

The Clarion Call

TWK Conference UWF Newsletter

November 2025

~~ A Word from the President ~~

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus.”
~ Thessalonians 5:16-18 (ESV)



In this month of Thanksgiving, we sometimes think more often of what we're grateful for than at other times of the year. We might be grateful for our family, our home, our church, or our friends. As a member of United Women in Faith, we may even toss a coin at mealtime in a box labeled World Thank Offering. Sometimes we may need a calendar to tell us how much to put in that box for certain deeds (i.e., how many times have you been in church this week—add a dime for each time). But is being grateful limited to one day of the year? One month of the year? Or as Paul says in Thessalonians 5:16-18: "... give thanks in all circumstances...."

Research has shown that the mere act of being thankful can reduce stress and anxiety, improve sleep, boost the immune system, lower blood pressure, and increase happiness and well-being. Being grateful sounds like a miracle cure-all!

Some studies suggest writing down 10 things you are grateful for each day. Recently, I've read that writing down 3 things you are grateful for each day can be beneficial. I wonder if Peter had a specific number in mind when he was writing to the church in Thessalonica? Did he really mean to give thanks in all circumstances?

Recently, Melissa Kirsch of the *NYTimes* had a different take on gratitude. She says she "traces some present-day gratitude back through all the causes and conditions that gave rise to it." For example, she is grateful for a deck of wisdom cards on

her desk; she's grateful for her friend, Melanie, who gave them to her, how generous Melanie is, and how lucky the author is to know her. But Melissa wouldn't have known Melanie had she not taught creative writing to her in the 1990s. The author wouldn't have had that job if her friend, Alan, hadn't recommended her for it, and she goes on and on. This seems like a fun way to acknowledge the connection of gratitude to people, and it brings a smile to my face when reading about it.

So, in this month of thanksgiving and Thanksgiving, I am grateful to all of you—United Women in Faith—for all you do to turn faith, hope and love into action on behalf of women, children, and youth around the world.

Blessings,

Karen Saunders

President, TWK Conference UWFaith

~~ A Word from the Spiritual Growth Coordinator ~~

A Year in Review

As we reflect on this past year, my hope is that all women across our Conference have tended to their spirits and souls—growing in faith through the Reading Program offerings in *Spiritual Growth* and finding renewal through the sacred spaces we've shared together.

The Women's Retreat at Beersheba and the Fall Retreat at Lakeshore were powerful times of Spiritual Growth, Soul Care, and connection. Both gatherings provided opportunities to step away from the cares of the world, experience the beauty of creation, and deeply connect with our sisters-in-faith, as we witnessed many "God sightings" in our time together.

Mission u was another transformative event, inviting us to explore more deeply what *Hope* looks like in today's world. Our districts were inspired to create finger prayer labyrinths—through crochet, quilting, and knitting—that were given away at the Mission Fair during this year's TWK Annual Conference. Each one was a tangible reminder that prayer is a powerful way to draw closer to God.

There were times during the year that we reflected on our Legacy, asking ourselves three meaningful questions:

- Who from your past planted seeds of faith in you?
- Who in your present encourages and strengthens you?
- Who in your future—perhaps a child, grandchild, or even a name yet known—will carry the legacy of faith forward?

As we look ahead to 2026, may we continue to nurture our spirits, lift one another in prayer, and walk in faith, love, and hope with hearts open to God's leading. May the new year bring fresh opportunities to grow, to serve, and to live as Women in Faith rooted in hope, grace, and love.

Holly Neal

Spiritual Growth Coordinator



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

It has been a blessing to serve as your TWK Conference E&I Coordinator for the past 4 years. I would like to remind everyone of a few thoughts I shared at our conference annual meeting during my Mission Giving comments:

- ❖ When we talk of Mission Giving, it means the total program---national work, international work, social justice and advocacy, spiritual growth, leadership development, and more!!!!
- ❖ When units, districts, and conferences meet their giving goals, we can keep offering programs that inspire, influence, and impact the world. Mission Giving turns our faith into action by awarding vital grants and scholarships to organizations and individuals worldwide, including our 90 national mission institutions like Bethlehem Center in Nashville.
- ❖ Mission is powered by women like you who pray, show up, and give what they can. **You are vital to the work of United Women in Faith.**

As the Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference continues to surpass our "giving goals" like we have these past few years, I challenge us to set new, higher goals that God will help us meet.

Please continue to use resources like **response** Magazine and those available online on the [UWFaith digital platform](#) to tell our stories. You have joined, haven't you? It's free! If not, I encourage you to do so!

Keep Up the Good Work, Sisters,

Katie Harris
kh14@united.net

PS--Before the end of the year, I will be in touch with the district E&I coordinators to share information concerning your position.

~~ A Word from the Communication Coordinator ~~

Hi Everyone!

I have something I'd like to share with you, but first, I want to thank you for a great year of communicating! Thank you for all the submissions for *The Clarion Call*. Your submission **is** what makes this newsletter! As you may know, I was re-elected to serve as your TWK Conference Communications Coordinator for an additional two years.

Thank you for expressing your confidence in me in this way! Please keep my email address handy! pdj1169@gmail.com I look forward to working with you as we spread the word of turning faith, hope and love into action on behalf of women, children, and youth around the world.

With blessings,

Janet Pierce
TWK Conference Communications Coordinator

The Lord is my Shepherd – that’s a Relationship!
I shall not want – that’s Supply!
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures – that’s Rest!
He leadeth me beside the still waters – that’s Refreshment!
He restoreth my soul – that’s Healing!
He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness – that’s Guidance!
For His name’s sake – that’s Purpose!
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death – that’s Testing!
I will fear no evil – that’s Protection!
For Thou art with me – that’s Faithfulness!
Thy rod and Thy staff comfort me – that’s Discipline!
Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies – that’s Hope!
Thou annointest my head with oil – that’s Consecration!
My cup runneth over – that’s Abundance!
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life – that’s Blessing!
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord – that’s Security!
Forever – that’s Eternity!

~~ Ravi Zacharias

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*When we feel as though everything is falling apart,  
God is working in our midst,  
causing everything to fall into place.*

~~ Max Lucado  
*From the Study of Esther  
“You Were Made for this Moment”*

~~ Fall Retreat ~~

**United Women in Faith Fall Retreat:  
*Jesus. Now What? Living Your Faith Every Day***

The recent United Women in Faith Fall Retreat at Lakeshore brought women from across our Conference together for a time of worship, reflection, creativity, and connection.

Led by Rev. Linda Furtado (pictured below), whose inspiring messages and music encouraged us to assess our walk with Christ and grow stronger in daily faith, the weekend was filled with “God moments” and meaningful fellowship with our sisters in Christ.



Deborah Poole's thoughtful altar and table décor set a sacred tone, while the Harpeth River District warmly welcomed everyone with beautiful goodie bags. The Caney Fork River District offered handmade crocheted prayer labyrinths as spiritual keepsakes—a gentle reminder of the ways prayer can center and guide us.



From joyful singing to the Legacy Luminary Service led by Holly Neal, participants reflected on those who passed faith on to them and how they might carry that light forward. Workshops on Creative Expressions of Faith Bracelets led by Deborah Poole, and Prayer Practice Beads with Karen Saunders and Andreanna Crook, invited hands-on spiritual creativity, while others grew closer through laughter and cheering for their favorite team during the friendly group activities.

As we shared, worshiped, and learned together, Linda guided us on a journey of looking deep within ourselves, a journey that was gentler and richer because we walked it together, step by step. Through morning devotionals led by Rev. Kayla Neese and Deborah Poole, moments of worship, small groups, and communion, we found renewal and strength for the path ahead.





This retreat reminded us that spiritual growth doesn't end when the weekend is over—it continues as we live out our faith every day. We return home replanted, with deeper roots and renewed purpose, ready to be life-giving disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of ourselves and the world.

Holly Neal  
TWK Conference Spiritual Growth Coordinator



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“There is no force in the world better able to alter anything from its course than love.”

~ Father Gregory Boyle
Tattoos on the Heart, Chapter 5: Slow Work

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*~~ A Special Message ~~*

***Dear friends,***

*As I begin my Residency in Ministry as a Provisional Deacon in The United Methodist Church, I invite you to join me on this journey. Our membership vows call us to support one another with our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. Here's how you can walk alongside me:*

**Prayers:**

*Please remember me in your prayers—personally, in your groups, or in your community. A kind word, message, or prayerful note is always appreciated.*

**Presence & Service:**

*Interested in hands-on support?*

[Sign up here to join my Fruitfulness Project.](#)

*I'll follow up with more details for volunteers. If you've attended the 2025 TWK UWF Fall Spiritual Retreat or any of my retreats or read [Jesus. Now What?](#), you've already gotten a preview of what's ahead!*

**Gifts:**

*Want to help sustain this work?*

*Become an early supporter with a free 30-day trial in my online community:*

[Join the Living Story Collective.](#)

**Witness:**

*Mark your calendar for January 2026—there's more to come!*

*Share, repost, or simply follow along on Facebook, Instagram, or LinkedIn to stay connected. I use the handle @MinistersHelper, which is also the main URL for my website [www.MinistersHelper.com](http://www.MinistersHelper.com).*

*Thank you for your ongoing encouragement and support. I'm excited to see how God's new thing in me will bear fruit as we grow in faith together.*

*With gratitude,*

*Rev. Linda Furtado*

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~~ Annual Meeting ~~

On Saturday, September 27, 2025, the Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference United Women in Faith (UWF) held its Annual Meeting at Gordon Memorial United Methodist Church in Nashville, Tennessee, where it was graciously welcomed and hosted by the United Women in Faith unit of Gordon Memorial.

Guided by the theme Carrying Our Faith Forward, the day was filled with worship, reflection, and celebration of the mission and ministry of United Women in Faith.

President Karen Saunders presided over the meeting, which opened with a warm welcome from Sheila Suddeth, president of Gordon Memorial UWF; Rev. Paula Smith, pastor of Gordon Memorial UMC; and Margaret Fisher, president of the Red River District UWF.



Planting Seeds of Faith

Holly Neal, TWK conference spiritual growth coordinator, led a devotional focused on “planting seeds”—honoring seeds sown in the past, nurturing those in the present, and faithfully planting for the future.

Special Guest Sally Vonner, General Secretary and CEO of the national organization of United Women in Faith, spoke on The Past, Present, and Future of United Women in Faith. Vonner reminded attendees of the movement’s rich legacy and the ongoing call to mission.



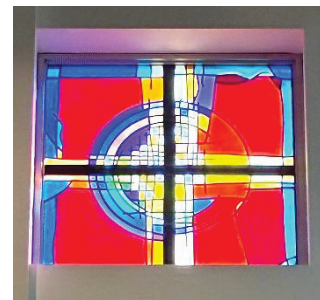
Sally Vonner

Reflecting on the past, she shared: “Look back and be reminded that what we do affects the future.” She emphasized the importance of caring for children: “Children are a gift to us. We need to strive that they’re taken care of.”

Turning to the present, Vonner encouraged women to persevere through challenges: “We are challenged by disruptions and distractions, but we need to keep our eyes on what God is calling us to do in this moment.”

Looking ahead, she inspired hope and vision: “We’ve got to make it personal and relational—tell them your story.” She added, “Embrace the opportunity to see that God is doing a new thing. God invites us to dream God-sized dreams.”

Stained-glass windows at
Gordon Memorial UMC



Mission Moment

TWK Conference E & I Coordinator Katie Harris then shared a Mission Moment, reminding attendees that since 1869, United Women in Faith has been fueled by small gifts that make a big impact. She underscored that “Mission means the total program” and that Mission Giving turns faith into action.

Honoring Legacy and Mission

The featured speaker, Brenda Brown, vice president of the Stones River District UWF, lifted up The Life and Legacy of Sadie Tillman. As a member of the Woman’s Division of Christian Service, Sadie was vice president and chair of the Department of Christian Social Relations from 1952 to 1956. During this time, the first Charter of Racial Policies was adopted.

As president of the Woman’s Division from 1956 to 1964, Tillman presided over the Division’s efforts to implement the Charter. She was a prime mover in the Division’s decision to fund the building of a Church Center at the United Nations; that building is named The Tillman Chapel. She was also president of the Tennessee Conference Woman’s Society (1950-53). (Source: <https://www.umc.org/en/content/tillman-sadie-wilson-1895-1974>)



Brenda Brown

Leadership and Worship

The gathering also included recognition of outgoing officers, election of the 2026 slate of officers, and an installation service led by Mary Lou Wurth of the Purchase District. Wurth offered a reflection on the colors associated with each office and what they represent in service.

The day’s offering was dedicated to the Sadie Tillman Scholarship Fund, ensuring that Tillman’s legacy continues to support future generations. Music was joyfully provided by pianist Rev. Josh Newberry and song leader Marilyn Ramsey, president of the Mississippi River District United Women in Faith, with selections tied to the theme Carrying Our Faith Forward.

A Service of Remembrance, led by Vice President Penny Story, honored those who have passed since the 2024 Annual Meeting, followed by the sharing of Holy Communion, presided over by Rev. Paula Smith. The blessing for the meal was given by young Claudia Newberry, daughter of Rev. Josh and Joanna Newberry.



Claudia Newberry

Carrying Faith Forward Together

From heartfelt worship to inspiring messages, the Annual Meeting of the Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference United Women in Faith was a time of reflection, gratitude, and renewed commitment. With eyes on the past, present, and future, members left inspired to carry their faith forward with boldness, love, and hope.

Penny Story
TWK Conference Program Coordinator/Vice President
(Source: <https://twkumc.org/news/>)

Outgoing Officers:



Peggy Owen
Mission u Dean &
Karen Saunders



Katie Harris
E & I Coordinator &
Pam Nelson



Caroline Martin
UMW National Officer
& Pam Nelson



Pam Nelson
Nominations Chair &
Karen Saunders

Not pictured, Nita Wright, TWK Conference Membership, Nurture, and Outreach Coordinator



THANK YOU, Districts, for your donation of gift baskets for the silent auction at our Annual Meeting. Over \$800 was raised for The Legacy Fund! The silent auction is always a fun highlight of the annual meeting, and the array of baskets this year was fabulous. A special thanks to all of the bidders, whose generosity will help continue the legacy of the United Women in Faith for years to come.

Celebrate with Birthday Dollars!

Each member and unit of TWK Conference United Women in Faith is invited to join the joyful celebration of “**Birthday Dollars**” — a simple, meaningful way to honor yourself and those you love while empowering future generations of women!

In years past, women gave a penny for each year of life during their birthday month. Today, we’re keeping the spirit but making it simpler: **Just give \$1 during your birthday month!**

That’s right — not \$1 for every year, just **one joyful dollar** to celebrate another trip around the sun. You can also give in honor of a **child, grandchild, friend, or loved one** during their birthday month.

All Birthday Dollars collected will go directly to the **TWK Conference United Women in Faith** and support the **Sadie Tillman Scholarship Fund**, helping young women pursue their dreams of higher education.

This scholarship was previously managed by Martin Methodist College (now part of the UT System). It will now be managed by TWK Conference UWFaith. With an initial endowment of **\$5,000**, the fund will grow as women across our conference celebrate birthdays together in faith and generosity. The **first scholarship** will be awarded in **Fall 2026!**

The Sadie Tillman Scholarship

Eligibility Criteria:

- Female residing within the **Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference**
- Accepted and attending a **college in Kentucky or Tennessee**
- Has a **connection to United Women in Faith**

Encourage a young woman you know to apply! Application forms will be available shortly after the new year.

Who Was Sadie Tillman?

A remarkable woman of courage, faith, and leadership:

- Born in **Allisona, TN (1896)**
- Dedicated Sunday School teacher and member of the **Farmington Methodist Church**
- Served as **Tennessee Conference President** of the Women’s Society of Christian Service
- Helped implement the **Charter for Racial Justice**
- Served on the **Board of Missions (1952)**
- Became **President of the National Women’s Division (1956–1964)** — the highest-ranking woman in the Methodist Church at the time
- Served on the **National Council of Churches (1960)**, leading ecumenical efforts toward integration
- Honored with a chapel named after her inside the **United Nations Building in New York City**



Sadie Tillman’s legacy reminds us that one woman’s faith can change the world.

By giving your **Birthday Dollar**, you continue her mission — helping more women rise, lead, and shine. **Celebrate your birthday. Honor a loved one. Empower the next generation.**

Give your **Birthday Dollar** — and be part of something bigger than a birthday.



United
Women
in Faith

ASSEMBLY 2026

May 15-17, 2026

Indianapolis, Indiana

uwfaith.org/assembly

**Dream it!
Believe it!
Do it!**

Our theme for Assembly 2026 is **Dream it! Believe it! Do it!**

It's a call to imagine a bold future, believe in our collective power, and take faithful action together. We're also excited to share that our keynote speakers will be **Stacey Abrams**, political leader, voting rights advocate, and bestselling author, and **Rev. Carolyn Abrams**, retired United Methodist clergywoman — and Stacey's mom!

This dynamic mother-daughter duo will inspire us with their stories of courage, conviction, and faith in action.

Special Gift for First-Time Attendees: Waived Registration for Our Soul Care Retreat! Begin your Assembly experience refreshed and centered with waived registration for our exclusive 1-day Soul Care Retreat on Thursday, May 14, 2026, in Indianapolis, just before Assembly.

Act Fast: This waived fee is available for a limited time only, through November 29, and space is limited!

This dedicated time offers a sanctuary to:

- Care for mind, body, and spirit: Recharge and find inner peace. Guided by Rev. Dionne Boissiere with special guests, Bishop Tracy Malone, Ragghi Rain Calentine, Laura Wise, Rev. Lizzie McManus-Dail, and Rev. Gail Song Bantum, you'll receive profound insights and spiritual nourishment.
- Connect in sisterhood: Build meaningful bonds.
- Deepen divine presence: Cultivate a stronger spiritual connection.

It's the perfect prelude to the inspiring days ahead.

Be part of this unforgettable experience — where faith meets sisterhood, and hope turns into action. Let's come together to dream boldly, believe fiercely, and do what matters most.

Register today at uwfaith.org/assembly

Early registration ends Nov. 30, 2025.

Assembly 2026

Dream it!

Believe it!

Do it!

HOW FAR IS IT to the INDIANAPOLIS CONVENTION CENTER?

Murray, KY—307 miles

Memphis--464 miles

Trenton—360 miles

Nashville—318 miles

Clarksville—295 miles

Murfreesboro—306 miles

Columbia—333 miles

Lebanon—291 miles

Cookeville—285 miles

Crossville—324 miles

Districts are reminded that according to the Standing Rules of TWK Conference UWFaith, page 7, under Section V. Financial Policies, A. Administration and Membership Development Fund, 2. “The year before the Southeastern Jurisdiction meeting and Assembly, each district shall keep \$750 in addition to the \$250 to assist participants of the district to attend these events.” I encourage District Presidents and other leadership team members to **seek out** women to use these funds to attend Assembly 2026. Early registration ends on November 30, 2025.

Karen Saunders
TWK Conference President

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## PURPOSE

We are:

A community of women whose purpose is to know God and experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.



## ~~ Book Report ~~

### Suggestions from 2024

#### Education for Mission –

##### ***THE DEATH and LIFE of AIDA HERNANDEZ: A BORDER STORY -***

Aaron Bobrow-Strain

This book tells the story of a Mexican teen mother, Aida, journeying through the U.S. immigration system and the obstacles she faces. Aida was born in Mexico in 1987. When Aida was 8 years old, her mother took her and her siblings to live in Arizona, where she grew up undocumented. After her deportation, Aida found herself in a Mexican city marked by violence, in a country not hers, and separated from her son. To get back to the United States and reunite with her son, she embarked on a harrowing journey, enduring detention centers, immigration courts, and more.

#### Leadership Development –

##### ***I AM a GIRL FROM AFRICA: A MEMOIR of POWER, COMMUNITY and HOPE -***

Aelizabeth Nyamayaro

When she was eight years old, a severe drought hit Nyamayaro's village in Zimbabwe. Unable to move from hunger and malnourishment, she encountered a United Nations aid worker who gave her a bowl of warm porridge and saved her life—a transformative moment that inspired her to dedicate herself to giving back to her community, continent, and world. Nyamayaro's incredible memoir takes readers from the near-death experience of an African girl to a lifelong dedication to real change. It is a story of persevering through great odds and finding one's true calling while delivering an important message of hope, empowerment, and interdependence.

#### Nurturing for Community –

##### ***A LITTLE PIECE of LIGHT: A MEMOIR of HOPE, PRISON and LIFE UNBOUND -***

Donna Hylton

Donna Hylton's early life was a nightmare of abuse. In 1986, she took part in a horrific act and was sentenced to 25 years to life for kidnapping and second-degree murder. This tells the tale of her journey back to life as she faced the truth about the crime that locked her away for 27 years, as well as the family she found inside prison that ultimately saved her. Alongside this generation's most infamous criminals, she learned to fight, then thrive. Since her release in 2012, she has emerged as a leading advocate for criminal justice reform and women's rights.

#### Social Action –

##### ***THE NICKEL BOYS / LOS CHICOS DE NICKEL -*** Colson Whitehead

When Elwood Curtis, a Black boy in 1960s Tallahassee, is unfairly sentenced to a juvenile reformatory called the Nickel Academy, he finds himself trapped in a chamber of horrors. Elwood's only salvation is his friendship with fellow "delinquent" Turner, which deepens despite Turner's conviction that Elwood is hopelessly naive, the world is crooked, and the only way to survive is to scheme and avoid trouble. Based on the real story of a reform

school that operated for 111 years and warped the lives of thousands, *The Nickel Boys* dramatizes another strand of American history through the story of two boys unjustly sentenced. (Available to watch as a movie!)

## Spiritual Growth –

### ***LAND of SILENCE*** - Tessa Afshar

Before she stole healing by touching the hem of his garment, Elianna was a young girl crushed by guilt. After her only brother is killed in her care, Elianna tries to earn forgiveness by working for her father's textile trade and caring for her family. When another tragedy places Elianna in sole charge of the business, her talent for design brings enormous success, but never absolution. Then illness strikes, isolating Elianna from everyone and stripping everything she has left. No physician can cure her—until she hears whispers of a man whose mere touch can heal.

## BONUS BOOK: 2025 Spiritual Growth –

### ***THE WOMEN of the BIBLE SPEAK: THE WISDOM of 16 WOMEN and THEIR LESSONS for TODAY*** - Shannon Bream

American journalist and attorney Shannon Bream enables readers to walk closely with 16 women of the Bible, many of whom were central figures in numerous Biblical tales, for example, Queen Esther's bravery at a vital point in history, which saved her entire people. The Bible contains warriors like Jael, judges like Deborah, and prophets like Miriam. The first person to witness Jesus' resurrection was Mary Magdalene, who promptly became the first Christian evangelist, eager to share the news that would change the world forever. Bream offers a deeper understanding of each, and wisdom and insights that can transform readers' lives today.

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~~ District News ~~

Caney Fork River ~

The Caney Fork River District celebrated fall with our annual meeting held at the Cookeville First UMC on Saturday, Oct. 18th. The meeting was hosted by the ladies of the Anna Rebecca Circle and Cookeville First. They served a delightful brunch with breakfast casseroles, fresh fruit and homemade muffins. Many thanks to those ladies.

The meeting began with a business meeting. Awards were presented for 5-star units and the reading program. Candles were lit in remembrance of ladies lost in the past year. Our theme for the meeting was "Food Insecurities." That topic became even more relevant as food prices soared, and federal cuts impacted government programs and funding for programs providing food assistance. Our guest speaker was David Stockton from Second Harvest of Middle Tennessee, who serves all but one of the counties in our district. He began by saying that all of us had experienced being hungry, but few had experienced not knowing where our next meal was coming from. That is the reality for nearly 450,000 individuals in our district, with nearly 20,000 of those being children. Mr. Stockton grew up in Livingston and served as a UMC pastor before going to work at Second Harvest. He told us of the programs the agency supports, including backpack programs and mobile

food pantries. He also told us of the significant impact the government cuts were having on families across the state. He suggested ways we can help by supporting local food pantries with monetary and food gifts.

Each year, the district tries to do a “hands-on” mission project at our meeting. This year, we had decided to purchase and assemble “whole meal kits” using shelf-stable ingredients. The units in the district selected a meal recipe and purchased the items needed to make that meal for a family of four. These items were assembled into large ziplock bags, including a pan and recipe for the meal. Recipes included Vegetarian Chili, Tuna Noodle Casserole, Forgotten Chicken, Tortellini Casserole, and Nacho Casserole. The ladies and our special guests, Rev. Ricky Wade and his wife Becky, assembled the kits, which were then donated to the Cookeville First Food Pantry. In all, 92 kits were assembled.



Our meeting marked the retirement of District President, Susan King; Secretary, Linda Thorp; and Treasurer, Stephanie Terry. TWK Conference President Karen Saunders presented these ladies with service pins, then installed the 2026 district officers. Susan King introduced the new officers: Heidi Eber, Fairfield Glade, President; Janet Meadows, Gainesboro, Program Coordinator/Vice President; Christine Thayer, Fairfield Glade, Treasurer; Marsha Newman, McMinnville, Secretary; Pam Kilmon, Gainesboro, Communications Coordinator; and Helen Metz, Algood, Spiritual Growth Coordinator.

Rev. Don Terry, former pastor of Algood UMC, blessed the meal kits and the families receiving them and provided a benediction to end the meeting.

Susan King
Caney Fork River District President

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*Harpeth River~*

Greetings Sisters in Christ!

Blessings to you and warmest wishes for a wonderful holiday season!

The Harpeth River District concluded its 2025 activities with the District Annual Meeting held on September 20<sup>th</sup> at Nolensville First UMC. The ladies were most welcoming, and the fellowship and meal were superb. A special thank you to Rev. Rose Taylor of Thompson’s Station UMC for leading us in Holy Communion. The Nolensville FUMC unit had the most attendees, while the Columbia First unit read the most books for the year. Each unit was presented with a framed award.



The Nolensville First UWF won the Harpeth River District Annual Meeting Attendance Award.

Our guest speaker was Rev. Linda Furtado, Director of Spirituality and the Arts at the Scarritt Bennett Center, whom many of you may know. All enjoyed her presentation on the history and highlights of Scarritt Bennett, and many commented on how much they learned about the Center's commitment to the furtherance of women's empowerment, racial justice, spiritual enrichment, and transformative education.

Conni Shabram-Beach will begin her tenure as district president in January, as I will be stepping into the secretary position. Conni has a wealth of UWFaith experience and will be an excellent leader.

Blessings,

Beth Stockwell  
Harpeth River District President



### *Metro ~*



Metro District has been hard at work this year, energizing and engaging our members. This effort began in March with a successful social action event focused on food insecurity of children in the Memphis area. 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 the Mid-South Food Bank. As a result, over 388 pounds of food were delivered to the food bank!

Summer months were spent updating our bylaws to incorporate changes from the national office regarding elected versus appointed leadership positions, recruiting women to fill open positions on the district leadership team, and preparing for fall programming.

With the fall season, most think of changing leaf colors, cooler weather, and, for some, pumpkin spice lattes. For United Women in Faith in the Memphis area, this time of year means a joyous gathering for Metro District's Annual Day & Sharing, held on the last Saturday of October. During this event, the latest news from our organization is shared, accomplishments of local UWF units are celebrated, the new leadership team is introduced, and we spend time





together sharing refreshments, prayer, song, and an offering for missions. Programming is designed not just for local Unit Presidents, but for all women who are interested in what we do, and how they might become more involved. This year, we were blessed to have over 60 women in attendance and collected over \$600 for missions!



Over the last couple of years, we've structured part of the program for Annual Day & Sharing to be similar to a job or health fair, with small groups stopping by tables for information and handouts. To ensure information is easily taken back and shared with the various UWF units and churches represented, a clear brochure bag is given to every attending guest when they arrive. Enhancing this portion of the program, seven local mission and ministry partners were on hand to participate. Using this format, they were able to bring information and updates on outreach being done for women and children in the area, offering opportunities for engaging in "hands-on" missions to each small group.

Women of the Metro District are full of FAITH, HOPE, and LOVE IN ACTION as we look towards 2026!

Metro District Leadership Team

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Mississippi River ~

Fall Greetings, though it sure doesn't seem like it in West Tennessee.

But God is good, and we are grateful for the rain and the warm sun. As the year comes to a close, the Mississippi River District had our District Annual Day on October 5 in Milan. It was a disappointing crowd, but those of us who did attend enjoyed a very good program. I know every district is having the same problem. I wonder if we should just send our reports in to the Conference to archive them, and that would be it. But I would miss the fellowship, meeting in our different churches, and the good programs that we have always had. It makes me glad to be in attendance.



Our speaker this year was Marcia Sellers from Hope Center Ministries located in Paris, TN. There are 15 of these centers in Tennessee for both men and women. Their year-long program exists to lead addicts and their families in becoming fully devoted followers of Christ. They are doing great work. It was a good time to be among fellow members of the district.

Until next year, have a great holiday season!

Marilyn Ramsey
President Mississippi River District

~~ Officers ~~

**2026 Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference
United Women in Faith Officers**

President	Karen Saunders	Caney Fork River District
Program Coordinator/Vice President	Penny Story	Purchase District
Secretary	Beth Stockwell	Harpeth River District
Treasurer	Geralyn Seals	Metro District
Mission Coordinators:		
Spiritual Growth	Holly Neal	Caney Fork River District
Membership, Nurture, and Outreach	* Needed *	
Social Action	Melba Mitchell	Mississippi River District
Education & Interpretation	* Needed *	
Communications		
Coordinator	Janet Pierce	Harpeth River District
Resources Coordinator/ Management	Bobbi Toombs	Harpeth River District
Nominations Chairperson	Mozell Starks	Metro District
Committee on Nominations:		
	Susan King	Caney Fork River District
	Kimberly Henry	Cumberland River District
	Pam Nelson	Cumberland River District
	Gail Norman	Harpeth River District
	* Needed *	Metro
	Delores Smith	Mississippi River District
	* Needed *	Purchase District
	Holly Plump	Red River District
	Caroline Martin	Stones River District
	* Needed *	Tennessee River District
Mission u Dean	Delores Smith	Mississippi River District
Mission u Assistant Dean	Beth Adams	Mississippi River District
Program Advisory Group	Deaconess Garlinda Burton	Cumberland River District
SEJ Conference Member	Holly Neal	Caney Fork River District
Bishop	Rev. David Graves	
District Presidents:		
Caney Fork River	Heidi Eber	
Cumberland River	Evelyn Tade	
Harpeth River	Conni Shabram-Beach	
Metro	Ellen Martin	
Mississippi River	Marilyn Ramsey	
Purchase	Jennifer Rose	
Red River	Margaret Fisher	
Stones River	Michelle Martin	
Tennessee River	Beverly Mueller	

* As you can see, there are several empty spots. We need **you!** Please be in prayer regarding joining the TWK Conference Leadership **Team**. It takes a **team** to turn faith, hope and love into action.

~~ Calendar of Events ~~

November

Native American Heritage Month
Diabetes Awareness Month

Officer Training will be conducted with each District Zoom

Nov. 2 (Sun.)

All Saints' Day

Nov. 4 (Tues.)

Check Your Blood Pressure Day
Election Day

Nov. 11 (Tues.)

Veteran's Day

Nov. 13 (Thurs.)

Caregiver Appreciation Day

Nov. 27 (Thurs.)

Thanksgiving Day

Nov. 30 (Sun.)

Advent Begins

December

Human Rights Month

Dec. 2 (Tues.)

Pollution Prevention Day

Dec. 9 (Tues.)

Make Christmas Cards Day

Dec. 12 (Fri.)

Poinsettia Day

Dec. 15 (Mon.)

District Treasurers' report due to Conference Treasurer

Dec. 20 (Sat.)

Go Caroling Day

Dec. 21 (Sun.)

Winter Begins

Dec. 25 (Thurs.)

Christmas Day

January

Blood Donor Month

Jan. 1 (Thurs.)

Happy New Year

Jan. 6 (Tues.)

Epiphany

Jan. 15 (Thurs.)

District Directories are due to the Conference Secretary & President

Jan. 19 (Mon.)

Martin Luther King Day

Jan. 24 (Sat.)

9 am

Conference Leadership Team Meeting

Zoom

Jan. 24 (Sat.)

Clarion Call submission deadline to Communications Coordinator



2026

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Jan. 15 (Thurs.)		District Directories due to the Conference Secretary & President	
Jan. 24 (Sat.)	9 am	Conference Leadership Team Meeting	Zoom
Jan. 24 (Sat.)		Clarion Call submission deadline to Communications Coordinator	
Mar. 15 (Sun.)		District Treasurers' report due to Conference Treasurer	
Mar. 28 (Sat.)	9 am	Conference Leadership Team Meeting	Zoom
Apr. 18 (Sat.)	9 am	Social Action: Criminalization of Communities of Color	Lexington First UMC
Apr. 23 (Thurs.)		Clarion Call submission deadline to Communications Coordinator	
May 1-3 (Fri.-Sun.)		Women's Retreat	Beersheba
May 15-17 (Fri.-Sun.)		Assembly 2026	Indianapolis
May 23 (Sat.)	9 am	Conference Leadership Team Meeting	Zoom
June 7-10 (Sun.-Wed.)		TWK Annual Conference	Murfreesboro First
June 15 (Mon.)		District Treasurers' report due to Conference Treasurer	
June 25-27 (Thurs.-Sat.)		Mission u	Scarritt Bennett
July 24 (Fri.)		Clarion Call submission deadline to Communications Coordinator	
Aug. 1 (Sat.)	9 am	Conference Leadership Team Meeting	Zoom
Aug. 15 (Sat.)		District Reports due to Conference Officers	
Aug. 22 (Sat.)	9 am-3 pm	Rise Against Hunger food packing-Intergenerational Event	TBD
Sept. 15 (Tues.)		District Treasurers' report due to Conference Treasurer	
Sept. 26 (Sat.)	9 am	Conference Annual Meeting	S. Pleasant Grove
Oct. 24 (Sat.)		Clarion Call submission deadline to Communications Coordinator	
Oct. 24 (Sat.)	9 am	Conference Leadership Team Meeting	Zoom
November		Officer Training will be conducted with each District	Zoom
Dec. 15 (Tues.)		District Treasurers' report due to Conference Treasurer	

To be scheduled: Charter for Racial Justice Event

The 2026 United Women in Faith Program Resource, *Mapping Our Way Forward*, is about finding our way, mapping our plans, and holding on to the balance of grounding and flowing as we do it. In the midst of the uncertainties that surround us, we can map our way forward into the unknown by holding on to God and our core values, letting them keep us grounded as we face each challenge.

