

*The Voice
of the
Harper River District
United Women in Faith
“Healing & Joy on Our Journey to God”*

~ ~ Reminder ~ ~





A Message from the Conference President

Congratulations Harpeth River District!!! You have survived several years of Covid, even though it affected each and everyone one of us in some fashion. You had a good year of continuing to care for women, children and youth in your community and around the world. Through this period, you found ways to continue our mission work in a difficult time.

We had two big changes in 2022. The first one was the combining of two conferences into one. This brought changes in officers, travel, finding central meeting locations, etc., but we have become one. The other big change was our name change. This brought about some emotional stress for some of us. However, in our 150 years of service, we have changed our name 25 times and now we are United Women in Faith. It is just a name change; not a change in our mission work or our sisterhood.

With these two challenges under our belt, we have successfully had a Spring retreat at Beersheba, Mission u at Scarritt Bennett, a Social Action day at Memphis, a Fall retreat at Lakeshore, and our Annual Day at Lebanon. These events are so important now that we can safely meet again. We need this time of fellowship and sharing to continue our work as United Women in Faith and to grow closer as our merged Conference. I urge each of you to encourage attendance at these events in 2023. Your Conference Team and District Presidents work diligently to find locations for these events to minimize travel for everyone as much as possible.

The 2021 United Women in Faith Annual Report was published in an on-line version this week. It is a 56-page report which has useful and factual information about the reading program, financials, mission institutions, connecting, etc. I encourage you to review this report.

You have again done outstanding work throughout 2022 in all areas of our mission fields. You have pledged your time and funds to continue the work we have done for the last 150 years. You have once again answered God's call for our service. I am so very proud to serve the TWK UWF and for that service to be alongside such amazing women. Be proud of your work and yourselves.

Meredith Bingham

President

United Women in Faith

Tennessee Western Kentucky Conference

I can do all things in him who strengthens me.

~ Philippians 4:13 (NRSV)

Please take a moment to read this informative excerpt from the 2021 annual report.

Highlights from the **2021** Annual Report: Preparing for the Future

General Secretary's Report

"What are we called to do today? We have been organizing to be a sisterhood in which women can deepen their faith and a community that supports strategic action to make a difference in the church and in the world. To be part of a collective action to counter forces of injustice is our call to action.

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

"In this time of uncertainty, we have the opportunity to lead. Leaders emerge in times of change and make decisions based on the work ahead.

"This is the best of times for those with this sense of God's call and who dare to lead. This is a time and an opportunity to look forward for our organization, for the church, and for our communities."

Harriett Jane Olson

General Secretary and CEO, United Methodist Women

President's Reflection

"It is essential to dream big, think big. ... I strongly believe that if you can dream it and envision it, you best believe we can achieve it. However, any objective needs to be clearly charted out, and the means to achieve our dreams should be well-defined.

"Not only is the whole work of our organization mission, but in fact various aspects of the work must be seen together to understand the whole. The core integrity of the work lies in its connectedness.

"The question for us is: As United Methodist Women, will we do what we are called to do today?

"It's about connection: To God, to one another, to the needs of women, children, and youth in the world, to our purpose, our past, our future.

"The dreams we dream today lay the foundation for those women coming after us. If we dream it, surely they will achieve it. May it be so."

'Ainise 'Isama'u President

Board of Directors, United Methodist Women

Spiritual Growth

New Ways of Connecting:

Mighty Networks: Online Community: www.uwfaith.mn.co

The platform features the digital Program Resource, Daily Prayer Guide, Mission u curricula, online groups around specific interests, and much more.

Membership: www.youtube.com/watch?v=ymoX6PgHOAY

The development of a new national membership option as an alternative way to join the organization.

Vanco Faith:

Vanco Faith launched for UWF in July 2021 as an online e-Giving resource, useful and free for all conference, district, and local circles to facilitate giving.

Faith Talks: www.uwfaith.org/resources/podcasts/

Inspiring and spirit-filled conversationalist Jennifer Farmer leads discussions on a variety of topics from ending gun violence in society to caring for the soul in solitude.

Reading Program: www.uwfaith.org/resources/2022-reading-program/

The Reading Program is a special way to share the joys of reading with UWF friends.

Program Book, Now Program Resource: www.unwmiwwionresources.org/shopping_product_list.asp?catID=13941

Within the book, women are invited to delve into devotions, contemplating thought-provoking questions to be answered in personal reflection with one friend or as a discussion in groups.

Soul Care: umfaith.org/events/soul-care-retreats/

“We defined soul care as self-care and spiritual nourishment. So, our Soul Care events are about nurturing you mind, body, and spirit while deepening our faith through spiritual practice and creating bonds of sisterhood.”

Khia Shaw, Director of United Women in Faith’s
Membership and Engagement Work

Thrive:

Launched in the summer of 2021, the new *Thrive* e-newsletter loves, honors, and educates women in all stages with a mix of self-care tips and information.

Leadership Development

- Leadership Development Days
- International Work
- Support for Women’s Economic Self-Determination
 - Fabric and Sewing
 - Natural Beauty Business
 - Cooking Oil Processing
- COVID-19 International Emergency Support
- TURN IT UP! Assembly

“Leadership Development is one of the central activities of our mission and ministry. Why? Because it is within Leadership Development that we identify and build awareness of issues that put women at a disadvantage, and women then begin to gain skills that promote empowerment.”

Catherine Akale
Regional Missionary, Based in Cameroon

“Leadership Development is basic to helping alleviate suffering, uplifting the participation of women and youth, prioritizing resources for basic needs, and engaging people in active participation towards their full potential.”

Emma Cantor
Regional Missionary for Asia

Transformative Education

New Connections:

The Bridge

UWF continue to use the Bridge, an innovative, free tool to connect women from various places across various time zones to online learning at their own pace.

Mission u

The curriculum focused on one study, *Finding Peace in an Anxious World*, a timely and comforting topic during difficult lock-down days.

Deaconess and Home Missioner

“Everything we do as deaconesses and home missionaries we do because of love: love for our neighbors and love [for] our communities, which originates from the great love God has for us.”

Deaconess Robin Ridenour
Mountain Sky Conference

Voices from the Field

To meet faithful and powerful women who share the good news of where your Mission Giving goes.

Service and Advocacy

“Freely given, UWF’s gifts to mission help national mission institutions play a critical role in ensuring the health, safety, and well-being of women, children, and youth in some of the poorest communities throughout the United States.”

National Mission Institutions examples

- * Mission Giving
 - Alaska Child & Family in Anchorage, Alaska
 - Open Door Community House, Inc. in Columbus, Georgia
 - Murphy-Harpst Children’s Centers in Cedartown, Georgia
 - Wesley Community Center (Nueces County) in Corpus Christ, Texas
- * Special Grant Recipients
 - Bethlehem Community Center in Winston-Salem, North Carolina
 - Nome Community Center in Nome, Alaska
 - Moore Community House in Biloxi, Mississippi
 - Partners in Ministry in Laurinburg, North Carolina
 - The Big Garden in Omaha, Nebraska

Campaigns

Just Energy 4 All/Climate Justice

UWF members and friends put “faith, hope, and love into action” advocating for stronger climate justice policies and funding at federal, state, and local levels.

Interrupting the School-to-Prison Pipeline/Racial Justice

Learning from the powerful stories of girls directly impacted by racism and Dr. Morris’s careful analysis, more than a thousand members and friends deepened their understanding of the dynamics of school pushout, school-to-confinement pathways, and the criminalization of Black girls.

Treasurer’s Report

“We adapted to the world around us and stretched ourselves to reach more members with our educational, leadership, and transformative support.”

Tamara Clark, CPA
Treasurer/CFO Finance & Asset Management

The Legacy Endowment Fund

Day of Giving – held each year on March 23 to not only celebrate the anniversary of our founding, but to also help grow The Legacy Endowment Fund.

Legacy Builders – donors commit to monthly giving of \$18.69 or more become Legacy Builders.

Friends of Legacy – the newest giving society is for donors who make a major gift or pledge of \$5,000 or more.

The 1869 Society – members have committed a planned gift through their estate.

Giving Begets Giving – donors that give in all three categories.

Find UWF Online

We have links for a variety of UWF online resources on our website under *Connections*. hrumw.weebly.com



Dates to Remember

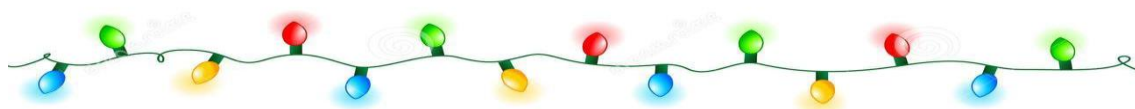
Dec. 1 ~ Notify Communication Coordinator
of Contact Person for your unit

pdj1169@gmail.com

Dec. 4 ~ Remittance Due

Feb. 1 ~ Local Membership Census Form

Feb. 15 ~ Financial Review



2023 Harpeth River District Officers

President	Beth Stockwell	St. Andrew Memorial UMC	bethstockwell7534@gmail.com
Vice President	Vacant		
Secretary	Marilyn Smith	St. Andrew Memorial UMC	mckayfirstone@energize.net
Treasurer	Debbie Miller	Franklin First UMC	debbie.miller718@gmail.com
E & I Coordinator	Vacant		
MNO Coordinator	Diana Garner	Thompson's Station UMC	grits3790@yahoo.com
Spiritual Growth Coord.	Marina Rawls	Franklin First UMC	anient@att.net
Social Action Coord.	Stacey Hagewood	Christ UMC	shagewood@gmail.com
Program Resources	Bobbi Toombs	Nolensville First UMC	bobbitoombs@att.net
Communications Coord.	Janet Pierce	Centerville UMC	pdj1169@gmail.com
Nominations Chair	Judy Davis	Thompson's Station UMC	jldavis71391@att.net
Class of 2023	Kate Howard	Columbia First UMC	katehoward01@gmail.com
Class of 2023	Frances Warpool	Bethesda UMC	bwarpool@bellsouth.net
Class of 2024	Pasty Elliott	Nolensville First UMC	pelliottquilter@comcast.net
Class of 2024	Peggy Owen	Centerville UMC	owenpeggy@gmail.com

Parables are glimpses into Christ's imagination.

From *Adult Curriculum: Who Can We Be Together? A Biblical Exploration of Luke 13* Copyright 2022 United Methodist Women. All rights reserved. Used by permission.



Prayer List

Beth	Bobbi	Brooke	Frances
Joy	Judy	Kate	Katie
Kila	Linda	Nita	Sydney
Tim			
People of Ukraine			
pdj1169@gmail.com			



Purpose of the United Women in Faith

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.



Helpful Resources

ALL of the Helpful Resources are located on the website:
hrumw.weebly.com under "Connections"

UWF / TWK Conference UMC / Facebook

Flicker / YouTube / Twitter

Pinterest / Instagram / New York Office

Church Center for the United Nation / Washington D.C. Office

CALENDAR of EVENTS

{District in BOLD}

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 Unit Officer Training & Faith Lift	
March 4 (Sat.)	10:00 am	Conference Executive Team Meeting	Smyrna First UMC
Apr. 23 (Sun.)	3:00 pm	Campaign for Children	Riverside UMC, Columbia
May 5-7 (Fri.-Sat.)		Conference Spiritual Growth Retreat	Beersheba Springs
June 24 (Sat.)	10:00 am 12:00 pm 1:00 pm	District Local President's Roundtable Lunch District Leadership Team Meeting	Prospect UMC, Prospect
July 13-15 (Thurs.-Sat.)		Mission u	Scarritt Bennett, Nashville
Aug. 5 (Sat.)	TBD	Conference Executive Team Meeting	TBD
Aug. 26 (Sat.)	9:30 am-2:00 pm 2:00 pm	District Mission Study/Brown Bag Lunch District Leadership Team Meeting	College Grove UMC, College Grove
Aug. 26		Conference Social Action Day	
Sept. 23 (Sat.)	9:00 am 9:30 am	Registration DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING	Lawrenceburg First UMC Lawrenceburg
Sept. 30 (Sat.)	TBD	Conference Annual Meeting	TBD
Oct. 20-22 (Fri.-Sun.)		Conference Fall Retreat	Beersheba
Nov. 4 (Sat.)	TBD	Conference Training for District Officers	TBD



Three privileges and duties of Christians:

let us approach God in faith and worship; (vv. 22 & 25)**let us hold fast the** public **confession of our hope**; (v. 23)**let us consider** how we can help others in love. (v. 24)*Hebrews 10:19-25 fn. (NRSV)*

Conference Training for District Officers @ Columbia First UMC, Columbia



Conference & District Officers during opening remarks.



Nita Wright and Robbie Hooper talking over the delicious gourmet lunches provided by the Caney Fork River District.



2023 Harpeth River District Officers at the Conference Training Event

From left to right, Beth Stockwell, President; Bobbi Toombs, Program Resources; Marilyn Smith, Secretary; Janet Pierce, Communication Coordinator; and Peggy Owen, Nominations Committee, Class of 2024.

