

The Voice of the Harpeth River District ~~~ Reminder

*Healing and Joy
on Our Journey to God*



Partners in Mission Report

by Beth Stockwell, District Social Action Coordinator

The United Women in Faith Unit from Columbia First United Methodist Church, Columbia, Tennessee hosted the Harpeth River District's **Partners in Mission** dinner and program on Thursday evening April 21, 2022. Dr. Richard Schoeberl the U.S. Team Leader for **Hope for Justice**, a global non-profit working to end modern-day slavery and human trafficking was the guest speaker. A large group of UWF members and pastors attended including Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference Social Action Chairwomen Kathryn McLaughlin.

Dr. Richard Schoeberl, a professor of Criminology and Homeland Security at UT-Southern in Pulaski, Tennessee has over 25 years of experience in law enforcement, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Central Intelligence Agency's National Counter Terrorism Center (NCTC). Before these organizations, he worked as a special agent investigating violent crime, international terrorism, trafficking, and organized drugs.

Dr. Schoeberl's 45-minute program and PowerPoint presentation was informative and eye-opening to those in attendance. Tackling an issue as big as human trafficking and modern slavery can sometimes feel overwhelming but he shared simple steps to stay informed and signs of human trafficking and exploitation to watch for.

Human trafficking is a crime where one person exploits another for labor, services, or commercial sex, using force, fraud, or coercion (or where the person induced is under 18 years of age, in the case of a commercial sex act under U.S. law).

The crime also includes the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining a human being for these purposes and in these ways. Human trafficking is included under the umbrella term 'modern-day slavery,' where victims cannot leave a situation of exploitation and are controlled by threats, punishment, violence, coercion, or deception.

The statistics shared were hard to fathom including the fact that human trafficking of youth, young people and adults is regularly occurring throughout not only the world and United States, but in all 95 counties in Tennessee. Worldwide about 4.8 million people are in forced sexual exploitation (including one million children).

Some of the information shared included that human traffickers often target female children aged 12-14 through a variety of means such as social media sites, text messaging and even virtual reality headset games. Many of these traffickers groom their victims and pretend to be a boy about the same age interested in friendship. Unfortunately, those vulnerable children who fall for this fraud may become victims.

Anyone from any walk of life can be targeted and can end up as a victim of human trafficking. But people experiencing any of the following things, Dr. Schoeberl noted can be at particular risk: chaotic home environment or recent family breakdown; runaway youth; homelessness; alcohol or drug addiction; mental illness; long-term unemployment; learning difficulties; debts or criminal convictions; fearful of deportation; physical injuries or disabilities.

Tips that Dr. Schoeberl shared for parents/caretakers of children included being vigilant in checking their phones, computers and other devices (deleting the device's History may be a red flag); questioning behavior such as isolating themselves so they can be on their device; loss of interest in school, friends and family; and use of drugs and/or alcohol, among other possible signs.

Additionally, in Tennessee Public Chapter 269 requires that family life curriculum used in public schools include instruction on the detection, intervention, prevention, and treatment of human trafficking in which the victim is a child and requires that each teacher receive a one-time in-service training on the topic.

The evening ended with a question-and-answer period and Dr. Schoeberl repeated that if a citizen sees something suspicious, they should say something. Hope for Justice (www.hopeforjustice.org) has an effective and proven model to address modern-day slavery and human trafficking, including programs for victims, which is replicable, scalable, and widely admired. The website has a plethora of information and downloadable resources and suggestions on how to get involved.

Dr. Schoeberl shared his contact information with the group and noted he is more than happy to speak to other groups to educate the public on this social crisis. He can be reached at richard.schoeberl@hopeforjustice.org (615)356-0946

Our Mission

We seek 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.



Our Vision

We are a powerful, fearless force driven by God's love and united in sisterhood. With a focus on women, children and youth, we act for justice and transform communities.

We face the realities we see in the world, even when they are not the ones we would like to see. However, our goal is not to bear witness simply to harms but also to God's love by acting boldly to change those harms.



Our Action

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.



What We Do

Equip

We equip women for leadership.

Organize

We are organized for growth.

Educate

Education can transform women.
Educated women can transform the world.

Serve & Advocate

We serve.
We advocate.
We make a difference.

THE FRUITS OF THE SPIRITS

*We must learn to live “Jesus-shaped lives” to inherit God’s kingdom.
When this happens, we live God’s way.*

Galatians 5: 22-23a Message Bible

*He brings gifts into our lives, much the same way that fruit appears in an orchard—
things like affection for others, exuberance about life, serenity.*

*We develop a willingness to stick with things, a sense of compassion in the heart,
and a conviction that a basic holiness permeates things and people.*

*We find ourselves involved in loyal commitments, not needing to force our way in life,
able to marshal and direct our energies wisely.*

Note:

I just finished reading the book:

A Jesus-Shaped Life *Forty Days toward Christ-likeness*
by Steve Cordle

Seedbed.com

Marion Sengstacke, District Spiritual Growth Coordinator



Prayer List

Bobbi	Brooke	Janet	Joy	Judy
Kate	Kila	Marina	Nita	People of Ukraine

First name only, please. pdj1169@gmail.com

Website News

New on the Website:

hrumw.weebly.com

About Us – new drop down menus

- * Who We Are -> Our Purpose & Our Vision
- > Our Mission & Our Action
- * What We Do -> Equip
- > Organize
- > Educate
- > Service & Advocate
- > What We Fund
- > International Ministries
- * Our Logo
- * Accepted Policies They are in the process of being revised and will be voted on at the Annual District Meeting.

Media – discussion to follow

Connections – new resources available to check out

All of the following have website links and descriptions of the site.

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|--------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| ** United Women in Faith | ** TWK Conference UMW | ** UMWOnline |
| ** Facebook | ** Flickr | ** YouTube |
| | ** Pinterest | |

And we have an email address for the National Office in New York.

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Media – 4 drop down menus - Please look over each ‘drop down’ as described to assist in learning about it.

** Side Note: Under Forms->Reports is the: “2022 Reading Program Individual Report Form.”

This is for you to record the books you read this year.

#1 - **Guidelines** – This explains the Reading Program Plans for 2022.

Included in the Reading Program are Books, Videos/Movies & Podcasts.

#2 - **Books** – 7 drop down menus

1st – Alphabetical – Serves 2 purposes (There is a legend at the beginning of the list.)

- It shows you the **B**-Bonus, **C**-Children’s, & **Y**-Youth Books in **RED**.
- It shows you all of the books in alphabetical order. Maybe you like to look over the titles of the books to find one that interests you. If you do, the list shows the year the book is listed and the category (see below). For example, *A House in the Sky* -- 2018 EM. This means you can find the description of the book under the drop down: EM – Education for Mission in the 2018 section. Small view provided. (Some book titles removed in the example.)

Alphabetical Reading Program Books - 2016 through 2022

Legend:

B – BONUS BOOK- counts as 2 books
C – Children's Book
Y – Youth Book

EM – Education for Mission
 LD – Leadership Development
 NC – Nurturing for Community
 SA – Social Action
 SG – Spiritual Guidance

A Brave Face:

Two Cultures, Two Families, and the Iraqi Girl Who Brought Them Together
 A History of Religion in 5½ Objects
 A House in the Sky

2022 NC
 2017 EM
 2018 EM

2nd – Bonus Books – This is a great list to be familiar with!
One book read from this list counts as “2” books!
Providing that you find a book to read in this list,
the Spiritual Growth section rarely offers a Bonus Book to read.
There are Youth books included, which can be read if you have read
10+ books. In the categories of the books, Bonus Books are highlighted
in **Yellow**.

#3 -7 – Categories – The Categories are:

EM -- Education for Mission
LD -- Leadership Development
NC -- Nurturing for Community
SA -- Social Action
SG -- Spiritual Growth

This year, each Category begins with books selected from 2016 and
continues through 2022. The author and description is noted for each
book. Also, the appropriate books are marked for children (which can
be read after reading 10+ books), youth and Bonus Books (highlighted
in **yellow**). You do not have to read a book from 2016, then one from
2017, etc. Just know that 2016 books will not be available next year. I
encourage you to skim over all of the books and jot down the ones that
interest you. Call your local library to see if they have the book or can
get it for you.

#3 – **Movies/Videos** – Something new this year is allowing Movies/Videos to be watched and counted
as a book. If the book is a Bonus Book, then the movie counts as 2 Books! There are 3
movies selected this year that can be watched. Be sure to check your library to see if they
have the movie/video available.

#4 – **Podcasts** – Also new this year are Podcasts! Podcasts can be found in an application on a
smart-phone, tablet, laptop &/or desk-top computer. If you listen/participate in three Faith
Talks podcasts, this will count as 2 books in the Spiritual Growth category. Also available as
a Podcast is the **response** Magazine. If you listen to this Podcast, this will fulfill the
response Magazine requirement for each plan.

So that is Media in a Big Nutshell, but one that you can conquer. If you have any questions at all about the Media section,
please contact Bobbi Toombs, District Secretary of Program Resources at bobbitoombs@att.net



Beauty is not in the face;

Beauty is a light in the heart.

~ Kahlil Gibran



~~ Unit News ~~

Centerville UMW ~

The Centerville UMW reports that they are very busy in several ministries. One is the ministry of helping Woman Are Safe. Woman Are Safe will give the women a list of needs, i.e. cleaning supplies, pillows, laundry baskets, soap, shampoo, etc. One of our members works there and takes the items collected to the Safe House. One other thing that we do is to give Prayer Buddies that we make to the children.



Helpful Resources:

Harpeth River District Website:

www.hrumw.weebly.com

United Women in Faith:

www.uwfaith.org

TWK Conference:

www.twkumc.org

Scholarship Deadline:

Mission u ~~ June 1st

Fall Retreat ~~ August 15th

Scholarship Forms can be found on the website. Click on Forms, click on Events.



CALENDAR of EVENTS

{District Events}

May 8 (Sun.)	All Day	MOTHER'S DAY	
5/20-5/22		Assembly 2022	Orlando, Florida
May 21 (Sat.)	All Day	ARMED FORCES DAY	
May 30 (Mon.)	All Day	MEMORIAL DAY	
6/1 (Wed.)	All Day	Mission u Scholarship Due	
6/3 (Fri.)	All Day	Mission u Registration Deadline	
6/25 (Sat.)	10 am 1 pm	Local President's Round Table Dist. Leadership Meeting	St. Andrew, Pulaski
7/14-7/16		Mission u	Scarritt Bennett, Nashville
8/6 (Sat.)	TBD	Conf. Executive Meeting	TBD
8/15 (Mon.)	All Day	Fall Retreat Scholarship Due	
8/20 (Sat.)	9:30 am 2 pm	Dist. Mission Study Dist. Leadership Meeting	Centerville UMC
8/20 (Sat.)	TBD	Conf. Social Action Day	Memphis Area
9/17 (Sat.)	TBD	Conf. Annual Meeting	Brentwood First UMC
9/24 (Sat.)	8:30 am 9 am	Dist. Annual Mtg. Registration District Annual Meeting	Christ UMC Franklin
9/30-10/2	TBD	Fall Retreat	Lakeshore, Eva, TN
11/12 (Sat.)	TBD	District Officer Training	TBD



"A grateful heart is a beginning of greatness. It is an expression of humility. It is a foundation for the development of such virtues as prayer, faith, courage, contentment, happiness, love, and well-being.

~~ James E. Faust