

The Flame

Arkansas Conference United Women in Faith

June 2023



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United Women in Faith Board Elects Sally Vonner General Secretary and CEO



NEW YORK, NY—United Women in Faith is pleased to announce the election of Sally Vonner to the position of General Secretary and Chief Executive Officer, effective June 1, 2023. The May 22 board vote culminated a six-month nationwide search

Ms. Vonner joined the organization's national staff in 2010 as Assistant General Secretary of Membership and Leadership Development. With reorganization in 2018, she became the Transformation Officer, coordinating the organization's visioning and strategic development to positively impact the lives of women, children, and youth. She oversaw an organizational rebranding that opened new ways for women to join, introduced program innovations and initiatives, and rolled out United Women in Faith as the new public-facing name.

"Sally is not just a woman who knows this organization but also a visionary who possesses a wealth of knowledge and experience," said 'Ainise 'Isama'u, board president. "She is the kind of leader who understands where we've been, where we are, and where we need to go."

Please follow this [link](#) to read the complete press release.

Greetings from the President Maybelline Strong



Sisters of Grace, many recent changes have occurred in Arkansas that personally touched our lives. On March 31, a fierce tornado blasted through Central Arkansas, neighboring towns and the city of Wynne. Many of our families, friends and neighbors were impacted by this catastrophic event. On Saturday, May 13 at a special session in Hot Springs, the Arkansas Annual Conference approved 67 United Methodist Churches to ratify their disaffiliation request to leave the denomination. Unfortunately, both of these events have severely impacted the United Women in Faith. These are just some of the challenges that we must face. This is an opportunity for us to reach out to other women in need and to take care of our Sisters of Grace. We must continue to keep our families, friends and neighbors in prayer for healing.

As members of United Women in Faith, we know that we can remain a member even if our church disaffiliates. Members and units that choose to stay connected beyond their church disaffiliating or their unit going inactive have an option to become an All Access Member and/or start an ALL ACCESS group to remain connected to the mission and work of United Women in Faith. It is vital for members to understand what's changing in our organization and why. Change can be positive but change can also be difficult. The United Women in Faith has always changed as times change.

Our message from Harriett Jane Olson in the May/June response Magazine talks about Mission Giving and how we need to collectively recommit to Mission Giving. She talks about careful spending being a must and reducing expenditures is not the way to grow our mission impact because our call to mission is strong and the needs of women, children, and youth are many.

As we share in sisterhood, we must continue to stand together to put our faith into action, be a source of strength and pray for peace, mercy and grace. We have to remain passionate about our mission, continue to inspire women and influence others to join us and to impact the world by making a lasting difference. Acts of love. Acts of faith. Acts of change.

Maybelline Strong, Arkansas Conference United Women in Faith President

Message from the Vice President Betty Cook



Sisters of Grace,

It's almost here---Annual Conference 2023, and, of even more importance, the United Women in Faith Annual Conference Luncheon. The luncheon will be from 12-1 at Hot Springs First United Methodist Church on Thursday, June 22. You do not have to attend Annual Conference to attend the luncheon. I am hoping to see many of you there. Registration is through the registration for Annual Conference and is \$20.00. I have outlined the steps to follow for registration below. If you run into problems, give me a call or shoot me a text or an email. The registration deadline is JUNE 9.

We have decided on a program of soul care. We are going to enjoy good food, good fellowship, great entertainment, and give our souls a chance to recharge during our time together. Rev. Bryan Diffie, senior pastor at Monticello First United Methodist Church will have his sidekick with him to entertain, and Sheridan High School senior Jackson Applegat will be performing some of his favorite pieces for the trumpet. There may even be a surprise or two awaiting you. If you are attending Annual Conference, please remember that you do not have to get to your car. Church buses will be parked outside the Convention Center on the street between the Center and the Embassy Suites Hotel. They will take you to the luncheon, and, most importantly, bring you back to the Convention Center. Invite your pastor to attend the luncheon as your guest.

Please save the date Saturday, November 4, for the United Women in Faith's 20th Annual Meeting and District Officer Training at Conway First. Bishop Laura Merrill will be our guest speaker. Much more information will be forthcoming as we get closer to the time.

Peace and joy, my sisters,

Betty Cook, Arkansas Conference United Women in Faith Vice President

**United Women in Faith
Annual Conference Luncheon**
Thursday, June 22, 12:00-1:00
FUMC Hot Springs, 1100 Central Avenue

Join Your Sisters of United Women in Faith
for an Hour of Soul Care through Fun & Fellowship!

Entertainment
by
Rev. Bryan Diffie
Ventriloquist
&
Jackson Applegat
Musician

Registration is required at arumc.org/ac2023
Cost \$20

Free shuttle bus provided
to and from venue

For more information,
contact Betty Cook
870.942.6461
jbook@windstream.net

Message from the Treasurer Betty Baxter



It is no secret that mission giving is down for our United Women of Faith organization worldwide. Our membership numbers are down. COVID 19 really wreaked havoc on our meetings. And these economic times are difficult. I wish I could say the Arkansas Conference United Women of Faith has not faced these problems, but we have. We did not reach our national pledge last year. At this point, we definitely are not ahead in our mission giving this year.

Besides our tried and true fund raising by rummage sales and bake sales, be creative in ways to increase your unit's giving to mission. Be sure to share your successes with other UWF units through this newsletter. Everyone loves new successful ideas.

Mile of Pennies is another ways to support mission giving, a little at a time. The pennies, other coins and even dollar bills that we collect as Mile of Pennies are another way of giving that is not too painful, Those collected coins are added to our pledge to mission. Always keep in mind how important our support is to so many women, youth and children around the world.

A reminder – Five Star Woman forms need to be turned into your local treasurer soon. She has a deadline of July 1 to send them to the District Treasurer. She has to send them on to the Conference Treasurer (me) so that the pins and bars may be order in time to get them back and distributed by the fall meetings. Please be prompt with these forms.

By now your unit's bank account should reflect our new name - United Women in Faith. The legal title is United Methodist Women Doing Business As United Women in Faith. A little wordy, but that's how it is for now. Just reach out to your district treasurer if you are still working toward this and are having some difficulties with your bank. We will assist you, even if we have to get the National Office involved.

May you share the joy of our loving God with everyone through your actions!
Betty Baxter, Arkansas Conference United Women in Faith Treasurer



Committee on Nominations News Shelley Lee



Undercover Agents of Change

Prior to my time on the Conference Committee on Nominations, I was vaguely aware of the work the CON did each year to fill vacancies among the officers, mission coordinators and the CON itself. After all, someone contacted me for the position I have. But, lo and behold, every four year something extra special happens!

In the year before our Jurisdiction meeting, which is in June 2024, the CON must select nominees for National Directors. Then, in case no one is elected from our Conference as a Director, the CON must have nominees for the Program Advisory Group (PAG). Finally, someone must do all the voting at the Jurisdiction Meeting so the CON must select voting delegates! Believe me, it's a lot.

Our Committee is working on our Conference slate as well as all the nominees for Jurisdiction. Once women are selected and agree to serve if elected, a slate will be presented at our Annual Meeting in November.

I am no longer "vaguely aware" of the undercover work of the CON. The work of this committee is what keeps the many gears of our wonderful organization running smoothly.

Shelley Lee, Arkansas Conference United Women in Faith Chairperson Committee on Nominations

Membership, Nurture & Outreach Kim Burton



The 2022 Survey is ready for you! The survey is intended to be completed by the unit president or All Access group Convener. Each unit president should receive the survey from their district president. I encourage you to look at the sample provided before beginning the survey. Answering the questions will take about 15-20 minutes to complete. The sample survey will be available until June 30 and the survey is due August 30.

Has your church disaffiliated? This survey is completing information about 2022 so if you do not plan to continue as a United Women in Faith unit in 2023 it would be very appreciated if you would go ahead and fill out the survey. Hopefully, even if your church has disaffiliated you will continue as a United Women in Faith unit and you will fill out the survey as you have done in the past.

What to do you do if your church has disaffiliated, your unit is not going to continue as a United Women in Faith unit but you wish to remain a United Woman in Faith? We will help you find another unit near you, help you join online or become a district member. The new name and new online resources will help you be able to participate as a United Woman in Faith the way that best works for you.



Education and Interpretation Coordinator Rosetta DuBose



Sisters of Grace--United Women in Faith women, children, and youth are the focus of our ministry. The mission projects and activities that we do are about what can be done to better their lives. I hope that you have been able to follow the Mission Today Criteria and complete those projects that fit your unit's goals. Do not forget that reports will be due August 15th (Mission Study, Mission Today Jewel Unit reports and the Susanna Wesley Award) to your District E and I Coordinator so that they can send their report to me by September 1st.

Mission u is also coming in July, and we hope that you will join us as we explore the Good News and what it means for our lives. This year's theme is "Living the Kin-dom" and will be held at Hendrix's college July 26-29, 2023. Scholarship requests are due by June 15, 2023, so please send them before that date.

Have a blessed rest of the year and continue to support United Women in Faith in your spiritual journey with Christ. .

Rosetta Dubose, Arkansas Conference United Women in Faith Education & Interpretation Coordinator



Check out the Mission u [website](#) for all information regarding Mission u 2023. All of the forms and deadlines are there and the full brochure and schedule will be added soon





Hendrix College • July 26-29, 2023

Who: Mission u is open to members and non-members of United Women in Faith. Arkansas Conference Mission u offers classes, workshops, mission work, and plenary sessions, as well as studies for children and youth. A nursery is also available for infants and toddlers.

Where: Mission u is held on the Hendrix College campus in Conway.

When: Wednesday, July 26 - Saturday, July 29

Theme: Living the Kin-dom

This will be a two-year study, with a distinct curriculum created for both 2023 and 2024. In 2023 of Living the Kin-dom, we will explore the heart of the good news of the kingdom. Why do preaching the good news of the Kin-dom and acts of curing and healing seem to go hand in hand (Luke 9: 2, 11)? If the kingdom of God is like a man who scatters seed (Mark 4:26-29), like yeast (Matt 13:33; Luke 13:20-21), or like hidden treasure (Matt 13:44) what kind of kingdom was Jesus ushering in? How did this kingdom compare to Rome, the ruling empire of his day? And why do we prefer kin-dom over kingdom?

What: Arkansas Conference Mission u is an opportunity to study current issues impacting society based on recent mission study topics. At Mission u, participants grow in understanding of the mission of the church in the current world context. The studies give particular attention to the responsibilities of women in the fulfillment of the mission work of the church.

Mission u events also include:

- Worship & singing
- Interest groups around current issues
- Audiovisual presentations
- Fellowship events
- Mission project

Cost: \$175 for on campus youth and adults. Other options are available. Scholarships are also available.

Find more information online:

armissionu.weebly.com and find us on Facebook by searching **Arkansas Conference Mission u**.



2023 Mission u

2023 Dates & Deadlines for Mission u

Below are the deadline dates for the 2023 Arkansas Conference Mission u. Deadlines must be strictly adhered to, so please do your best to meet them. There can be NO exceptions to the published deadlines.

- June 13 - Scholarship application deadline
- June 23 - T-shirt order deadline
- June 30 - Nursery childcare request deadline
- June 30 - Special needs deadline
- June 30 - Paper registration postmark deadline
- July 12 - Online registration deadline

Breakout Workshops for Arkansas Conference Mission u 2023

Images of Jesus: The Evolution of the Holy Image (art) by Jaime Rollans, Art History Consultant

Mrs. Rollans' visual presentation explores how Jesus has been depicted historically and by various cultures in art.

Caring for Creation, by Reverend Angie Gage, Global Missions EarthKeeper

Reverend Gage will describe EarthKeepers, a training program to equip United Methodists in the United States for environmental stewardship, and projects she has created.

Church and Community Missionary by Trisha Manns

Miss Manns will describe what led her to become a missionary, her service experiences, and how she serves the Arkansas Conference as a U. S. missionary.

Spiritual Direction with Tee Bolin, Tracy DePue and Reverend Mary Jane Cole (organized by Brenda Gullett, ARUWF Spiritual Growth Coordinator) Three trained spiritual guides will provide a welcoming, safe and non-judgmental space of compassion where participants can connect with God.

Soul for Service Caring Cards with Gretchen Diffie, Resource Coordinator/Lending Librarian, ARCUWF
Gretchen will guide participants in creating inspirational cards for the Mu mission project and for service projects at local churches. Materials will be provided.

The 5-Star Church Initiative, Reverend Hammett Evans, Asbury UMC, BOGM Chair

Reverend Evans will describe a new initiative on how churches can be awarded recognition for their participation in global and local missions connected to the United Methodist Church and our conference.

Chair Yoga with Reverend Jessica Durand, Associate Pastor, St. James UMC, Little Rock

Reverend Durand, a 200-hour Certified Yoga Instructor, will lead a chair yoga session for activity-loving attendees.

Line Dancing with Marleene Calvin, Mu Assistant Registrar

Marleene will lead a line-dancing session for those loving movement with music.



2023 Mission u t-shirt order form

- *IF you register ONLINE you can purchase t-shirts with your registration. This form is ONLY for individuals who send in a paper registration.*
 - T-shirts are available for all 2023 Mission u attendees
 - T-shirts will be available for pick up during check-in at Mission u. If you attend virtually, a small shipping fee will be added.
 - Pre-order t-shirts will be available for purchase until June 23. If you do not pre-order your size t-shirt we cannot guarantee a shirt for you to buy at check-in.
 - Pre-order t-shirt payment must be received before your order is processed.
 - T-shirts are above and beyond the limits of an awarded scholarship.
 - Please return this form, along with payment to: Beth Cobb, 1112 M Terrace, Barling, AR 72923
 - Make checks payable to Arkansas Conference Mission u.
 - Pay via PayPal: bethcobb@att.net or CashApp: \$BethACobb
- Put the size(s) you need in the message portion or mail Beth a paper copy of this form

Youth S – Adult XL are \$14 • Adult 2XL – 4XL are \$16

Shipping: \$5/shirt (\$10 max)

<u>Size</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Total \$</u>
_____	_____	\$_____
_____	_____	\$_____
_____	_____	\$_____
Shipping	_____	\$_____
TOTAL	_____	\$_____



Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Questions? Muriel Schrepfer – themurielstar@gmail.com or Beth Cobb – bethcobb@att.net



Spiritual Growth Coordinator Brenda Gullett



While the phrase “spiritual direction” may sound a bit lofty, it is simply a relationship through which one person assists another in attending to the presence and call of God in all of life. Though not always called by this name, spiritual direction has been a vital ministry in many streams of the Church for hundreds of years.

Spiritual direction is for anyone yearning for God. Sometimes this desire appears as a sense of longing for something greater or a sense of discontent with the status quo. For others this pining is more focused, rising from a clear understanding that a sense of God’s presence is missing from particular parts of life.

The role of spiritual director involves asking evocative questions that invite others to attend to the presence and the voice of God. The experience of spiritual direction involves taking time to care for your soul and examine your spiritual journey with someone who provides heartfelt listening and reflection along the way. (arumc.org)

This sounds very appealing and exiting to me. How about you? Well, guess what this practice is alive and well in the Arkansas Conference and those of you attending Mission U will experience a meaningful introduction to this concept.

Introduction to Spiritual Direction will be done in a workshop format on Thursday afternoon of Mission U. We will be privileged to have the following women as our leaders. All three have been trained at Perkins Seminary and work with the Arkansas Conference.

Tee Bolin: “My invitation as a spiritual director is simply, as a guide, to explore and offer a deeper connection to your uniquely created and divine path. A protected canyon that allows you to speak out loud your very soul and hear back the echo of God.”

Mary Jane Cole: “As a Spiritual Director, I serve as a companion walking alongside a person on their path of discovery and growth. Through deep listening, reflective questions, and holding sacred and safe space, we give attention to noticing the work and presence of the Holy in a person’s life. “We are not human beings having a spiritual experience. We are spiritual beings having a human experience.”

Tracy DePue: “As a director, my intent is to offer a welcoming, safe and non-judgmental space of compassion and curiosity where you can connect with God and yourself in the exploration of your journey together.”

Along these same lines, are you aware of The Calling Kit offered for churches by the Arkansas Conference. The Calling Kit: Every person has a calling. It is the mission of the ARUMC Culture of Calling initiative to help guide every local church to create an environment in which every person is invited to discover their calling and to find out how they might live into that calling. By using The Calling Kit in your local church, you will create a safe space for exploration and discernment.

Regardless of being an individual or a congregation in need of “hearing your call”, resources are available at ARUMC.org.

Blessings,

Brenda Gullett, Arkansas Conference United Women in Faith Spiritual Growth Coordinator

Social Action Coordinator

LaVerne Paige



Charter for Racial Justice in an Interdependent Global Community

Because we believe:

1. That God is the Creator of all people, and all are God's children in one family;
2. That racism is a rejection of the teachings of Jesus Christ;
3. That racism denies the redemption and reconciliation of Jesus Christ;
4. That racism robs all human beings of their wholeness and is used as a justification for social, economic, environmental and political exploitation;
5. That we must declare before God and before one another that we have sinned against our sister and brothers of other races in thought, in word and in deed;
6. That in our common humanity in creation, all women and men are made in God's image, and all persons are equally valuable in the sight of God;
7. That our strength lies in our racial and cultural diversity and that we must work toward a world in which each person's value is respected and nurtured;
8. That our struggle for justice must be based on new attitudes, new understandings and new relationships, and must be reflected in the laws, policies, structures and practices of both church and state;

We commit ourselves as individuals and as a community to follow Jesus Christ in word and in deed, and to struggle for the rights and the self-determination of every person and group of persons.

Therefore, as United Methodists in every place across the land, we will unite our efforts within the church to take the following actions:

1. Eliminate all forms of institutional racism in the total ministry of the church, giving special attention to those institutions that we support, beginning with their employment policies, purchasing practices, environmental policies and availability of services and facilities.
2. Create opportunities in local churches to deal honestly with the existing racist attitudes and social distance between members, deepening the Christian commitment to be the church where all racial groups and economic classes come together.
3. Increase efforts to recruit people of all races into the membership of The United Methodist Church and provide leadership development opportunities without discrimination.
4. Establish workshops and seminars in local churches to study, understand and appreciate the historical and cultural contributions of each race to the church and community.
5. Raise local churches' awareness of the continuing needs for equal education, housing, employment, medical care and environmental justice for all members of the community, and to create opportunities to work for these things across racial lines.
6. Work for the development and implementation of national and international policies to protect the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of all people such as through support of the ratification of United Nations covenants on human rights.
7. Support and participate in the worldwide struggle for liberation in church and community.
8. Facilitate nomination and election processes that include all racial groups by employing a system that prioritizes leadership opportunities of people from communities that are disproportionately impacted by the ongoing legacy of racial injustice, and use measures to align our vision for racial justice with actions that accelerate racial equality.



News from the Resource Coordinator/ Lending Librarian Gretchen Diffie



It's time to finish reading those books! If you are participating in the Reading Program, start double-checking your list and make sure you have all the categories covered. Don't forget to keep reading the response magazine as well. I will have the Lending Library at Mission u if you need to check out or return books. I can also mail books to you. I just ask that you reimburse me the postage amount. If you have never participated in the Reading Program, I challenge you to give it a try. There are so many good books on the list. It's not too late to read 5 books by August. You can do it! Let me know if I can help you.

Gretchen Diffie, Arkansas Conference United Women in Faith Resource Coordinator / Lending Librarian
208 Glenwood Dr. Monticello, AR 71655
501-467-2262



THE BUNDLE IS BACK !!

You've asked and we've delivered - The 2024 Bundle is now available for pre-ordering! This year we are offering a 20% discount on the whole Bundle offer, including the cost of shipping and handling (tax for NY and TX residents still apply).

The Bundle includes:

- Daily Prayer Guide 2024 (\$19.99)
- Program Resource 2024 (\$14.99)*
- Adult Curriculum for Mission u (\$14.99)

Bundle shipments will start mailing in December of 2023.

You can also print out the Bundle Order form and submit with a check. Click [HERE](#) to download and print/share the form.

This offer is available for the first 1,500 subscribers - act now!**

* The Program Resource 2024 will start in January. The interim months of September through December 2023 will be offered on our digital portal: UWfaith.org/digital

* The 20% off the retail price offer - including shipping and handling - is available through December 31, 2023, for the first 1,500 subscribers. Afterwards, the Bundle will be discounted to \$45 but shipping and handling cost will be added to the order. Taxes will apply to all orders from NY and TX residents.

[Click to order the 2024 Bundle today!](#)



Communication Updates

Beth Cobb



- The Arkansas Conference United Women in Faith Facebook address is: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1426747784743865> or you can search in Facebook for "Arkansas Conference United Women in Faith". Please join/follow our group and invite anyone that you think might be interested. I will try to update it regularly and answer any questions that you might have.
- If you need to contact me, please add: aruwfnewsletter@gmail.com to your contact list, so things sent won't end up in the Spam folder. If you know of someone who might be interested in being added to the email list, please let them know to contact me or just send me their information. Along those same lines, if you are receiving a newsletter and do not wish to do so, please let me know that, as well. I do my best to remove those who request to be removed quickly, but their email addresses may be in multiple places. Be please patient, as receiving something that you requested to be removed from can be irritating but it is completely by accident.
- Newsletter will be published and emailed during the first week of June, September and December.
- I will begin to develop a website, in the near future. It will be a work in progress, but I think it will be a welcome addition to our communications.

I hope you enjoy these newsletters and our Facebook group.

Beth Cobb, Arkansas Conference United Women in Faith Communications Coordinator



Arkansas Conference United Women in Faith T shirts
are available



- Adult Small - Adult XL are \$22 Plus \$5 shipping cost
- Please return this form, along with payment to: Beth Cobb, 1112 M Terrace, Barling, AR 72923
- Make checks payable to Arkansas Conference United Women in Faith or you can send payment via PayPal (bethcobb@att.net) or Cash App (\$BethACobb)

T shirt size _____ # of shirts _____ T shirt cost \$_____ PLUS \$5 shipping = TOTAL _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

I will have these t shirts at the United Women in Faith luncheon during Annual Conference.





Central District Happenings

Carolyn Schumacher, President

Central District United Women in Faith met on Saturday, April 22nd at Mabelvale United Methodist Church for a Mission Study entitled "Who Are We Together?" Reverend Deborah Bell, Theresa Hoover Memorial United Methodist Church Little Rock, led our study. There were 65 members present. All attendees were very engaged during the study even though there were some technical difficulties. Pastor Deborah challenged attendees with her questions as well as being entertaining. Everyone left with information to ponder and discuss with others. Mabelvale United Women in Faith provided delicious food and drink for the morning and lunch. Attendees were full of knowledge and nourishment to continue to grow in their spiritual journey.





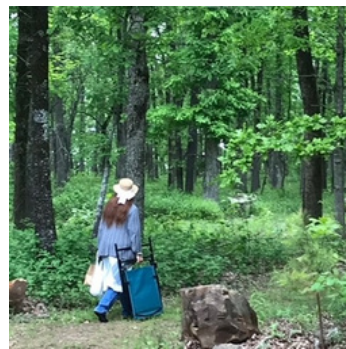
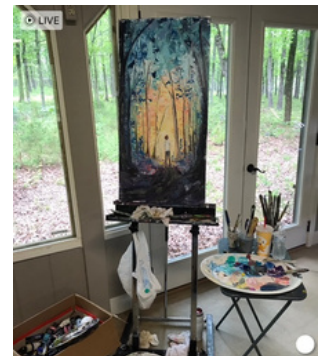
Northeast District Happenings

Pam Gunsten, President

It is a busy time for all. Face to face Unit meetings and community events are taking shape after the impact of COVID. It is truly a blessing to be able to implement our mission of connection, nurturing and support in working together. We took a different approach to Officers Training as a way to better serve our needs in responding to the many changes and new opportunities facing us. Going to four different locations in the district, we held 2 hour Unit Leadership trainings. Not only did it reduce travel time for many, but allowed for Units to come together and begin to share ideas and ways we could move forward. Special thanks to our host Units: Norfolk, Holiday Hills, Corning and Mountain View.

Mentioned earlier, activities have picked up, some new, some reinstated. United Women In Faith Sundays are being held with focus on sharing new programs and the role of the women leaders within each community. To name just a few other events: the Melbourne Unit held a Soup and Sandwich Luncheon to raise monies to purchase suitcases for foster children. So often they may only have a plastic bag to carry their belongings. The Holiday Hills Ladies May Salad Luncheon to honor and better connect all women in the surrounding communities was bigger and better than ever. Offered twice a year, there had to be over 80 salads to enjoy as well as 130 plus women to try every one. The Cherokee Village women assisted in transforming their church into a warming shelter complete with beds, meals, activities, and transportation during the unusual cold front that hit their area. CVUMC even included care for pets. The ladies at Wynne and surrounding areas responded immediately to the tornadoes that ravaged their community. And Units throughout the state continue to respond to the need regardless of the location. Arkansas is truly a caring and giving state.

Our Spring Day Apart was held May 6 at Mount Eagle Methodist Retreat Center. It was the perfect spot to focus on our two social justice issues: Climate and Racial justice. What better spot to be reminded that God has given us the stewardship of His creation. Terrariums were made as an example of the role we each play in caring for our little ecosystem. We took a much different approach to racial justice by focusing on our inclusion journey and its impact in creating a culture of acceptance. Led by representatives from the Unified Champion High School, Vilonia, we worked our way through the Inclusion Revolution exercise and discussed the role each of us has. Norfolk Unit President Lerene Salisbury, shared the many hymns and life of Fanny Crosby, a poet who lost her sight as a baby but went on to write over 85,000 poems, a true example of the "differabilities" we all have. Walks in the beautiful Mount Eagle, Holy listening time provided us with that quiet time with God. Our day ended with the playing of harps by LuAnn Martin and Charlotte Turner as we gathered for the Love Feast. Woven throughout the day was the powerful music of Chuck Guthrie. Truly, a blessed day.





Northwest District Happenings

Lynn Baker, President

**Need a Mission Study before July?
You are in luck!**

Join the Northwest District for a two-part Zoom study.

Who Can We Be Together? A Biblical Exploration of Luke 13

Lead by Reverend Claire Thompson, Pastor Charleston UMC

Part A: Sunday, June 4, 2:00 - 4:00 pm

Part B: Sunday, June 11, 2:00 - 4:00 pm

Registration Deadline: May 31

Link to Register Online: [NW District Mission Study 2023](#)

Follow this [link](#) to download a paper registration form.





Southeast District Happenings

Sandra Parham Turner, President

The spring meeting of the Southeast District United Women in Faith was on April 15, 2023, at West Memphis First United Methodist Church in West Memphis, Arkansas. Maybelline Strong, Conference President, and Betty Cook, Conference Vice-President, were among the 43 in attendance and addressed members during the business meeting. Afterward, host president Janet Burnham introduced the Ladies' Ensemble of West Memphis FUMC, who performed special music. District Vice-President Tricia Young explained that Central District Disaster Response Coordinators Shelley and Roy Lee were scheduled to present a program but could not attend due to recent tornadoes, as they were assisting with cleanup. Instead, the attendees watched a message from Shelley on disaster relief. A special collection for Mission, totaling \$1,279.00, went to disaster relief in Wynne. Tricia delivered the money and various donated items to Wynne after the meeting.

We had a fascinating mission study on the book, Faithful, led by Vikki Hamilton, on Saturday, May 6, at St. Luke's in Pine Bluff. The 28 in attendance learned through stories in scripture about God's faithfulness to women. Building community with one another was a blessing as we discovered how God continues to be faithful to us as women today. We appreciate Vikki and all the women from St. Luke's who graciously welcomed us. It was truly a wonderful day!





Southwest District Happenings

Kathy Seward, President

Hello, again from the Southwest District.

As you may or may not know, I attend First Methodist Church in Malvern. During Circle this week, the devotion given really resonated with me. It was about your spiritual life and the rest of your life. The difference between attending church, Bible study, daily devotions, praying and washing dishes, mowing the lawn, gardening, vacuuming, and the thousand other things household or workplace chores you do. But should there be a difference. When you are a true child of God, shouldn't we see our father in everything we do. When doing the dishes, we can be thankful for the food that was on the plates, and the running water to make the bubbles. When making the bed we can be thankful for a bed to sleep in and the roof over our head. One thing I do, when mowing the law (which by the way I love to do), I think of those on the church prayer list, of friends that are going through a rough patch and pray for them all. So, if you find yourself unable to find the time to pray, remember you can do it anywhere and anytime. You will also find you are finding the spiritual in everything you do.

I would like to thank the United Women in Faith of Christ of the Hills Church in Hot Springs Village. They presented a Mission Study on February 25th on "Who Can We Be Together?" with Rev. Pam Estes as Study Leader. Those of you who know Rev. Pam with understand was a great day it was.

Events coming up:

The United Women in Faith Annual Conference Luncheon. It will be held June 22nd from 12:00 to 1:00 pm. You may register at ARUMC.org.

Mission u, July 26 - 29th at Hendrix College. Check out the website at armissionu.weebly.com. Love to see you all there.

Have a wonderful, spiritual Summer!





Happy Summer and Merry Christmas (in July)!

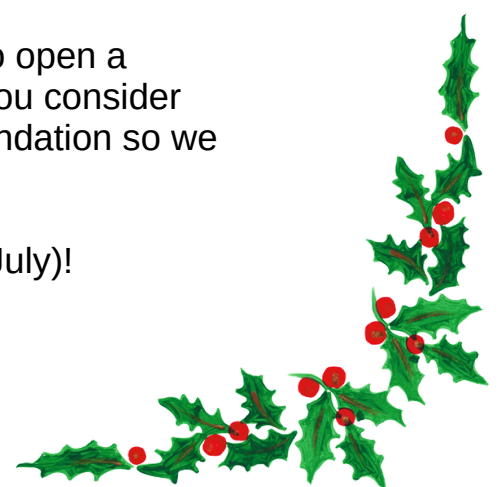
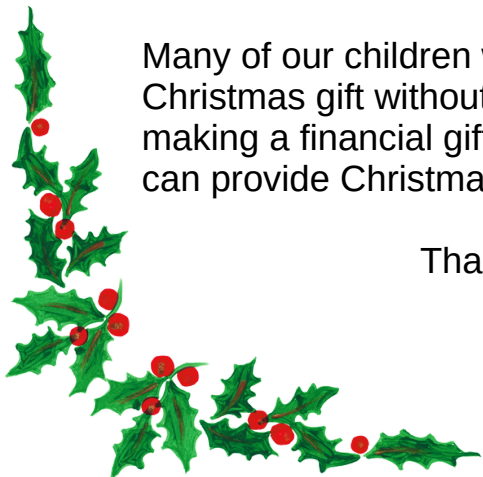
Methodist Family Health Foundation is introducing a new, convenient way to give back for the holiday season. This appeal is separate from our Share the Light end-of-year Christmas campaign. The holidays are often the most stressful times for families, caregivers, foster families and, especially, children who have been abandoned, abused, neglected and are suffering from psychiatric, behavioral, emotional and spiritual issues. Your loving support helps us give these children gifts they would otherwise never have been able to receive.

Take, for example, these families in our care from last year: a blended family of 10 children lost their legal guardian in September 2022. Without in-kind and financial gifts from donors like you, this family would likely have gone without anything for Christmas.

Another family was affected by a job loss, and they were struggling just to make ends meet with one income. The father of this family accepted your help for Christmas, and his family was able to enjoy the holidays without making a choice between necessities and Christmas gifts.

Many of our children would not have the opportunity to open a Christmas gift without your loving generosity. Would you consider making a financial gift to Methodist Family Health Foundation so we can provide Christmas gifts for those in our care?

Thank you and Merry Christmas (in July)!





Ways to Give

Here are some easy ways you can contribute financially – now or anytime – to Methodist Family Health Foundation:

- ONLINE at MethodistFamily.org/Donate and choose Christmas in July in the designation box
- CALL Christy at 501-906-4201 to make a secure contribution using your debit or credit card
- MAIL a cash or check donation to:
 - Methodist Family Health Foundation
 - 1600 Aldersgate Road, Suite 100
 - Little Rock, Arkansas 72205Please note Christmas in July on the memo line
- PLACE a check or offering envelope addressed to Methodist Family Health Foundation in the offering plate at your church (please note Christmas in July on your offering)
- SCAN this QR code using your smartphone's camera to make a contribution online



150 next

There's a special poem written by Linda Ellis entitled The Dash. It reminds us that once a life is over, it is neither the birth date nor the death date that is important. What truly matters is how a life is lived in the dash between those two dates.

What will your legacy be? Will you make your dash matter with an ongoing gift to the United Women in Faith Legacy Endowment Fund?

If you become a Legacy Builder with a monthly gift to the fund, or designate a planned gift through your will, insurance, bequest or other avenues, you can trust that your dash will make an impact. Your legacy, your dash, will benefit women children and youth for decades to come.

Make your dash count...contact Lynn R. Baker, Legacy Liaison
501.339.3458 or lynn.baker.umw@gmail.com.

ADDITIONAL ARKANSAS CONFERENCE UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH LEADERSHIP TEAM

There are several members of the leadership team that do not contribute newsletter articles but work behind the scenes to help ACUWF succeed. As requested, here are pictures of those ladies.



Rebecca Simmons



Judy Green



Sue Hutchison



Jamie Bird



Gretchen Simmons



Neva Johnson



Sue Haskins



Paulina Webber



Jo Webber



Terry Gregory



Diana Hendricks

Arkansas Conference United Women in Faith 2023 Leadership Team

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2023 ARKANSAS CONFERENCE UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH CALENDAR

June 4	Northwest District Mission Study - Via Zoom
June 11	Northwest District Mission Study - Via Zoom
June 21-24	AR Annual Conference - Hot Springs Convention Center, Hot Springs
June 22	Arkansas Conference UWF Luncheon
July 8	Northeast District Leadership Team Meeting - TBD
July 15	Southeast District Leadership Team Meeting - Crossett UMC
July 15	Central District Leadership Team Meeting - Zoom
July 26-29	Arkansas Conference Mission u - Hendrix College, Conway
July 27/28	Northwest District Leadership Team Meeting - Mission u
Aug 6 or 13	Mission u Planning Team Meeting - TBD
Aug 12	Southwest District Leadership Team Meeting - Grand Avenue UMC Hot Springs
Aug 25-27	AR Conference UMW Leadership Team Meeting - Methodist Foundation for Arkansas
Aug 29-Sep 7	General Conference of the UMC, Minneapolis, MN
Sept 16	Southwest District Fall Meeting - Grand Avenue UMC Hot Springs
Sept 23	Central District Fall Meeting - TBD
Sept 23	(Tentative) Northeast District Fall Meeting - Mountain View FUMC
Sept 30	Southeast District Fall Meeting - Warren UMC
Oct 7	Northwest District Fall Meeting - Farmington UMC
Oct 16	Camp Aldersgate Fish Fry - Camp Aldersgate, Little Rock
Nov 4	20th Annual Meeting of Arkansas Conference UWF and District Officer Training - Conway FUMC



At the end of April, we lost Helen Emerson. "Her life was full of love as she served others, sacrificed for them, and shared her enthusiasm for God and life. She demonstrated these qualities through her love for St. Luke United Methodist Church and the United Methodist Church's Southeast District. She was a dedicated Choir Member and very instrumental in the Arkansas Annual Conference and the Southeast District, serving in the following capacities: Southeast District Lay Leader, St. Luke United Women in Faith President, Southeast District Leadership Board, Southeast District Committee on Ministry, Southeast District Board of Church Location & Building, and the Ethnic and Language Committee-Arkansas Conference. She was also an Annual Conference Long Standing Teller and the Coordinator of Ministries to Incarcerated Women and Their Children (MIWATCH)."



On a personal note, Helen was an expert on Robert's Rules of Order. I remember my first meeting as Dean of Mission u. I was upfront about that not being my strongest area but I knew with Helen in the room that things would be done correctly. The next week, I received a package in the mail from Helen. It included a note and a brand new copy of Robert's Rules. She encouraged me and told me that she was there to help me. I appreciated that act of kindness from her and we will all miss her. I imagine things in Heaven got a lot more organized and proper when Helen walked through those gates. As I have heard my Dad say so many times "Well done, good and faithful servant" Matthew 25:23

Beth

