



The Voice of the Harpeth River District

*"Let Your **Light** Shine ~ Ignited for Justice"*

What's Inside?

Push Pause

Partners in Mission



Faith

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2020 Calendar of Events w/ Due Dates



18th ANNUAL NATIVE AMERICAN RESOURCE DAY

MARCH 1 1:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

LaVergne UMC

248 Waldron Rd, La Vergne, TN 37086

There is an 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. service if you would like to attend. Registration begins at 1:30 p.m.

Join us for an afternoon of fellowship as we share with you some of the past, present and future.

Per The Book of Discipline, the Committee on Native American Ministries (CONAM) is charged with promoting and resourcing this Special Offering Sunday. We have garnered or developed resources for the local church. There is so much to learn about Native American cultures, traditions, spirituality and way of life.

- *There will be an emphasis on understanding that Native American Ministries is vital. The 2010 Census in Tennessee listed 55,000 Native Americans with dual heritage-which included 20,000+ federally recognized Native Americans.*
- *This Committee remains in The Book of Discipline. The members of the committee are committed to the focus of working with Native Americans in Tennessee, in the communities and the local church.*
- *There will light snacks at the time of registration. During this time, visit our displays and bookstore.*
- **** There will be a traditional meal, so we can break bread together.*
- *To be good stewards of materials (printed and food!) please reply by February 24th.*
- *This message has been sent to the local church Native American representative, worship chair and lay leader. *Lay leaders please share with your congregation. *Pastors are encouraged to attend.*

Information presented crosses over to how groups can use the materials-UMW, UMM, youth, small group studies.

Co-Chairs, CONAM: Pat Bryan & Debbie Fitzhugh, For further information: Mary T Newman, coordinator, Native American Ministries nativeamericantn@gmail.com; 615-308-4495

PLEASE REPLY TO nativeamericantn@gmail.com with your name and church.

- *On behalf of CONAM co-chairs Pat Bryan and Debbie Fitzhugh
Mary T. Newman, Coordinator of Native American Ministries*

“If you sometimes wonder about your capacity for faith, consider how you rise each day and you will know that you don’t have to question whether you have it. Like your heartbeat, faith moves



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you forward with strength and steadiness, and God is with you in the same way. Our English word “confidence” comes from the Latin word confidere ~ “with faith” ~ and that is how I hope each of you will follow your path this year.” Judith Tate, Education and Interpretation, from Red River District Newsletter, March 2018, Volume 13, Issue 2.



May I have your attention please? I would like to make an announcement on behalf of the Harpeth River District UMW! We have a new officer!!

Please welcome our new member of the Nominating Committee – Class of 2022:
Frances Warpool
Bethesda UMC
2038 Lewisburg Pike * Franklin * 37064
615.790.0743
bwarpool@bellsouth.net



Also.....
Judy Davis, of Thompson’s Station, has agreed to be our Nominating Committee Chairperson!!

*** NOTE: ***

We still have 2 vacancies. They are to be a member of the Nominating Committee. Please prayerfully consider these positions. If you have questions, contact Peggy Owen: owenpeggy@gmail.com / 931.729.5687.

PRESIDENT

On February 1st, a nice crowd of Harpeth River District United Methodist Women gathered at Lobelville UMC for the local unit officer training, which was followed by our Faith Lift. During the training session, district officers shared information about the responsibilities of their office with the local unit counterparts and distributed relevant information for this year.

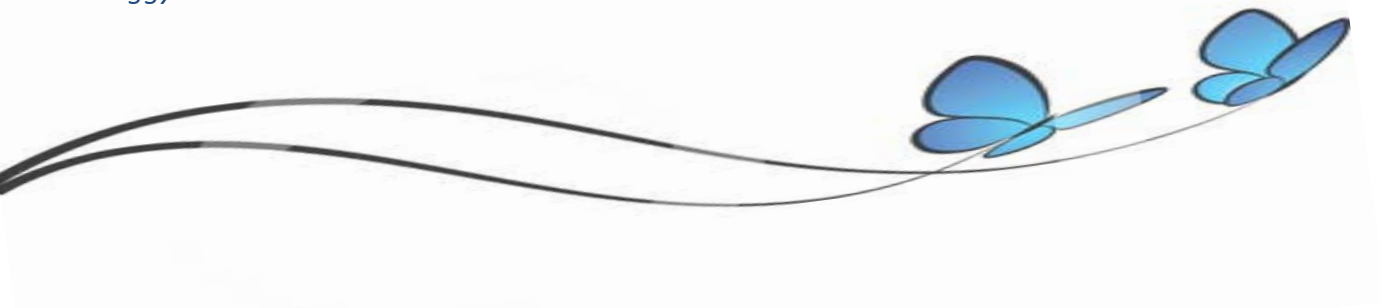
*Marjorie Black, our speaker for the Faith Lift, inspired us through her message of **Letting our Light Shine through our Faith**. She shared her life experiences and faith journey. She encouraged us to be mindful of opportunities to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. We all came away with our Faith Lifted.*

We are only two people short of having our roster of district officers filled for this year. We need two more members for the nominating committee. If you or someone you know are interested in serving your district UMW in this way, please let me know. This is a five-member committee, so the work is shared. Please prayerfully consider this opportunity to serve.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you'll see information about our Partners in Mission event coming up on April 23 at Columbia FUMC. The district pays for the pastor, their spouse and two members from each unit. This is a great opportunity to engage our pastors with United Methodist Women. Please invite your pastor and their spouse to be a part of this event. Dinner is provided and will be followed by the program, which is being coordinated by Paulette Bledsoe, our district education and interpretation coordinator. (If more than two members of the unit want to attend, the cost of the meal is \$8.00 each.)

Blessings to you and yours,

Peggy Owen



PURPOSE of the UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The United Methodist Women

shall be a community of Women whose PURPOSE is

to know God and to 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.

District Social Action Coordinator

One of the four Mission Focus Issues for General Conference 2020 is **Racial Justice and Mass Incarceration**. I encourage all Units and/or Circles to focus on this important issue during a meeting in 2020. You can find a short video to show along with lots of resources, downloads, and program ideas at:



**Racial Justice
Symbol**

<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/racial-justice/mass-incarceration>

This topic is not new to United Methodist Women as the **Racial Justice Charter** was adopted by the 1980 General Conference. Please take time to read the Charter, download copies for your members, and place a copy in your church for all to view. It can be accessed for free here:

<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/downloadresources/charter-for-racial-justice-english>

The Charter includes a section called "What is racism?" It states: Racism is the use of power for maintaining privilege and systematic discrimination through institutions and structures of society in order:

- To deny access to education, employment, housing, social services and other rights and benefits of society either by law or by custom.
- To perpetuate, solidify and guarantee the economic, political and social power of one group over other groups.

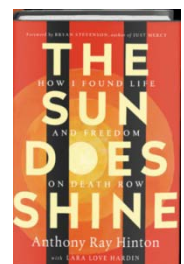
Racism can be easy to see or hidden, intentional or unintentional. Its impact is measured by its effects, not by personal motivations. Racism combines with other identity issues such as gender, economic status or national origin to multiply its effects.

Mass incarceration of minorities and wrongful convictions has been in the news for many months. You may be familiar with the movie "Just Mercy," which tells the true story of Walter McMillian, who, with the help of young defense attorney Bryan Stevenson, appeals his murder conviction. The film is based on the memoir of the same name, written by Stevenson.

Bryan Stevenson is the founder and Executive Director of the Equal Justice Initiative(EJI), a human rights organization in Montgomery, Alabama. Under his leadership, EJI has won major legal challenges eliminating excessive and unfair sentencing, exonerating innocent death row prisoners, confronting abuse of the incarcerated and the mentally ill, and aiding children prosecuted as adults.

Mr. Stevenson has argued and won multiple cases at the United States Supreme Court, including a 2019 ruling protecting condemned prisoners who suffer from dementia and a landmark 2012 ruling that banned mandatory life-imprisonment-without-parole sentences for all children 17 or younger. Mr. Stevenson and his staff have won reversals, relief, or release from prison for over 135 wrongly condemned prisoners on death row and won relief for hundreds of others wrongly convicted or unfairly sentenced.

Mr. Stevenson also helped to exonerate another Alabama death row prisoner Anthony Ray Hinton. Mr. Hinton spent nearly 30 years on death row for crimes he did not commit. One of the longest serving death row prisoners in Alabama history and among the longest serving condemned prisoners to be freed after presenting evidence of innocence, Mr. Hinton was the 152nd person exonerated from death row since 1983. He too has written a book about his experience, and how his strong faith made the three decades bearable. The book, "The Sun Does Shine," a New York Times bestseller, gets its title from the first words he uttered as he left prison a free man.



Mr. Hinton now speaks to groups across the country and I was fortunate to hear him speak in November in Brentwood. Wow! What a blessing to hear his story, which he conveys with humor and forgiveness. I encourage everyone to read his book and I have recommended it to be included on a future Reading Program list.

*Feel free to contact me should you need additional information.
Schedule permitting, I would welcome the chance to speak to your UMW
group on this topic.*

*Beth Stockwell
District Social Action Coordinator
bethstockwell7534@gmail.com*



THE VISION of the UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

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

2020 Harpeth River District Officers

President	Peggy Owen	Centerville	owenpeggy@gmail.com
Vice President	Patsy Elliott	Nolensville 1 st	pelliotquilter@comcast.net
Secretary	Marilyn Smith	St. Andrew Memorial	mckayfirestone@energize.net
Treasurer	Debbie Miller	Franklin 1 st	debbie.miller718@gmail.com
E & I Coor.	Paulette Bledsoe	St. Andrew Memorial	pnaana511@gmail.com
MNO Coor.	Jennifer Scoble	Franklin 1 st	jenniferscoble58@gmail.com
Spiritual Growth	Marcia Woodcock	Nolensville 1 st	marcbrownsk@att.net
Social Action	Beth Stockwell	Thompson Station	bethstockwell7534@gmail.com
Prog. Resources	Bobbi Toombs	Nolensville 1 st	bobbitoombs@att.net
Communications	Janet Pierce	Centerville	pdj1169@gmail.com
Nominations Chair	Judy Davis	Thompson Station	jldavis71391@att.net
Class of 2021	Kate Howard	Nolensville 1 st	katehoward01@gmail.com
Class of 2022	Frances Warpool	Bethesda	bwarpool@bellsouth.net
Class of 2022			
Class of 2023			

Spiritual Growth

Devotion Focus on Lent 2020

Matthew 4:1-2 (NIV) *“Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.”*



The days between Ash Wednesday, February 26, until Easter Day, Sunday, April 12 (not counting Sundays), are the 40 days of Lent for the year 2020. What are ways we, as Christians, can respond during this period?

It is a time for preparation for the Resurrection. Lent is meant to be a time for simple living, charity, forgiving, spiritual self-examination, and a returning and/or growing closer to God.

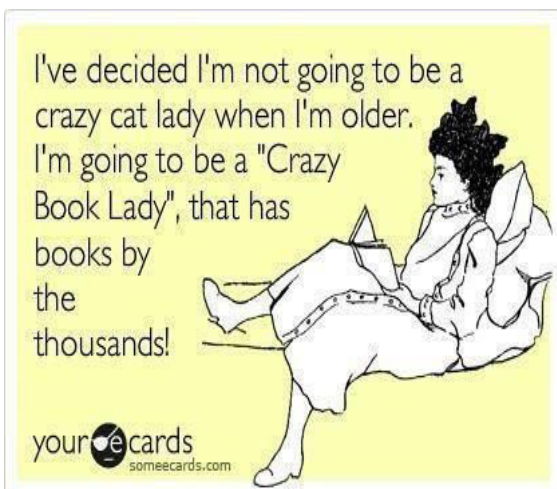
Here are a few good ideas you could try for our 2020 Lenten Season:

- 1) Start a prayer rhythm. For example, say a prayer every time you brush your teeth, check your email, or wash your hands. Before you text someone, pray for them.
- 2) Read one chapter in the Bible each day. Matthew is a good book to start with.
- 3) Forgive someone who doesn't deserve it (maybe even yourself).
- 4) Create a daily quiet time. Spend 30 minutes in silence and prayer.
- 5) Volunteer one hour or more each week at a shelter, nursing home, tutoring program, or homeless shelter.

Just as Jesus prepared for his mission on earth during those 40 days in the wilderness, you, too, can prepare for the coming of the remembrance of Jesus' Resurrection.

Prayer for Lent: *Heavenly Father, during this Lenten season, give me a new and expanded vision to live full of faith. Teach me to find hope in the face of adversity. Amen*

Marcia Woodcock
District Spiritual Growth Coordinator



Hello Methodist Women!!!

It's me, Bobbi, your "Crazy Book Lady!" My goal this year is to get at least one person from each circle, unit, &/or church to join the Reading Program. It is a known fact that I love to read, but our Reading Program does not require you to love reading. All that it asks of you is to read only 5 books in one year (one from each category). Did you know if you attend Mission U, the study book counts as 2 books? I think it would be safe to say if you would take a minute to scan over the summaries on the website, you would find a few books of interest. I plan to send book reports every month to be published in our newsletters & reminders.

Feel free to email me anytime for book suggestions or information on getting the books. bobbitoombs@att.net – please include the name of your church.

Read On!!!

Bobbi Toombs

District Program Resources

Communications Coordinator

Hello everyone!

I would be *Tinkled Pink* if someone from the following units would volunteer (1) to receive the newsletters & reminders via email and (2) make sure that a copy goes to the president and your pastor(s). Yes ... to your pastor. They are members of UMW, believe it or not. Whether they seem interested or not, they need to know what is going on with United Methodist Women. In fact, if they read the newsletters & reminders, they will find out that a free dinner is theirs for the taking at the Partners in Mission in April. So, please pass it on.....

- | | | | |
|-------------|-----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| * Bethesda | * College Grove | * Eureka | * Linden First |
| * Lynnville | * Pulaski First | * Riverside Columbia | * Sante Fe Circuit |
| * Trinity | * Whitten/Cross Roads | | |

With blessings,

Janet Pierce

District Communications Coordinator



Nurturing for Community - 2020

Tilly and the Crazy Eights - This is a very easy and FUN read!! It tells of the adventures of Tilly driving 8 Elders to the Gathering of Nations PowWow in Albuquerque. Their plan is to travel by way of Vegas, Sedona, and the Redwood

Forests. Each destination is the inspiration for secrets and stories to be revealed. The trip proves to be powerful medicine as they laugh, heal, argue, and dream along the way. By the time they arrive in New Mexico, Tilly and the Crazy Eights have forged friendships and mended hearts.

Social Action - 2020

What Comes From Dust - This one was a little difficult to get into, but I am so glad I stuck it out. This book parallels the lives of two Yazidi women. It is a powerful novel about genocide and the will to survive, as well as a testament to the struggles of the Yazidi people. It describes the horrors of the battle against ISIS and what it takes to survive.

Partners in Mission

April 23, 2020

Mrs. Donna King will be our guest speaker. Her life's mission has always included supporting and encouraging women and children. Mrs. King will share important information about a statewide initiative focusing on the effects of traumatic childhood experiences on our children and families.

***** Please fill out the Registration Form at the end of the newsletter - deadline is April 13th. *****

Paulette Bass Bledsoe

District UMW Education and Interpretation Coordinator

2020 Calendar of Events

<u>March 1st</u>		<u>Membership Census Due Today</u>	<u>forward to Jennifer Scoble</u>
<u>March 6th</u>		<u>1st Quarter Remittances Due</u>	<u>forward to Debbie Miller</u>
<u>March 8th</u>		<u>Daylight Savings Time</u>	<u>Spring Forward Chickadees!!</u>
<u>March 17th</u>		<u>St. Patrick's Day</u>	
April 4 (Sat.)		<u>Intergenerational Event**</u>	<u>St. Bethlehem UMC</u>
	9:00 am	Registration	
	9:30 am	Meeting Begins	
		Lunch	
		Executive Team Meeting	
<u>April 5th</u>		<u>Palm Sunday</u>	
<u>April 12th</u>		<u>Easter</u>	
<u>April 20th</u>		<u>Deadline to Register for "Push Pause: Embracing the Spirit"</u>	
April 23 (Thurs.)	6:00 pm	<u>Partners in Mission***</u>	<u>Columbia First UMC</u>
June 6 (Sat.)		<u>Hands on Workday – "Rise Against Hunger"</u>	<u>Smyrna First UMC</u>
	9:00 am	Registration	
	9:30 am	Work Begins	
June 27 (Sat.)	10:00 am	<u>Local President's Roundtable</u>	<u>Thompson's Station UMC</u>
	12:00 pm	Potluck Lunch	
	1:00 pm	Leadership Team Meeting	
July 9-11 (Thurs.-Sat.)		<u>Mission u</u>	<u>Beersheba Springs</u>
Aug. 8 (Sat.)	9:30 am	<u>Executive Team Meeting</u>	<u>Crossville First UMC</u>
Aug. 22 (Sat)	9:30 am-2:00 pm	<u>Mission Study</u>	<u>Waynesboro First UMC</u>
		<u>Brown Bag Lunch</u>	
	2:00 pm	<u>Leadership Team Meeting</u>	
Sept. 11-13 (Fri.-Sat.)		<u>Spiritual Life Retreat</u>	<u>Beersheba Springs</u>
Sept. 26 (Sat.)		<u>District Annual Meeting</u>	<u>Franklin First UMC</u>
	8:30 am	Registration	
	9:00 am	Meeting Begins	
Oct. 10 (Sat.)		<u>Conference Annual Meeting</u>	<u>Crossville First UMC</u>
	8:30 am	Registration	
	9:30 am	Meeting Begins	

** Conference Event

*** District Event

We would like to extend a word of thanks to Lobelville UMW for their hospitality & for hosting the Faith Lift.

~ ~ Local Unit Calendar ~ ~

<i>Mar. 1st (Sun.)</i>	<i>1:30 pm-5:00 pm</i>	<i>18th Annual Native American Resource Day</i>	<i>LaVergne UMC</i>
<i>Mar. 30th (Mon.)</i>	<i>6:30 pm</i>	<i>Women's Speaker Series</i> <i>(More information on the next page)</i>	<i>** Franklin First UMC - Main</i>
<i>April 25th (Sat.)</i>	<i>8:30 am-1:00 pm</i>	<i>Women's Woven Conference</i>	<i>** Franklin First UMC - Main</i>
<i>June 20th (Sat.)</i>	<i>5:00 pm</i>	<i>Garden Party</i> <i>Potluck w/ live Bluegrass music</i>	<i>** Franklin First UMC - Main</i>
<i>June 29th (Mon.)</i>	<i>6:30 pm</i>	<i>Women's Speaker Series</i>	<i>** Franklin First UMC - Main</i>
<i>Aug. 1st (Sat.)</i>	<i>6:00 pm</i>	<i>Ice Cream Social</i> <i>Homemade Ice Cream w/ the Grateful Bluegrass Band</i>	<i>*** Historic Franklin First UMC</i>
<i>Aug. 31st (Mon.)</i>	<i>6:30 pm</i>	<i>Women's Speaker Series</i>	<i>** Franklin First UMC - Main</i>
<i>Nov. 30th (Mon.)</i>	<i>6:30 pm</i>	<i>Women's Speaker Series</i>	<i>** Franklin First UMC - Main</i>

*** Franklin First UMC Main Campus * 120 Aldersgate Way * Franklin*
**** Historic Sanctuary Franklin First UMC * 148 5th Avenue South * Franklin*

What's happening in your unit?

~ ~ Unit News ~ ~

The Nolensville First UMC is busy already this year. They are working on putting together "Welcome to UMW" folders and "Welcome to the Church" packets. In addition to this, they volunteer at Graceworks where donations of clothes, food, furniture, etc. are received; Nolensville First UMW assists in going through the items along with other area churches.

If you want to make God laugh, tell him your plans for tomorrow.

From Franklin First United Methodist Women

Hi Sisters,

There are a few UMW/Women's events I hope you will attend; and I wanted to make sure you have the dates on your calendar:

1. FFUMW will be sponsoring a new speaker series called **Women of Purpose**. This is a quarterly series where we'll invite some remarkable women who have inspired and challenged us as they have answered their call and are doing Kingdom building right here on earth.

Our first evening on March 30th at 6:30pm will bring us two remarkable women who have gone "all in" for their call. You may know Rev. **Neelley Hicks** from 61st Ave. UMC and now Glencliff UMC, but did you know that Neelley had a big "all in" moment when she was asked to speak at the United National InfoPoverty World Conference in Switzerland and New York? Be sure to join us for the mission behind the moment and how she is empowering women in African countries that led to this monumental invitation.

We'll also be joined by **Lucia Munoz Argueta**. Lucia has risked everything to create a place that keeps kids and youth away from violence, gangs and crime on the streets of Guatemala. No easy task and yet she's bravely stepped onto those streets with determination. We will hear more about how Lucia, through ACD, works in conflict areas to support children and youth.

Attached is a flyer on the event. Feel free to share it with others who might be interested in hearing these amazing ladies! You can register at:

https://franklinfirstumc.ccbchurch.com/event_list.php?ax=list_all&display_mode=month&the_date=20200319#events/2412/occurrence/20200330

2. Save the date for this year's **Woven Women's Conference** on April 25th from 8:30am - 1pm. This year the event will be here at FFUMC and our very own Ilonka Deaton will be our keynote speaker. We are excited about the event! We need your presence and your help! More info. will be coming soon.

Have a great rest of your week,

Sarah C.



Catch and capture the vision of women who have risked EVERYTHING for a call they are passionate about that is changing lives.

franklinfirst
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WOMEN OF PURPOSE

SPEAKERS SERIES

MONDAY, MARCH 30
@ 6:30PM

FRANKLIN FIRST UMC
MAIN CAMPUS, ROOM B-136
120 ALDERSGATE WAY • FRANKLIN, TN
RSVP: [HTTPS://FRANKLINFUMC.ORG/EVENTS](https://franklinfumc.org/events)

How many times have you wanted more, to be more, to influence more?

Today we make a way to share those stories to inspire the change in all of us. Get inspired to be a risktaker for a vision, a call into God's bigger plan. Sponsored by the Franklin First UMC United Methodist Women.

franklinfirst
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Registration

Name:

Email:

Phone:

I would like a **single** occupancy room for \$88.

I would like **double** occupancy room for \$68.

I would like a **single** occupancy room extended stay room for \$166.

I would like **double** occupancy room extended stay room for \$124.

Roommate Request:

Please attach your check to your registration form and mail to:

Beersheba Springs Assembly
PO Box 577
Beersheba Springs, TN 37305

Checks can be made out to
Beersheba Springs Assembly

General

Information

Items you might want to bring:

- Bible
- Books, games, or a craft for free time
- Comfortable clothing and shoes if you would like to take a walk or hike.
- Snacks and drinks to share.



931-692-3669
PO Box 577
58 Hege Ave.
Beersheba Springs, TN 37305

Trevor.gentry@tnumc.com

Push

Pause:

Embracing the Spirit

6th Annual Women's Retreat

May 1-2, 2020

*with an option to extend your time through the 3rd

Schedule

Theme

Cost

Friday

- 5:00 Registration
- 6:00 Dinner
- 7:00 Welcome & Session One

Saturday

- 8:00 Breakfast
- 8:30 Session Two
- 10:30 Individual Time with God around the Assembly
- 11:30 Free Time
- 12:00 Lunch & Free Time
- 3:30 Session Three
- 5:00 Pack up & Head home

Extended Retreat

- 5:30 Dinner
- 7:00 Free Time Activities

Sunday

- 8:00 Breakfast
- 9:00 Worship

In today's world we all need time to step away from our busy lives and to reconnect with God. So let's Push Pause and Embrace the Spirit!

For God alone my soul waits in silence, for my hope is from God. God alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken. On God rests my deliverance and my honor; my mighty rock, my refuge is in God.

Psalm 62:5-7

\$88 - Single Occupancy
\$68 - Double Occupancy

This includes your stay in a hotel-style room, dinner on Friday evening, and breakfast and lunch on Saturday.

Extended Stay Cost

\$166 - Single Occupancy
\$124 - Double Occupancy

This includes your stay in a hotel-style room, dinner on Friday evening, three meals on Saturday, and Sunday breakfast.

Retreat Leaders



Rev. Regina Hall has served the Tennessee Conference in various capacities for over 20 years. As an Ordained Elder she currently serves Donelson Heights United Methodist in Nashville, TN. She brings her experience as a teacher, youth director and pastor to the Mountain for a fun-filled and spiritual getaway.



Rev. Sandy Shawhan is a native Tennessean. She has served in the Tennessee Conference 20+ years in pastoral ministry, with advanced study in Spirituality and Spiritual Direction. She is now retired but serving as Pastor of Circle of Grace prison ministry.

HARPETH RIVER DISTRICT

Partners in Mission Dinner/Program

Thursday, April 23, 2020 – 6:00 PM

Columbia First United Methodist Church
222 West 7th Street
Columbia, TN 38401

Pastor's Name _____ Pastor's Spouse _____

Names of Unit Members Attending _____

UMW Unit _____

Contact Name _____ Phone # _____

Child(ren) Attending Name & Ages _____

The Harpeth River District UMW will pay for the Pastor, spouse and two members of each Unit to attend. If other members would like to attend, the price of the meal is \$8.00 per person. Please mail registration form with payment (\$8.00 per additional members) to: Debbie Miller Treasurer, 839 Pintail Court, Franklin, TN 37067. Checks should be made payable to Harpeth River District UMW. For more information, call 615-337-2686 or e-mail: debbie.miller718@gmail.com. **Registration deadline is April 13, 2020.**