Word from the President ~~*

**Jesus Christ is Risen!**

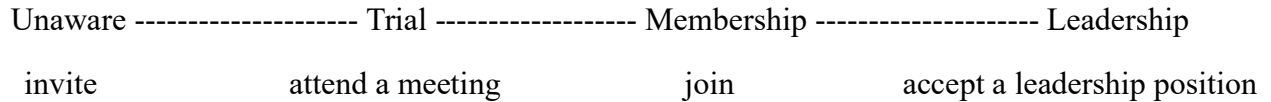
**He is Risen indeed!**



I write this after celebrating the risen Christ just yesterday. Jesus, who brought light into the darkness, continues to do so today through you and me. That's what we are called to do. And we do this best together.

I've said it before and, in all probability, will say it again, we need to be more collaborative. Each of us needs to be a part of the other so all our jobs are an amalgamation of each of our jobs. The Education and Interpretation coordinator may share about past Methodist women who were movers and shakers while seeking to identify new members today who may become leaders tomorrow.

A new member journey may look like this:



It happened just like that for a member of my unit. From a phone call in early 2024 when she asked, “Do I have to do anything? Because I’m busy,” to attending a meeting, then a mission event, to joining and supporting, then volunteering to be on a committee, to leading our biggest fundraiser. All within 12-15 months’ time.

Together we can do so much more than any of us can do alone. So, I encourage you:

- to invite someone to a meeting.
- to Mission u.
- to read a book.
- to attend a special event.

Follow up with them. Walk alongside of them. Encourage them. That’s how we grow!

Remember John Wesley’s Covenant prayer (in common English):

“I am no longer my own, but yours. I give myself completely to you, to do whatever you will. Place me where you will, whether in doing or suffering, whether to work for you or to be set aside for you. Let me be praised for you or criticized for you, whether full or empty, with all things or nothing. To your glory and service. And now, wonderful and Holy God, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, you are mine, and I am yours. So be it. And the covenant which I have made on earth, let it also be made in heaven. Amen.”

*“The believers devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, to the community, to their shared meals, and to their prayers. A sense of awe came over everyone. God performed many wonders and signs through the apostles. All the believers were united and shared everything...They praised God and demonstrated God’s goodness to everyone. The Lord added daily to the community those who were being saved.” Acts 2:42-47 (CEB)*

Let’s be that kind of community. Let’s be Resurrection people.

With hope and joy,

Karen Saunders  
President, TWK Conference United Women in Faith



*~~ A Word from the Program Coordinator/Vice-President ~~*

Greetings Ladies!

As you plan your programs and events, remember—you're never alone on this journey. Discover a wealth of inspiration, tools, and connection at [uwfaith.org](http://uwfaith.org), where resources abound to support your mission and vision.

Are you looking to be part of a vibrant, faith-filled online community? Visit [uwfaith.org/digital](http://uwfaith.org/digital) to connect with sisters across the country, engage in meaningful activities, and access powerful resources like the Program Resource book, the Daily Prayer Guide, and Mission u curricula—all at your fingertips.

Let these tools empower your planning and deepen your impact as together we live out our faith in action.

One of the things I absolutely love about United Women in Faith is how deeply connected we are. Each of our local units is doing amazing, meaningful work in our churches and communities—but we're also part of something so much bigger. This organization links us with women across the country and even around the world!

During my membership in United Women in Faith, I've had the joy of attending district and conference events and let me tell you—it's been such a gift. I've met inspiring women from every corner of Tennessee and Western Kentucky and every time I go to an event, it feels like a reunion with dear friends.

If you've never been to a conference event before, I really encourage you to check out the upcoming Mission u in June. It's an opportunity not just to learn and grow, but to see firsthand how wide-reaching and powerful this sisterhood truly is. It's incredibly uplifting to meet women who share the same heart and mission. I hope to see you there!

Penny Story  
Vice President

*~~ A Word from the Treasurer ~~*

*2024 Mission Giving*

*I love my role as conference treasurer! During my tenure, I have experienced so many joys as a member of the Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference Leadership Team. One of the most fulfilling was receiving news that for the third year we 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 2024, the conference pledged \$110,000 in mission giving to support women, youth, and children locally, nationally, and globally. The conference, through the work of the local units and the district treasurers, exceeded the pledge by giving \$130,357.*

*Thanks to the amazing district treasurers; Beth Adams, Gail Eubanks, Marie Lamon, Valerie Lavery, Michelle Martin, Debbie Miller, Beverly Mintmire, Jan Nutter, and Stephanie Terry, for your efforts in support of TWK UWF. By the way, Marie, Valerie, Jan, and Stephanie were new district treasurers, who stepped into their new roles with enthusiasm.*

*It is truly a joy to work with such a remarkable group of leaders! In the aftermath of disaffiliations, TWK 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 ~ ~*

*Practicing Hope – Mission u 2025*

*“Hopelessness is when you stop fighting.” Senator Raphael Warnock*

*These powerful words remind us that hope isn't just a feeling—it's a practice, a daily decision we make even in the hardest moments. That's why “Practicing Hope” is the timely and inspiring theme for this year's United Women in Faith Mission u.*

*To hope is to keep going when the outcome is uncertain. It's getting out of bed on the tough days, making that phone call, showing up for someone else, or simply choosing to pray when the words don't come easily.*

*We've just come through the season of Lent—a time of reflection, surrender, and waiting—and we've celebrated Easter, the resurrection of Jesus Christ, the very heart of our hope. His victory over death reminds us that even the darkest tomb cannot hold back the power of God's promises.*

*Practicing hope doesn't mean denying our struggles. It means refusing to give them the final word. Like faith, hope is a muscle—it strengthens when we use it. It may begin as a whisper, but when nurtured, it becomes a force that carries us and those around us through even the darkest valleys.*

*Hope is like planting a seed. You press it into the dirt—not knowing exactly how or when it will break through—but you trust that light, water and warmth will find it. With time and tending, that seed grows into something living and strong, even beautiful. In the same way, practicing hope means planting trust in the soil of our daily lives, believing God will bring growth, even when we can't see it yet.*

*In seasons of doubt or discouragement, may we remember as United Women in Faith: the fight itself is hope in action.*

*Holly Neal  
Spiritual Growth Coordinator*

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

Greetings---

I'm looking forward to seeing your faces on the campus of Scarritt Bennett for Mission u in June. All the information you need is found in this newsletter....so get those registrations in now!!! We all need to be "Practicing Hope".

2. June is the month to submit your estimate of your unit's 2026 pledge amount to your district treasurers....I encourage your units to have a pledge service during this time.

3. See the link below for a short biography about Sadie Wilson Tillman. Years ago, the legacy Tennessee Conference of United Methodist Women established a scholarship in memory of Sadie Tillman at Martin Methodist College in Pulaski, Tennessee. Since Martin Methodist is now the University of Tennessee - Southern, the TWK United Women in Faith

Officers have decided to close that fund and establish the Sadie Tillman Scholarship that will be managed by our TWK UWF conference.

Sadie began her journey in our organization in 1946 when she married and moved to Palmetto. Her home church was Farmington UMC, which is in Marshall County, TN and is part of the present Stones River District. She became active in their Women's Society of Christian Service (WSCS) going on to be district and conference president and then the director of Women's Division of the United Methodist Church.

Sadie Wilson Tillman (1895-1974)

<https://www.umc.org/en/content/tillman-sadie-wilson-1895-1974>

In Christ,

Katie Harris

Education & Interpretation Coordinator

931-637-1778 text or call

[kh14@united.net](mailto:kh14@united.net)

*~ ~ A Word from the Resources Coordinator/Management ~ ~*

Hello, Readers and everyone!!

After the last annual meeting, I discovered I needed to find a fair way to award the Reading Program Award. This August when the units turn in the reading report, I need to have the number of active members. So, encourage your members to read. It will improve your ratio. I will gladly visit anywhere to encourage more readers.

As usual, I plead with you to attend Mission u. It is such a fulfilling event. (And the food is excellent!!) It does count as ~~two~~ books in Spiritual Growth.

Anyone who has read a book they just love please send the information to Janet ([pdj1169@gmail.com](mailto:pdj1169@gmail.com)) so she can include it in the newsletter and on the website.

Yours in love and faith,

Bobbi Toombs

Crazy Book Lady



*~~ A Word from the Mission u Dean ~~*

We are so excited about our upcoming Mission u at Scarritt Bennett Center June 12-14. Registration and other information will be included with this newsletter. The deadline to register is May 10. Please send your registration now!

We will not be having a “hands on” mission this year, but we do have some special offerings of information for you, so please come Thursday afternoon and enjoy some time together learning and sharing.

The past few years we have had a focus on a mission close to the Scarritt Bennett Center, so we could visit and support that mission. Since we are not doing that this year, I am taking a moment of personal privilege and will be sharing some information with you on Thursday concerning Reelfoot Rural Ministries serving Northwest Tennessee and Southwest Kentucky. Reelfoot Rural Ministries has a special place in the hearts of United Women in Faith from the legacy Memphis Conference. We will also be taking up a special offering for this ministry. Please be in prayer for Reelfoot Rural Ministries and how you might be willing to help support this special offering.

Looking forward to seeing you in June!

Delores Smith

~~~~~

### Calling All Crafters!

Want to be part of something meaningful and creative? This year at the Tennessee-Western Kentucky Annual Conference, we're bringing a little twist to the Ministry Fair—**finger labyrinths!**

Last year, we gave away cozy prayer shawls, and they were a hit. This time, we're inviting you to help us make **beautiful, crocheted finger labyrinths** to share with attendees—and we'd love your help!

If you know how to crochet (or are up for a new project), we've got you covered. All the **patterns, instructions, and details** are ready for you in the PDF linked below. Just follow along, have fun, and send your finished creations to:

Karen Saunders  
127 Hedgewood Pt  
Crossville, TN 38558



We'll add a special TWK UWFaith tag to each one before they're gifted with love.



Let's spread peace, prayer, and creativity—one labyrinth at a time! Ready to join in?

<https://okdisciples.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Labyrinth-Crochet-Instructions-Only.pdf>



~~~~~

*~~ Remember the Date ~~*

*~~ Mission u ~~*



Practicing Hope  
Together

Scarritt Bennett Center  
Nashville

June 12-14

Registration Deadline May 10<sup>th</sup>!!

Mission u Packet at the end of the newsletter.

~~~~~

## Mission

United Women in Faith seeks to connect and nurture women through Christian spiritual formation, leadership development, creative fellowship, and education so that they can inspire, influence, and impact local and local communities.

~~~~~



## Micah 6:8 Pledge

Presidential administrations, Congress, and elected officials come and go, but the call of our Faith endures. We can't know what the next four years will bring, but we can be intentional about our own commitments.

“He has told you, O mortal, what is good,  
and what does the Lord require of you  
but to do justice and to love kindness  
and to walk humbly with your God?”

Micah 6:8 (NRSVUE)

As a member/friend of United Women in Faith, I make a public commitment today:

1. **To do justice**, working together with my sisters towards a long-term vision of racial justice, climate justice, and gender justice, putting one foot in front of the other even when it's an uphill climb.
2. **To love kindness**, remembering that all people are beloved by God, created with inherent dignity, and worthy of respect and kindness, even if they do not share my same thoughts or beliefs.
3. **To walk humbly with our God**, in prayer and action, trusting that while I may not know the path ahead, God has promised us a future with hope, and God does not disappoint.

As a sisterhood of women, we are committed to work together across lines of difference. We will continue the work to which we have been called, today, tomorrow, and in the years to come.

I encourage all of you to sign the pledge and if you already have signed it, then I encourage you to share this link with your districts and units: [Micah 6:8 Pledge](#)

Blessings,  
Karen Saunders  
President, TWK UWFaith

~~~~~

**Holding**  
**Onto God's**  
**Promises**  
**Every day**

~~~~~

## ~~ 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.

#### 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.

#### Nurturing for 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.

#### Social Action –

##### ***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.

## BONUS: 2025 Leadership Development –

### ***A Right Worthy Woman: A Novel*** – Ruth P. Watson

Based on the inspiring true story of Virginia's Black Wall Street, *A Right Worthy Woman* tells the story of the indomitable Maggie Lena Walker, the daughter of a formerly enslaved woman who became the first Black woman to establish and preside over a bank in the United States. She went from schoolteacher to secretary-treasurer of the Independent Order of St. Luke, founder of a newspaper, a bank, and a department store where Black customers were treated with respect. Bestselling novelist Patti Callahan Henry calls this a “remarkable and stirring” work.

## BONUS: 2025 Nurturing for Community –

### ***All That Is Secret (An Annalee Spain Mystery)*** – Patricia Raybon Tyndale

This is the first book in the Annalee Spain Mysteries, an exciting “history mystery” featuring a young Black theologian—a fan of Sherlock Holmes—who solves crimes during Colorado's dangerous 1920s Klan years. In the winter of 1923, Professor Annalee Spain receives a cryptic telegram calling her home to Denver to solve the mystery of the murder of her beloved but estranged father. For a young Black woman, searching for answers in a city ruled by the KKK could mean real danger. Still, she launches her hunt for clues, attracting two surprising allies and following clues that land her among Denver's powerful elite.

~~~~~

~~ *District News* ~~

## *Harpeth River* ~

The Harpeth River District held their spring event, “Woven in Faith,” on March 22nd at Brentwood UMC. The ladies at Brentwood were wonderful hosts and we thank them for their hospitality. We were very fortunate to have District

Superintendent B.J. Brack available to share some incredible news with us. The week previous he and a group of volunteers from the three episcopal areas served by Bishop Graves spent a week in the mountains of Western North Carolina to mark the beginning of the renovation of Reeves Chapel UMC into a long-term disaster recovery site. The few, but generous, members donated the church to the conference for disaster recovery efforts. What a selfless act of the twelve church members and a blessing to the area.



Left to right:  
Beth Stockwell, Harpeth River District President;  
Marina Rawls, Spiritual Growth Coordinator;  
Rev. B.J. Brack, District Superintendent;  
Kari Collins, speaker for Red Bird Mission; and  
Stacey Hagewood, Social Action Coordinator.

Kari Collins, the recently retired Executive Director of Red Bird Mission, traveled from Kentucky to be with us and updated us on the many good works happening in the area. Red Bird Mission, founded in 1921, is the largest and most comprehensive National Mission Institution. She shared the history of Red Bird as well as stories about students at the school, employees, and community members benefiting from their outreach. She spoke lovingly of her late husband Taylor, who was born at Red Bird Hospital, graduated from Red Bird School, and who in 1975 became its principal. They met at Red Bird in 1977, moved to Texas for a number of years, and then returned when he took the job in 2010 as the Executive Director until his death in 2015. His motto for the school was: "Enter to learn. Leave to serve." She asked that we all continue to pray for, spread the word about, and come visit Red Bird Mission.

The event was heartwarming and made me think of 1 Peter 4:10 (NIV): "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."

Beth Stockwell  
HR District President

~~~~~

### *Metro ~*

With spring approaching, and Easter around the corner, our focus as a district was on our Social Action event, held Saturday, March 29. **Love in Action – Helping Children in the Memphis Metro Area.**

Collectively as United Women in Faith, we 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 in the Memphis area 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.



Despite the rainy morning, over seventy women came to learn about what's happening and how we can help make a difference. The event was free, but time spent together as sisters in Christ, invaluable. UWF members and non-members alike joined us as we partnered with Mid-South Food Bank for an informative program featuring speakers from every phase of providing for children in need. Mid-South Food Bank's Child Nutrition Manager shared with us the many programs they have developed to reach children affected by poverty and lack of food, while a Community School Resource Liaison explained how she has built trust with these students, and personally sees they receive much needed food and other basic necessities. We also heard from a United Women in Faith member who shared her story of bringing the issue of food insecurity to her home church. What started with just a few volunteers, has grown into church-wide support with not only financial giving, but bi-weekly teams of volunteers packing meals at the food bank's distribution center.

Although the primary goal of the event was education and ways to get involved, it was important for those gathered to have an immediate impact. Attendees were asked to bring a donation of food items used in children's programs of Mid-South Food Bank. Items such as, Tuna Pouches, Mac and Cheese Cups, Granola Bars, Rice Krispy Treats, Cups of Peanut Butter (Jif), Instant Oatmeal packets, and Instant Grits packets were collected. We were overwhelmed by the generosity demonstrated that morning. Again, women were bringing their donations in the rain, to ensure God's children were cared for. As a result, **over 388 pounds of food were delivered to the food bank!** God is good!

faith

action

sisterhood

Next up for Metro District are revisions to our bylaws, as we implement changes provided by the National Office for 2025. New guidelines for elected and appointed positions in leadership will be beneficial for both the district and local units. We look forward to the positive impact these changes will have on our organization.

Ellen Martin  
President

~~~~~



[https://www.facebook.com/  
dailyprayerguide/](https://www.facebook.com/dailyprayerguide/)

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

|                                                |                           |                            |
|------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>President</b>                               | Karen Saunders            | Caney Fork River District  |
| <b>Program Coordinator/<br/>Vice President</b> | Penny Story               | Purchase District          |
| <b>Secretary</b>                               | Beth Stockwell            | Harpeth River District     |
| <b>Treasurer</b>                               | Geralyn Seals             | Metro District             |
| <b>Mission Coordinators:</b>                   |                           |                            |
| <b>Spiritual Growth</b>                        | Holly Neal                | Caney Fork River District  |
| <b>Membership, Nurture<br/>and Outreach</b>    | Nita Wright               | Stones River District      |
| <b>Social Action</b>                           | Melba Mitchell            | Mississippi River District |
| <b>Education &amp;<br/>Interpretation</b>      | Katie Harris              | Stones River District      |
| <b>Communications<br/>Coordinator</b>          | Janet Pierce              | Harpeth River District     |
| <b>Resources Coordinator/<br/>Management</b>   | Bobbi Toombs              | Harpeth River District     |
| <b>Nominations Chair</b>                       | Pam Nelson                | Cumberland River District  |
| <b>Committee on<br/>Nominations:</b>           |                           |                            |
| <b>Class of 2025</b>                           | Mozell Starks             | Metro District             |
| <b>Mission u Dean</b>                          | Delores Smith             | Mississippi River District |
| <b>Program Advisory<br/>Group</b>              | Deaconess Garlinda Burton | Cumberland River District  |
| <b>SEJ Conference<br/>Member</b>               | Holly Neal                | Caney Fork River District  |
| <b>Bishop</b>                                  | Rev. David Graves         |                            |
| <b>District Presidents:</b>                    |                           |                            |
| <b>Caney Fork River</b>                        | Susan King                |                            |
| <b>Cumberland River</b>                        | Evelyn Tade               |                            |
| <b>Harpeth River</b>                           | Beth Stockwell            |                            |
| <b>Metro</b>                                   | Ellen Martin              |                            |
| <b>Mississippi River</b>                       | Marilyn Ramsey            |                            |
| <b>Purchase</b>                                | Jennifer Rose             |                            |
| <b>Red River</b>                               | Margaret Fisher           |                            |
| <b>Stones River</b>                            | Vacant                    |                            |
| <b>Tennessee River</b>                         | Beverly Mueller           |                            |



~~ Calendar of Events ~~

**May**

Blood Pressure Month  
Asian American Month  
Pacific Islander Month

May 1 (Thurs.)

National Day of Prayer

May 11 (Sun.)

Mother's Day

May 17 (Sat.)

Armed Forces Day

May 24 (Sat.)

National Brother's Day

May 26 (Mon.)

Memorial Day

**June**

Great Outdoors Month

June 4-6 (Wed.-Fri.)

TWK Annual Conference

Collierville UMC

June 8 (Sun.)

Best Friend Day

June 8 (Sun.)

Pentecost

**June 12-14 (Thurs.-Sat.)**

**Mission u**

**Scarritt Bennett**

June 14 (Sat.)

Flag Day

June 15 (Sun.)

Father's Day

June 19 (Thurs.)

Juneteenth Day

June 20 (Fri.)

First Day of Summer

June 28 (Sat.)

9:00 am

Conference Executive Team Meeting

Zoom

**July**

National Park & Recreation Month

July 4 (Fri.)

Independence Day

July 11 (Fri.)

Cheer Up the Lonely Day

**July 12 (Sat.)**

**10:00 am**

**Charter for Racial Justice**

**TBD**

July 25 (Fri.)

Clarion Call submission deadline

July 26 (Sat.)

Summer Olympics Begin

July 27 (Sun.)

Parent's Day

Aug. 2 (Sat.)

10:00 am

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



# Tennessee Western Kentucky United Women in Faith



**Adult Curriculum:** Practicing Hope by Tabitha Holley: exploring hope, particularly when hope seems hard to find. How does Christ teach us to embody hope when our backs are against the wall?

**Youth Curriculum:** Communities of the Spirit by Regina Heater: examines the inexplicable hope we find in early post-resurrection Christian communities and how they kept hope alive even in seemingly hopeless times.

**Children's Curriculum:** Hope as a Resurrection People by Joni Cisowski: helps children build trust in Jesus to bring them comfort and support as they find courageous hope in the face of uncertainty.

**Thursday, June 12-Saturday, June 14, 2025  
Scarritt Bennett Center  
1027 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, Nashville, TN 37212-2126**

**Registration form is attached and open now through May 10, 2025  
to assure for meals and rooms  
(registration fee does not include the cost of the study book).  
Each participant will purchase their own study book.  
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-classtime, the children and youth should be with their accompanying adult.

**-Please carefully review the lodging options and their sleeping arrangements for children/youth.** 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.

# TWK CONFERENCE UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH – MISSION u 2025

Scarritt Bennett Center – 1027 18th Avenue S. Nashville, TN 37212

June 12-14, 2025

Registration deadline is **May 10, 2025** - To assure housing and meals.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Church \_\_\_\_\_ District \_\_\_\_\_

First -time Attendee Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Male \_\_\_\_\_  
Female \_\_\_\_\_  
Clergy \_\_\_\_\_  
Laity \_\_\_\_\_  
Study Leader \_\_\_\_\_

## EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Phone – Day \_\_\_\_\_ Night \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

## ACCOMMODATIONS

Are you: 1. Staying at Scarritt Bennett \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Commuting \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Virtual \_\_\_\_\_

Suitemate (separate room/shared bathroom) \_\_\_\_\_

Do you require a first-floor room Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Special needs-Allergies, Medical Concerns, Health and/or Dietary needs: \_\_\_\_\_

**Choice of adult study leader—Please mark (1) for first choice and (2) for second choice  
(filled in order of registration date received)**

\_\_\_\_\_ Rev. Dr. Chris Haynes \_\_\_\_\_ Holly Neal \_\_\_\_\_ Marilyn Ramsey

**Please indicate children or youth leader:**

\_\_\_\_\_ LaSonia Scantling-Children (6-11 yrs) \_\_\_\_\_ Caroline Martin-Youth (12-17 yrs)

## REGISTRATION FEES:

2 nights, 5 meals(Thurs.dinner thru Sat.Breakfast) \$175.00

1 night, 4 meals (Fri.breakfast thru Sat. breakfast) \$140.00

Commuters - 4 meals (Fri.breakfast thru Sat.breakfast) \$ 85.00

Virtual - \$ 35.00

Children/Youth in their own room \$ 75.00

Children/Youth sharing room/bed with accompanying adult \$ 50.00

**(See cover page of registration form for children/youth rooming options.)**

Mail registration form and check, payable to TWK Conference UWF, Mission u to: Delores Smith,  
Registrar, 808 S. College St. Trenton TN 38382. If you have questions, contact Delores at 731-487-0084  
or [smithumw@gmail.com](mailto:smithumw@gmail.com). Send only this page and must be received by May 10.

## **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 lifelong Methodist and her membership is with The Vine, the on-line faith community of the TWK conference. She lives in Crossville, TN with her husband of 50 years, Randy. She has served in many roles in her local church, district, conference and jurisdictional and general conference.

Holly currently serves as the TWK United Women in Faith Spiritual Growth Coordinator and is a Certified Lay Minister.

Holly brings her Spiritual gifts of faith, inclusiveness, and encouragement to this year's study "Practicing Hope" and looks forward to growing in Faith and Hope with you.

**MARILYN RAMSEY** is from Milan Tennessee and is married to Craig Ramsey. She and Craig have been married 58 years and have 2 adult children. Laura and husband, Andrew, live in Nashville with their dog, Arya. Jim and his wife, Leigh, live in Littleton, CO. They have 2 adult boys (My grandsons!) Luke 21 and Jack 23. Marilyn is retired but keeps busy with as much as she wants to. Sometimes it's more than she wants! She moved with her family from Iowa in 1978 to Tennessee and now calls Tennessee her home. She loves to garden and cook, though, it's hard to cook for 2 people. Other interests are Bible Study, singing and United Women in Faith. She is the District President of the Mississippi River District United Women in Faith. She points to her mother as being influential in her becoming a WSCS member, but before she could join the name was changed to United Methodist Women in 1968/1972. Now it has changed again to United Women in Faith. But whatever the name the purpose is the same-missions. This is the first time she has led a Mission u study though she has attended many. Please help her to be her best at this year's Mission u.

## **CHILDREN'S CLASS**

**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.

## **YOUTH CLASS**

**Caroline Martin:** I have had the privilege of serving in various roles within the United Women in Faith, a community I hold dear for its global fellowship and the deep growth it has fostered in my faith journey. I also had the honor of serving as the National Director of United Women in Faith for six years. I served as a member of the Finance Committee. I also served in various roles with the Tennessee Conference United Methodist Women. Over the course of eight years, I served in multiple capacities, including Secretary, Education & Interpretation Coordinator, Communication Coordinator, and Dean & Assistant Dean of Mission u. Each of these roles allowed me to contribute to a mission I'm passionate about while also building meaningful relationships with women from all walks of life.

Currently, I am honored to serve on the Board of Directors for Scarritt Bennett Center. Scarritt Bennett Center holds a special place in my heart, and I'm grateful for the opportunity to help support its work in creating spaces for education, leadership, spiritual growth and radical hospitality.

I am a member at Key Memorial United Methodist Church in Murfreesboro, Tennessee where one of the most rewarding positions I've held was as the Children and Youth Coordinator. I was able to work closely with young people, helping them connect with their spiritual path.

In addition to my roles within United Women in Faith, I enjoy creative outlets like making prayer beads and prayer bracelets, painting, and crocheting. These activities bring me peace and help me stay centered in my spiritual life.

I am also a proud mother of two children, Charles and Kandice, who continue to inspire me every day. This year is my third year as a Youth Study Leader at Mission u. I can't wait to join everyone in June and share in the incredible experience of growth, fellowship, and faith.

Be Blessed and Be a Blessing

Caroline

**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

## 2025 MISSION U

June 12-14, 2025

Scarritt Bennett Center – Nashville, TN

### Practicing Hope-Schedule for the Event

| <u>DAY/TIME</u>                                                         | <u>ACTIVITY</u>                                                                      | <u>LOCATION</u>           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Thursday, June 12</b>                                                |                                                                                      |                           |
| 1:00-3:00 PM                                                            | Mission u team & Study Leaders<br>(Meeting and set up)                               | Laskey Hall               |
| 3:00-4:30 PM                                                            | “What’s Up” with United Women in Faith<br>(A time of sharing and learning-come & go) | Laskey Great Hall         |
| 3:00-5:30 PM                                                            | Registration open                                                                    | Laskey Hall Lobby         |
| 3:00 PM                                                                 | Dorm check in begins                                                                 | Laskey Hall Registration  |
| 4:00-4:45 PM                                                            | Opening Worship Practice                                                             | Laskey Great Hall         |
| 5:30-6:30 PM                                                            | Dinner                                                                               | Susie Gray Dining Hall    |
| 6:45-7:30 PM                                                            | Opening Gathering & Introductions                                                    | Laskey Great Hall         |
| 7:45-8:30 PM                                                            | Plenary Practice                                                                     | Laskey Great Hall         |
| 7:45-9:00 PM                                                            | Fellowship, Games, Crafts                                                            | Laskey-Room A, B, C       |
| <b>Friday, June 13</b>                                                  |                                                                                      |                           |
| 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                                                                      | 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<br>With 15 min. break-leader discretion                   | Same as previous session  |
| 3:30-4:00 PM                                                            | District Group Photos**                                                              | Laskey Great Hall         |
| 4:00-5:00 PM                                                            | Plenary                                                                              | Laskey Great Hall         |
| 5:00-5:30 PM                                                            | District Group Photos**                                                              | Laskey Great Hall         |
| 5:30-6:30 PM                                                            | Dinner                                                                               | Susie Gray Hall           |
| 6:45-7:30 PM                                                            | Closing Worship Practice                                                             | Laskey Great Hall         |
| 6:45-9:00 PM                                                            | Fellowship, Games, Crafts                                                            | Laskey-Room A, B, C       |
| <b>Saturday, June 14 (Attendees must check out of dorm by 10:30 AM)</b> |                                                                                      |                           |
| 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<br>Meeting, clean up and wrap up                      | Laskey Great Hall         |

#### **\*CLASS ROOM ASSIGNMENTS**

|                 |                                                                        |                            |
|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| ADULT CLASSES   | Rev. Chris Haynes -Laskey Great Hall<br>Marilyn Ramsey - Laskey Room C | Holly Neal – Laskey Room B |
| CHILDREN’ CLASS | LaSonia Scantling & TaHandshea Scantling - Laskey Kreitner Room        |                            |
| YOUTH CLASS     | Caroline Martin & Jerlean Bass – Laskey Clyde & Mary Room              |                            |
| GAMES & CRAFTS  | Games: Laskey Rooms B & C Crafts: Laskey Room A                        |                            |

**\*\*SEE LIST IN THE PROGRAM BOOK AND HANDOUT FOR THE SPECIFIC TIME FOR EACH DISTRICT’S GROUP PHOTO.**

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