

The Voice of the Harpeth River District

United Women in Faith Newsletter

"Mosaic of Faith: We Are All Part of God's Story"



United
Women
in Faith



*Belief is action,
a matter of heart and mind,
not purely a matter of will.*

~ Harriett Jane Olson

A note from the 2023 District President

Greetings Sisters in Faith,

I hope you and your families had a happy and healthy Christmas. I wish for you many blessings in 2023! I am honored by your faith in me to lead the Harpeth River District as your President. I will humbly serve all of the units and members to the best of my ability, but more importantly, I will serve God in this important leadership position. I cannot thank Peggy Owen enough for her dedication and service to our district for the past 10 years; and for being a special friend and mentor to me. In addition, I want to thank Patsy Elliott and Marion Sengstacke for their leadership and willingness to serve the district. These women embody everything UWF represents.

As we incorporate the new United Women in Faith mission and vision into our communities of women, I encourage you to visit the website at <https://uwfaith.org/> The new website is very easy to navigate. New information is added on a regular basis. I would like to share Our Action, which is listed on the “Who We Are” page.

“Bold action, like faith, takes courage. Our bravery is inspired by God’s love and our powerful commitment to improve the lives of women, children, and youth. United Women in Faith works for justice through compassionate service and advocacy to change unfair policies and systems that harm women, children, and youth—from racial and gender injustice to economic inequality, climate issues and more.”

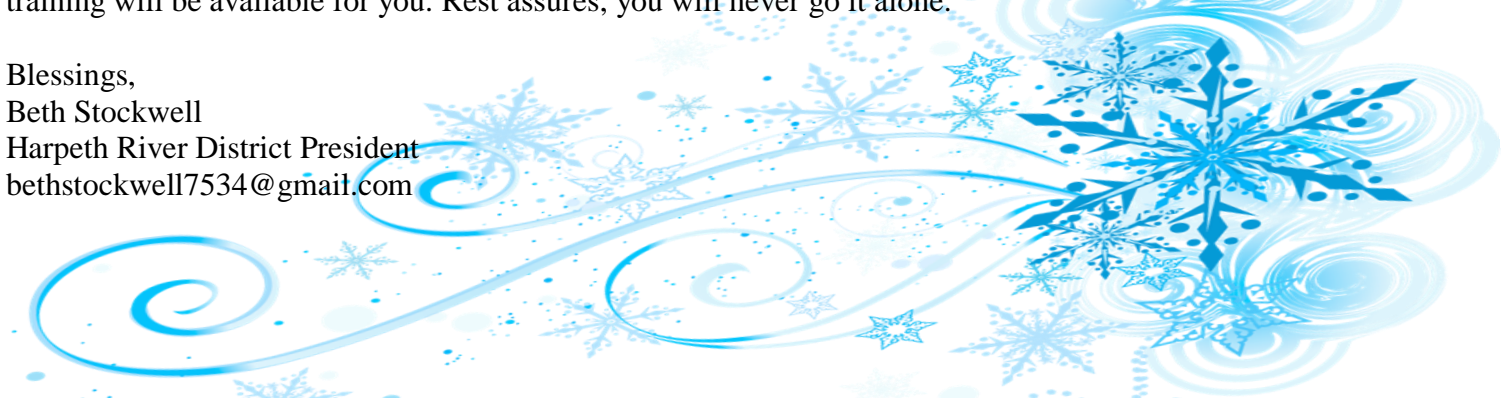
I plan to incorporate these principles into our district meetings while concentrating on the two justice campaigns designated by the national organization: **Just Energy 4 All** and **Ending Mass Incarceration and Criminalization of Communities of Color**. Information on these campaigns can be found on the UWF website.

Our **Faith Lift**, the first district event of the year, is set for Saturday, February 4th at Bethesda UMC in Thompson’s Station. The day also includes Local Unit Officer Training, which will be helpful to many of you. The Officer Training will begin at 1 PM in the sanctuary (treasurers will meet in a separate room) followed by the Faith Lift service at 2 PM, also in the sanctuary. We will have a guest speaker from Free Hearts. This Nashville-based organization is led by formerly incarcerated women that provide support, education, and advocacy in organizing families impacted by incarceration. The ultimate goals of Free Hearts are to reunite families and keep families together. (<https://freeheartsorg.com/>) I would like to thank Bethesda UMC, Pastor Mary Kate Myers, and unit president Annette McRee for hosting this event.

I would also like to thank the fellow officers for their willingness to serve: Marilyn Smith, Secretary; Debbie Miller, Treasurer; Janet Pierce, Communications; Bobbi Toombs, Program Resources; Diana Gardner, MNO Coordinator; Judy Davis, Nominations Chair; and the Nominating Committee Members: Kate Howard, Frances Warpool, Patsy Elliott, and Peggy Owen. We had two ladies, Marina Rawls, Spiritual Growth Coordinator, and Stacey Hagewood, Social Action Coordinator, step up and volunteer at the District Annual Meeting held at Christ UMC in September to serve in these positions. Wow! How powerful God worked that day! Our new District Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Vona Wilson, gave a heartfelt, personal testimony about healing and finding joy, which was enjoyed by all.

The positions of Vice President and Education & Interpretation Coordinator remain open. We would love to have these filled. Remember, we are a strong “sisterhood” who help and strengthen one another. Anyone who might be interested in being an officer, please contact Judy Davis at jldavis71391@att.net. Resources and training will be available for you. Rest assures, you will never go it alone.

Blessings,
Beth Stockwell
Harpeth River District President
bethstockwell7534@gmail.com





LIVING THE GOOD NEWS

Reflecting God's Love

SAVE THE DATE

MISSION u - 2023

July 13 - 15, 2023

Scarritt Bennett Center, Nashville, TN

Join us at Mission u as we explore the good news and what it means for our lives! Jesus' teachings in the Gospels proclaim the good news of the kin-dom or reign (basileia) of God. In fact, Jesus mentions the kin-dom 90 times in the Synoptic Gospels! What does the Bible tell us about God's basileia and why do we call it the kin-dom? For Jesus, the kin-dom was not simply something to talk about but something we could live and experience. From the Lord's Prayer to the beatitudes to the parables, this good news is at the heart of Jesus' preaching, teaching and ministry. Come! Let's explore together the heart of Jesus' good news and what fresh vision it offers us as we seek to be in mission today.

Future communications will provide details as to pricing and availability of study materials.



VISION of the UNITED WOMEN in FAITH

Turning faith, hope, and love into action on behalf of women, children, and youth around the world.



REQUESTS
FOR
PRAYER

Beth Bobbi Brooke Buzz
Frances Harry Joy Judy Kate Katie
Kila Linda Marina Sydney Tim
People of Ukraine

Need to be added?

Send email to: pdj1169@gmail.com

Write: Add "Name" to the prayer list.

Trivia Questions

- 1 – What is another name for Jesus? ~ Colossians 4
- 2 – Who is a brother of James? ~ Jude 1
- 3 – What does the voice of the Almighty sound like? ~ Ezekiel 1 & 43 and Revelation 1
- 4 – “... and I have the keys of Death and of Hades.” What are the keys used for? ~ Revelation 1
- 5 – What city is God’s dwelling place on earth? ~ Psalm 46 fn.
- 6 – What does the color of white represent? ~ Revelation 2 fn.
- 7 – Are we ever allowed to eat from the tree of life? ~ Revelation 2
- 8 – A day to us is how long in God’s sight? ~ Psalm 90
- 9 – Who is the first woman disciple? ~ Luke 10 fn.
- 10 – What part of the body is the lamp of the body? ~ Matthew 6



2023 District Officers

President	Beth Stockwell	bethstockwell7534@gmail.com
Vice President	Vacant	
Secretary	Marilyn Smith	mckayfirestone@energize.net
Treasurer	Debbie Miller	debbie.miller718@gmail.com
E & I Coordinator	Vacant	
MNO Coordinator	Diana Garner	grits3790@yahoo.com
Spiritual Growth	Marina Rawls	anient@att.net
Social Action	Stacey Hagewood	shagewood@gmail.com
Program Resources	Bobbi Toombs	bobbitoombs@att.net
Communications	Janet Pierce	pdj1169@gmail.com
Nominations Chair	Judy Davis	jdavis71391@att.net

A note from the 2023 District Social Action Coordinator



I'm excited to take on the role of Social Action Coordinator for the Harpeth River District! Big thanks to Beth Stockwell, Harpeth River District President, for sharing a lot of information with me from her experience in this role.

I've learned that Beth Stockwell and I share a strong interest in prison reform. After meeting with the other officers from across the conference in November, together we decided to make the United Women in Faith initiative of interrupting the school-to-prison pipeline a priority for our 2023 social action throughout the Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference. We're still working on the plans for what that could look like; but in the meantime, I want to share some helpful information as we learn more together.

First, there is an article in the May/June issue of **response** Magazine, written by Emily Jones, Racial Justice Executive for United Women in Faith. I encourage everyone to pay close attention to the section on applying the Wesleyan Quadrilateral categories to our own exploration of the pipeline: <https://uwfaith.org/latest-news/2022/may-june-response-do-not-stop-them/>

Second, Climate/Environmental Justice is an initiative for United Women in Faith in 2023. Beth Stockwell told me about an organization committed to that work right here in Tennessee, the Tennessee Environmental Council. This organization is committed to equity, justice and addressing systems designed to be exclusionary. It's powerful to read how, together, environmental and racial justice work connects. Go to this website for more information regarding environmental justice: <https://www.tectn.org/environmentaljustice.html>

I look forward to sharing more with you in 2023, as together, we remember the invitation from United Women in Faith: "Join us to boldly live your faith and connect to something bigger."

Thanks be to God!

Stacey Hagewood
Harpeth River District Social Action Coordinator
shagewood@gmail.com

Unit News ~ ~

Christ UWF is planning an officer's retreat on Saturday, January 21st. They plan to use this time to discuss plans for the New Year.

What is your unit doing this year?

Please send me emails about what you are doing now or plans you are making for the New Year!

Send to: pdj1169@gmail.com I look forward to hearing from you! Please send pictures also!



A note from the 2023 District Communication Coordinator

Greetings everyone and Happy New Year!

This year, I will be emailing the newsletters and reminders to every unit officer after we receive the new directory. It is my hope that in doing this, the newsletters and reminders will be shared with all of the members of the unit.

I would like to remind you about our website! The address is: hrumw.weebly.com

- * Every month, there will be a new article by a district officer on the Home Page.
- * Under Officers, I have listed the 2023 officers, the church they represent and their email address. Feel free to reach out to them with questions or suggestions for activities.
- * News includes copies of all of the newsletters and reminders. So if you do not receive one, you can always find them here.
- * On the Calendar, you will find the district and conference events, unit events, deadlines, religious holidays and other days of interest.
- * When units send pictures, I include them in our Gallery.
- * On the navigation task bar, you will see Media. This is where you can find the list of the 2023 books for the Reading Program, the videos/movies that count as a bonus book and the Podcasts.
- * I have also included Connections. This is where you will find links to different websites, e.g., the United Women in Faith website, Facebook, Pinterest, Instagram, and many more.

I am looking forward to receiving items from the units! Please send me information about what your unit is going to do toward missions. Are you having an event? Have you had the event? Let's share the information about your event and include pictures with each other.

Please remember this: the website, newsletters and reminders do not belong to me. They belong to you; the units and the unit members. I just happen to be the coordinator that puts together the information and pictures that you send to me. So, give me some work to do!

Janet Pierce
Harpeth River District Communication Coordinator
pdj1169@gmail.com



A note from the 2023 District Treasurer

I want to thank each of you for making 2022 a successful financial year! Our pledge to the Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference for the year was \$18,000.00. At this point, I am able to tell you that we exceeded our pledge and sent in over \$20,394 for the Pledge to Missions!

This does not include: Special Mission Recognition Pins, Gift to Mission, Gift in Memory Cards, World Thank Offering or A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial offerings. In addition, this does not take into account the local organizations you have provided funding for this year.

I will provide further financial reports in the next couple of months.

I know that women in the Harpeth River District do so much more than give their money to help people and organizations; this just happens to be a way for us to track part of what is being done.

Thank you! Happy New Year!

Debbie Miller
Harpeth River District Treasurer
debbie.miller718@gmail.com



A note from the 2023 District Nominations Chairperson



Happy New Year to all!

As we approach 2023, may we have an abundant number of volunteers who want to get involved in the local units, as well as the district! At our district meeting, we had two people step up to serve in vacancies. May others follow in their footsteps as 2023 unfolds.

If I can be of help to any local units, please feel free to contact me at jldavis71391@att.net.

Judy Davis
Harpeth River District Nominations Chairperson

The key to surviving any challenge or crisis is hope.
Hope that Jesus loves you.
Hope that He is, right now, working out a solution for you.
Hope that the future you place in His hands
will be better than the present you hold in your own.

~ Norman Vincent Peale



A note from the 2023 District Secretary

Hello to all my sisters in the Harpeth River District!

I want to thank everyone for sending me your current information so I can finish the new directory. I plan to work on it during the New Year holiday.

I hope everyone got to spend Christmas with friends and loved ones; and remembered the reason for the season.

I wish each of you a happy and healthy New Year.

Marilyn Smith
Harpeth River District Secretary
mckayfirestone@energize.net



The Christian life is a life of faith and works.

~ Navamani Peter
December 15, Upper Room

A note from the 2023 District Program Resource Coordinator

Happy New Year United Women in Faith!

I am hoping more happiness for 2023. It has been almost a year since my mother passed away and I miss her always. BUT in January, I will become a great-grandmother! I am already planning on books to give my grandson and his wife to read to little Briella. We do have a collection of Dr. Seuss books that Mother gave my husband to read to our granddaughter (she is 23 now and like her grandma, an avid reader).

Since it is time to make New Year's resolutions, I would like to challenge everyone to read at least 5 books this year. There are so many good books to choose from. It seems the selections get better every year. If you read one bonus book from each category, this would count as 10 books! If you attend Mission u as a conference event or the district mission study, the book used counts as 2 Spiritual Growth books. If you do all of this, you have read the equivalent of 12 books, just by reading a total of 6 books! Don't forget to read the **response Magazine** as well.

Send me an email anytime for recommendations or if you have any questions. One question posed to me was about the children's and youth books. In the past, you were allowed to add them to your list of books after reading ten books. It was not specifically mentioned in the latest brochure. I contacted the New York office and never received a reply. So, as the Conference Program Resources officer, I am declaring that after reading ten books, the children's and youth books will count as they did in previous years.

Let me tell you about **Mission u**. It will be held at Scarritt Bennett again this year. It is a wonderful venue and the meals are sooo good. It is fun meeting people from all over our conference and sharing ideas. Please make plans to attend July 13-15!

Your Harpeth River District and TWK Conference Crazy Book Lady,
Bobbi Toombs
bobbitoombs@att.net

February 4th --- Local Unit Officer Training @ 1:00 pm
--- **FAITH LIFT** @ 2:00 pm
@ Bethesda UMC --- Thompson's Station

SAVE the DATE !!!!

FAITH LIFT --- guest speaker from **Free Hearts**

Free Hearts is an organization located in Nashville.

Former incarcerated women provide support, education and advocacy to organize families impacted by incarceration.

Ultimate Goal – Reunite families & keep families together!

Check them out: <https://freeheartsorg.com>

***Plan Now to come to the Faith Lift! There will be great music & a fantastic speaker!!
I look forward to seeing you there!!***

Calendar of Events

{District events in **BOLD**}**January 1 (Sun.)****HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!****January 16 (Mon.)****Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**

Feb. 4 (Sat.)	1:00 pm 2:00 pm	Local Unit Officer Training District Faith Lift	Bethesda UMC Thompson's Station
Feb. 11 (Sat.)		Weather Delay Date for Local Officer Training & Faith Lift	
Feb. 15 (Wed.)		Year End Unit Audit Reports Due	
March 4 (Sat.)	10:00 am	Conference Executive Meeting	Smyrna First UMC
April 23 (Sun.)	3:00 pm	Campaign for Children	Riverside UMC Columbia
May 5-7 (Fri. - Sun.)		Beersheba Springs	
June 24 (Sat.)	10:00 am 1:00 pm	District Local President's Roundtable District Leadership Team Meeting	Prospect UMC Prospect
July 13-15 (Thurs.-Sat.)		Mission u	Scarritt Bennett Nashville
Aug. 5 (Sat.)	TBA	Conference Executive Team Meeting	TBA
Aug. 26 (Sat.)	9:30 am 2:00 pm	District Mission Study/Brown Bag Lunch District Leadership Team Meeting	College Grove UMC College Grove
Sept. 23 (Sat.)	8:30 am 9:00 am	Registration for Annual Meeting DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING	Lawrenceburg First UMC Lawrenceburg
Sept. 30 (Sat.)	TBA	Conference Annual Meeting	TBA
Oct. 20-22 (Fri.- Sun.)		Conference Fall Retreat	Lakeshore
Nov. 4 (Sat.)	TBA	Conference Training for District Officers	TBA





The Harpeth River District
wishes for you a
Happy, Healthy & Prosperous
New Year!