

*The Voice of the
Harpeth River District
UWF Newsletter*



“Carrying Our Faith Forward”

~ ~ Save the Date ~ ~

The President's Roundtable

Saturday, June 21, 2025 @ 9 am

Thompson's Station UMC

Come and share what your unit
has been doing, is doing and
plans to do for missions!

If your unit's president is unable to attend,
please send a representative.

We look forward to seeing you there!

From the President

Dear Sisters in Christ,

A heartfelt thank you to Brentwood UMC for their warm hospitality as hosts of our Woven in Faith event held on March 22. It was a wonderful event, and we were blessed to have District Superintendent BJ Brack 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 12 remaining members generously donated the church to the conference for disaster recovery efforts.

Kari Collins, the recently retired Executive Director of Red Bird Mission, traveled from Kentucky to update us on the many good works happening in the area. Red Bird Misson, 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. His motto was “Enter to learn. Leave to serve.” 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. She asked that we all continue to pray for, spread the word about, and come visit Red Bird Mission. Additional information on how you can support Red Bird can be found at www.redbirdky.org They have an online shop to purchase merchandise as well.

Our next event will be our President’s Roundtable at Thompson’s Station UMC on Saturday, June 21. This is a wonderful opportunity to share ideas from across our district. If your unit’s president cannot make it, please send someone to be a representative.

Blessings,

Beth Stockwell

From the Treasurer

This message is for everyone, not just the treasurers, because we are **all** stewards of our district’s money.

I want to say a big **THANK YOU** to each one of you for helping make 2024 a financial success for the Harpeth River District and, in turn, the Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference. A quick review of our finances for 2024:

2024 Beginning Balance	\$ 606.07
Receipts	<u>+ 24,891.66*</u>
Subtotal	25,497.73
Disbursements	<u>- 24,997.37</u>
2024 Ending Balance	\$ 500.36

*The receipts include the \$1,920.00 that the Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference sends to our district for the Administrative and Membership Development Fund; we use this to pay for speakers at our events, district officer expenses and scholarships to conference events. We sent \$22,760.66 to the Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference for our Mission Offerings, which is the Five Channels of Giving; it also includes A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial, Bethlehem Center Nashville, UMCOR, UMCOR Disaster Relief Warehouse in Decatur, AL, Sadie Tillman Scholarship Fund, and Scarritt-Bennett Center. I’m happy to say the audit of our 2024 records was completed in March 2025.

To the treasurers of our local church units, I want to **thank you** for doing a great job getting your forms and remittances to me in a timely manner. I really appreciate it. It helps me get the district monies and forms to the conference on time.

Second quarter remittances are due June 6, 2025. I have already received a few. Thank you!

The unit Pledge to Mission for **2026** is due to me on June 15, 2025. I know that it is extremely early, but I need some idea of what to expect in receipts in 2026 so I can prepare the Harpeth River District budget in time for the district officers to review it at the end of June. It must then be sent to the conference treasurer so the Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference can prepare their 2026 budget in July. Ask your unit to prayerfully consider what the unit will be able to pledge for the 2026 Pledge to Mission. If you can pledge the same amount as this year, that is great! If your unit can pledge more, that's even better! If your unit isn't sure, keep in mind that it is better to pledge low and exceed your pledge, than to pledge too high and not being able to reach it. Just know that whatever we send to missions is helping women, children and youth locally, nationally and globally.

If you wish, you may email a picture of your 2026 Pledge to Mission form to me at debbie.miller718@gmail.com or you could send your Pledge to Mission form with your 2nd quarter remittance.

If anyone has questions relating to the finances of the United Women in Faith, please let me know. If I don't know the answer, I have several people that I can contact to find it. There are many resources on the uwfaith.org/resources website that you can use in your meetings to help inform what the UWF does and supports. In the treasurer's packet for 2025, there is an explanation of how to get to the resource downloads. You can find all the documents that are in the treasurer's packet on the Harpeth River District website: hrumw.weebly.com

Blessings to you,

Debbie Miller

Harpeth River District Treasurer

From the Social Action Coordinator

United Women in Faith serve, advocate and make a difference. Please take a moment to look at ways you and your unit can support this work through:

- U.S. projects, like the nearly 90 National Mission Institutions, including Nashville's Bethlehem Center
- International partners making positive changes in communities around the world
- Advocacy, especially supporting UWF's Just Energy 4 All and Ending Mass Incarceration and Criminalization of Communities of Color initiatives
- And please pray for and consider your calling to the Deaconess/Home Missioner order for laity who feel called to vocations and ministries of love, justice, and service

Please visit the website: <https://uwfaith.org/what-we-do/serve-and-advocate/> where you can sign-up to get information about events, activities, resources, and invitations for action!

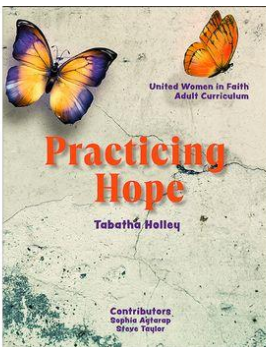
Stacey Hagewood
Social Action Coordinator

From the Spiritual Growth Coordinator

“Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him.” Luke 24:13-16 (NRSV)

Any two people have more in common than they have differences. Our Creator God made each human unique, in His image, the rainbow of the entire world’s people. Only by embracing this fact can we truly see God. Each person is accepted, respected, welcomed, and embraced for their uniqueness which represents Christ’s uniqueness. (An excerpt from the 2012 Mission u study: “Immigration and the Bible” written by Joan Maruskin)

We can choose to embody hope, by taking hope-filled action, in faith and (then) trust that the feelings will follow.



In our 2025 Mission u study, “Practicing Hope Together”, we will study how to get real and be honest, to get morally courageous, to practice hope by redefining hope. Concepts over time have definitions of hope, shifting and changing for the disciples, the same for us living in this moment.

To learn more about this study, I recommend the UWF FaithTalks 2025 Mission u author’s podcast.

This should be an amazing study! I’ll see everyone at Scarritt!

Marina Rawls
Spiritual Growth Coordinator

From the Chairperson of the Committee on Nominations



As you have seen, we still have offices which were not filled last year, **Secretary** and **Membership, Nurture, and Outreach Coordinator**. If you feel so called to volunteer to fulfill the office, please contact Judy Davis at jldavis71391@att.net by no later than June 25. Thanks in advance for considering this commitment.





Billie Sue
Frances
Peggy

Douglas
Lynnette
Red Bird Mission

Know of someone to add? Please send first name to: pdj1169@gmail.com



Woven in Faith

Our new spring event, Woven in Faith, combines our Faith Lift with the alternating Partners in Mission and Campaign for Children events. Brentwood UMC was the host for this year's event on March 22nd.



In the picture on the left, Stacey Hagewood, Harpeth River District Social Action Coordinator and Marina Rawls, Harpeth River District Spiritual Growth Coordinator organized the event.



In the picture on the right, Rev. BJ Brack, Harpeth River District Superintendent shares highlights from a recent mission trip.



From left to right:
Beth Stockwell,
Harpeth River District President
Marina Rawls,
Harpeth River District Spiritual Growth Coordinator
Rev. BJ Brack,
Harpeth River District Superintendent
Kari Collins,
retired Executive Director of Red Bird Mission
Stacey Hagewood,
Harpeth River District Social Action Coordinator

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 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 units: [Micah 6:8 Pledge](#)

Blessings,
Karen Saunders
President, TWK UWFaith



VERY IMPORTANT DATES!!



August 8 -

5 Star Giving Award
District Mission Study Registration

August 15 -

Memorial Report
Reading Program
TWK Conference Fall Retreat Scholarship

August 29 -

Mission Study Participation Report

September 5 -

Annual Meeting Registration

November 7 -

Local Unit Officers Reporting Form

Links have been provided for each document above
or go to the website: <https://hrumw.weebly.com/>
Place your mouse on Forms, then select from
Registration & Scholarships or Reports.

Please complete each Report -
even if you have nothing to report. This allows the
officer to account for each unit. There is the option
to contact each officer by phone, text, email, or mail.



~ Trivia ~

Regarding Psalms:

- 1 – How many *books* are in Psalms?
- 2 – How many *chapters* are there?
- 3 – Which chapter has the most verses?
- 4 – Is it Psalms or Psalm or both?
- 5 – What does Selah mean, in general?

Regarding Ruth:

- 6 – Who are the 2 primary characters of the story?
- 7 – Who did Ruth marry?

Regarding Acts:

- 8 – The first verse of Acts begins: “In the first book....” Which gospel is this referring to?

Regarding Romans:

- 9 – What is the theme of the letter Romans? Hint: It is in chapter 1.

Regarding John:

- 10 – What was the last public sign, the last miracle, Jesus did before he was arrested?

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 global communities.



Book Report

Suggested Reading for 2023

Education for Mission

"I Am a Man" - Chief Standing Bear's Journey for Justice - Joe Starita

In 1877, Chief Standing Bear's Ponca Indian tribe was forcibly removed from their Nebraska homeland and marched to Indian Territory (now Oklahoma), in what became the tribe's own Trail of Tears. "I Am a Man" chronicles what happened when Standing Bear set off on a 600-mile walk to return the body of his only son to their traditional burial ground. Along the way, it examines the complex relationship between the United States government and the small, peaceful tribe and the legal consequences of land swaps and broken treaties, while never losing sight of the heartbreaking journey the Ponca endured. It also explores fundamental issues of citizenship, constitutional protection, cultural identity, and democracy—issues that continue to resonate loudly today.

Leadership Development

On the Come Up - Novel - Angie Thomas

In this follow up to *The Hate U Give*, Angie Thomas dives into the story of 16-year-old Bri, who wants to be one of the greatest rappers of all time—or at least win her first battle. As the daughter of an underground hip-hop legend who died right before he hit big, Bri's got massive shoes to fill. But it's hard to get your come up when you're labeled a hoodlum and your fridge is empty after your mom loses her job. Bri pours her anger and frustration into her first song, which goes viral for all the wrong reasons, and soon finds herself at the center of a controversy. But with an eviction notice looming, Bri doesn't just want to make it—she has to.

Nurturing for Community

***The Prodigal Prophet: Jonah and the Mystery of God's Mercy* - Timothy Keller**

The story of Jonah is one of the most well-known but most misunderstood parables in the Bible. In *The Prodigal Prophet*, pastor and New York Times bestselling author Timothy Keller reveals the hidden depths within the book of Jonah. Keller makes the case that Jonah was one of the worst prophets in the entire Bible. And yet there are unmistakably clear connections between Jonah, the prodigal son, and Jesus. Keller provides an answer to the extraordinary conclusion of this biblical parable—and shares the powerful Christian message at the heart of Jonah's story.

Social Action

***The New American - Novel* - Micheline Aharonian Marcum**

Inspired in part by interviews with Central American refugees, and told in lyrical prose, Micheline Aharonian Marcum weaves a heart-pounding and heartbreaking tale of one young man who risks so much to go home. One day, Emilio learns a shocking secret: he is undocumented. His parents, who emigrated from Guatemala to California, had never told him. When the young Guatemalan American college student gets into a car accident he is soon deported to Guatemala. Determined to get back to California, the only home he has ever known, Emilio makes an epic journey across thousands of miles and eventually the Sonoran Desert and the U.S.-Mexico border, meeting thieves and corrupt law enforcement but also kind strangers and new friends.

Spiritual Growth

***Daughter of Cana (Jerusalem Road, Book 1)* - Angela Hunt**

Thomas and Tasmin, twin siblings hired to oversee a wedding feast in Cana, worry when the host runs out of wine—until a guest tells Tasmin to have the servants fill the pitchers by the gate with water from the cistern. Reluctantly, she obeys and is amazed when rainwater turns into the finest wine ever tasted in Cana. When Thomas impulsively decides to follow the teacher from Nazareth, he and Tasmin argue. Tasmin can't accept losing her brother to some magician-prophet. She decides to follow the Nazarene's group, do whatever she must to mend the fractured relationship with her brother, and bring him home.

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.

~ Mission U ~



Practicing Hope
Together

Scarritt Bennett Center
Nashville

June 12-14

Don't forget to order your study book!!

Adult Curriculum: [Practicing Hope](#)

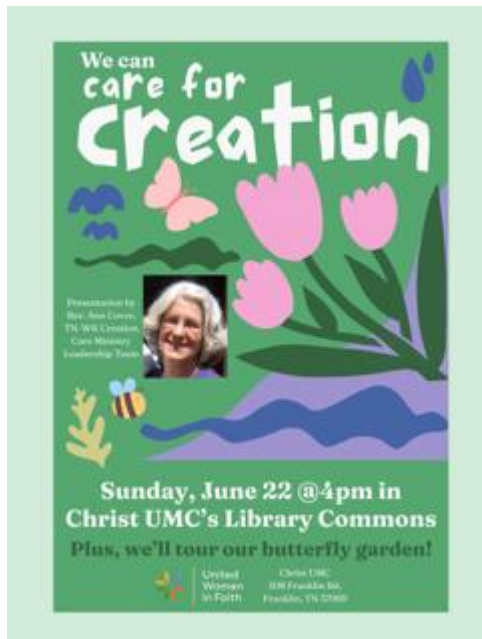
Youth Curriculum: [Communities of the Spirit](#)

Children Curriculum: [Hope as a Resurrection People](#)



~ ~ Unit News ~ ~

Christ ~



The United Women in Faith at Christ UMC Franklin will have their next meeting on Sunday, June 22 at 4 pm. The program will be focused on Creation Care. Rev. Ann Cover, who is part of the TN-WK Creation Care Ministry Leadership Team, will be sharing with us. Near the end of the meeting, the group will tour the church's butterfly garden.

All are invited!

Columbia First ~



Social Action will be collecting notebooks for Restoration Jail Ministry during the month of June.

Franklin First ~

Franklin First UWF at the Harpeth River District
Woven in Faith Event at Brentwood UMC
March 22, 2025.

From left to right, Marina Rawls, Linda Grande,
Mary Jo Harlan, Conni Shabram-Beach, Debbie
Miller



I can do all things in him who strengthens me.

~ Philippians 4:13 (RSV)



District Officers

President	Beth Stockwell	All Access Member
Vice President	Conni Shabram-Beach	Franklin First
Secretary	Vacant	
Treasurer	Debbie Miller	Franklin First UMC
E & I Coordinator	Beverly Duke	First UMC Lawrenceburg
MNO Coordinator	Vacant	
Social Action Coor.	Stacey Hagewood	Christ UMC
Spiritual Growth Coor.	Marina Rawls	Franklin First UMC
Program Resources	Bobbi Toombs	Nolensville First UMC
Communication Coor.	Janet Pierce	Centerville UMC
Nominations Chair	Judy Davis	Thompson's Station UMC
Nominations Committee:		
	Peggy Owen	Centerville UMC
	Frances Warpool	Bethesda UMC



Calendar of Events

June

Jun. 6 (Fri.)		2 nd Quarter Remittances Due	
Jun. 12-14 (Thurs.-Sat.)		Mission u – Conference Event	Scarritt Bennett, Nashville
Jun. 15 (Sun.)		Pledge to Mission Deadline	
Jun. 21 (Sat.)	9 am	District President's Roundtable	Thompson's Station UMC

July

July 12 (Sat.)	10 am	Charter for Racial Justice – Conference Event	TBD
July 23 (Wed.)		The Voice of the Harpeth River Newsletter Submission Deadline for August	

August

Aug. 8 (Fri.)		5 Star Giving Award Deadline	
		District Mission Study Registration Deadline	
Aug. 15 (Fri.)		Memorial Report Deadline	
		Reading Program Report Deadline	
		TWK Conference Fall Retreat Scholarship Deadline	
Aug. 23 (Sat.)	9 am	District's Mission Study	Columbia First UMC
		District Leadership Team Meeting to follow	
Aug. 29 (Fri.)		Unit Mission Study Participation Report Deadline	

September

Sept. 5 (Fri.)		Annual Meeting Registration Form Deadline	
Sept. 6 (Sat.)		3 rd Quarter Remittances Due	
Sept. 5-7 (Fri.-Sun.)		Women's Fall Retreat – Conference Event	Lakeshore
Sept. 20 (Sat.)		DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING	Nolensville First UMC
	8:30 am	Registration	
	9 am	Meeting Begins	
Sept. 27 (Sat.)	10 am	Conference Annual Meeting	Gordon Memorial UMC

November

Nov. 7 (Fri.)		Local Unit Officers Reporting Form Deadline	
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December

Dec. 6 (Sat.)		4 th Quarter Remittances Due	
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