

Stones River District United Women in Faith News

From Our President

Hello United Women In Faith sisters in Christ. I just wanted to introduce myself to all of you. Those I don't already know, I hope to meet in the near future. I've been married to my husband Danny for 38 years. We have two boys (married to strong wonderful women) and three grandchildren (don't ask about them unless you have a minute!). I am a member of Smyrna First UMC and joined our (then named) UMW unit 24 years ago. I've held several positions within my circle and unit and most recently served as district treasurer before beginning this current term as district president. All that to say--you are my people! It is truly a blessing to work together with like-minded women for the glory of God.

I want to share something I learned recently on a zoom call with Sally Vonner, UWF General Secretary/CEO. We are being challenged to increase our membership. That may not sound new, but the specific goal is new and I think achievable. Small units (defined as less than 10) are asked to add 1--2 new members, while medium units (defined as less than 50) are asked to add 3--4 new members. We'll hear more about this in the coming year and there is information already on the website under the title "Unstoppable".

In the meantime, I want to encourage each of you to think about what brought you to participate and join, and what keeps you active. For me, it was a personal, casual invitation by someone I barely knew, basically a no pressure "come and see". So I did. And I loved the women who were already involved. I was made to feel welcome and to feel that I belonged. Over the years, I've met most of my closest friends through our women's group. We (national, conference, district) may develop elaborate ideas to increase membership, and there's nothing wrong with that. But in the meantime, maybe think about someone in your congregation, neighborhood or friend group that you can invite to your unit. She might feel she's found a home, like I felt so many years ago!

I look forward to working together in 2026 to grow and further our mission work for women, children and youth!

Michelle Martin

Faith Lift

Our district Faith Lift will be held on Saturday March 14, 2026. The ladies at Normandy United Methodist Church will welcome us at 9am for a light breakfast/fellowship time (\$3 at the door) and the faith lift will begin at 9:30am. The meeting will end before lunch. The church address is 200 Center Street, Normandy Tennessee 37360. Please text or call Melissa Turrentine with the number attending from your units by March 7, so the ladies can prepare for us. Her number is 931-581-6203. Our guest speaker will be Ashley Moorehead, a fourth grade teacher from Chapel Hill. She will be sharing God's work in her life as she experiences highs and lows. A special love offering will be taken for the Williamson Medical Foundation who helps families in our area who have babies in NICU and women with breast cancer. We give thanks to our spiritual growth coordinator Joy Lewter for her planning of this special time and the ladies at Normandy for graciously hosting.

ATTACHMENTS to this email include our district accepted policies, our Stones River District Officers contact information and our Stones River District Directory. Please reply to this email any corrections or additions to your unit information.

Please mark your CALENDAR for these future Stones River District Events:

August 15---Mission Study at Murfreesboro 1st UMC

October 17---Annual Meeting--location to be announced

Please mark your CALENDAR for these TWK Conference Events:

April 18--Social Action Event--Lexington UMC

May 1-3--Women's Retreat at Beersheba Springs

June 25-27 Mission u at Scarritt Bennett, Nashville Tn.

August 22 Rise Against Hunger Event--location TBA

September 26 Annual Meeting at Pleasant Grove in Benton Kentucky

Website to register for ASSEMBLY is www.uwfaith.org/assembly . This once every 4 year gathering of United Women in Faith from around the world will be held in Indianapolis May 15-17.

Website to join the United Women in Faith digital platform is www.uwfaith.org/digital You will have access to much valuable information here.

Please share the information from this email will All members of your units. I will be glad to add others to the email list--just send me a valid email address for them. Feel free to email me any special news/events from your units and I will gladly share it with the sisters in our district.

Blessings From The District Leadership Team,

Katie Harris, communications coordinator

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