

# The Flame

Arkansas Conference United Women in Faith

SEPTEMBER 2025



United  
Women  
in Faith

ARKANSAS CONFERENCE  
22nd Annual Meeting &  
District Officer/Coordinator Training

**WE HAVE CELEBRATED....NOW WHAT?**

*with Guest Speaker Brenda Gullett*  
*Arkansas Conference UWFaith Spiritual Growth Coordinator*

**Saturday, November 1, 2025**  
**FUMC North Little Rock | 6701 JFK Blvd**

**Registration/Refreshments 9:00**  
**Meeting 9:30-2:00**

You must pre-register to attend | Cost \$25  
Registration open from September 1 - October 11  
<https://united-women-in-faith-annual-meeting.raiselysite.com/>

Questions or need help registering?  
Contact Betty Cook at 870.942.6461 or [jbcook@windstream.net](mailto:jbcook@windstream.net)

President

Vice President

Treasurer

Education & Interpretation

Spiritual Growth

Committee on Nominations

Social Action

Resource/Lending Librarian

Communications

Central District

Northeast District

Northwest District

South District

Mission u

Legacy Fund

MIWATCH

MFA - Civil Rights Journey

Camp Aldersgate - Fish Fry

Around the Conference

2025 ACUWF Leadership Team

2025 ACUWF Calendar

# Greetings from President Maybelline Strong

Sisters of Grace,

Greetings and thank you for your continued work and support of the United Women in Faith. We have been very busy despite the extremely warm weather that we have experienced. Annual Conference in June and the Mission u in July was well attended by the United Women in Faith. Many thanks to all the ladies and our children who participated in these activities.

In 2024, the Arkansas Annual Conference United Methodist Church redistrict the Arkansas Conference from five districts to a four district structure effective July 1, 2024. Because of this redistrict and the disaffiliation of the United Methodist Church, many changes were made. These changes caused our United Women in Faith to work harder to ensure that the changes resulted in a positive and inclusive action designed to impact our mission to continue to support women, children and youth. Since those changes have been made, we have lost numerous United Women in Faith units but we gained members from some of those units that we lost. The reason that those members elected to join some of our Units is because they felt that their membership to United Women in Faith was more important about connecting, growing and impacting our communities.

During the third quarter, the Leadership Team will be meeting at the Methodist Foundation to conduct business for 2026 and the Districts will also be conducting their Fall Meetings around the state. The United Women in Faith is an institution that can move and make changes together to inspire, influence and impact local and global communities. Remember that it takes courage and boldness to fight for women, children and youth around the world.

# Message from Vice President Betty Cook

Greetings, Sisters of Grace,

Thanks to all of you who attended the 2025 Annual Conference United Women in Faith Luncheon and a huge shout out of thanks to all of those at Hot Springs FUMC for their gracious hospitality in hosting the 201 attendees! Annual Confer4ence 2026 will be held June 15-17, and our luncheon will be on MONDAY rather than Wednesday. Mark your calendar now!

This article is going to be rather lengthy, so I am dividing it into sections for easier reading: ANNUAL MEETING NOVEMBER 1; ASSEMBLY 2026; INFORMATION NEEDED FROM LOCAL UNITS FOR ANNUAL MEETING; and TSHIRT/SWEATSHIRT ORDER.

## **22ND ANNUAL MEETING**

Our 22nd Annual Meeting will be held November 1, 2025, at North Little Rock First United Methodist Church, 6701 JFK Boulevard, North Little Rock. Registration will be from 9 to 9:30 and will end around 2. The speaker for this year's meeting will be our own Brenda Gullett, the Arkansas Conference United Women in Faith Spiritual Growth Coordinator. The theme for the meeting will be "We Have Celebrated . . . Now What?" with her scripture being 1 Samuel 7:12 NIV 12 Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen. He named it Ebenezer, saying, "Thus far the Lord has helped us."

Registration for the luncheon will be \$25.00 and will be open Monday, September 1, and close on October 11. You can click on this [link](#) to go to the registration. If you have any problem or any question(s), do not hesitate to call or send a text to 870-942-6461 or email me at [jbcook@windstream.net](mailto:jbcook@windstream.net). If you send a text, please tell me who you are in the text. You will also be able to access the registration link on the United Women in Faith Conference webpage, and our very efficient Communications Coordinator Beth Cobb will be sending emails containing the link.

There will be a soul care session for those who do not have a district officer training session to attend after lunch. The officers who should attend officer training are those who will hold the district office in 2026. Both the current district officer and the incoming district officer should register as district officers.

Watch for more information as we get closer to November 1! I hope to see you there. We are going to have a good time, learn new things, and be inspired to go out and make a difference!

## **INFORMATION NEEDED FROM LOCAL UNITS FOR USE AT THE ANNUAL MEETING**

We want to once again honor those who have been United Women in Faith members who have been in the organization for 50 or more years. We will include the ladies from last year

# Message from Vice President - page 2

if you let me know they are still in your group. Please send an individual picture of each lady with her name and the number of years of membership (this can be a guesstimate if you do not know the exact number of years! (Don't you love made up words?) Label each picture with the name and home church of the lady. Please send these by email rather than a text message.

If you have a member who is 100 years of age or more, please send a picture with her name and home church.

Please, at one of your local unit meetings, count the number of members and total number of years each one has been a member of United Women in Faith (or previous name of the organization). Please send me the name of your home church, number of members, and TOTAL number of years of membership for all members combined. This can be a text or an email.

**I absolutely must have this information by October 6** so we can put together a slideshow for Annual Meeting.

## **ASSEMBLY 2026**

I know May 15-17 seems long time away, but I promise it will be here before you know it. If you have never attended Assembly before, you have missed an exciting, informative, and inspiring event. Dream It! Believe It! Do It! is the theme for Assembly 2026 in Indianapolis May 15-17, 2026. You will want to arrive on the 14<sup>th</sup> because Assembly kicks off at 8:45 am (Eastern time) on Friday, May 15.

## **Hotel Registration**

We have reserved a block of 40 rooms at the JW Marriott which connects to the convention center by a walkway. As I write this, 13 of the 40 rooms we blocked have been reserved. To get into the Arkansas block, you must reserve your room by December 1. Rooms can be reserved after December 1, but they will not be in the Arkansas block. Whenever you make your reservation, rooms are \$199 (plus taxes) per night, and the rooms have 2 queen beds.

The link to book a room(s) is <https://book.passkey.com/go/UWF2026Arkansas>. This link goes directly to your block of rooms. If you would prefer to book by phone, call -262-8191 during business hours, and provide the access code UWF2026AR. You will be required to provide your own credit card for guarantee at time of booking. Remember that calling to reserve your room requires using the code UWF2026AR to get into the Arkansas block of rooms. If you have difficulty making your reservation, do not hesitate to give me a call or shoot a text to **870-942-6461** or an email to [jbcook@windstream.net](mailto:jbcook@windstream.net)



# Message from Vice President - page 3

## Inspiration Speakers

Assembly 2026 will host longtime United Methodists Stacey Abrams and longtime United Women in Faith member Rev. Carolyn Abrams in conversation as our Inspiration Speakers.

*Ask questions of Keynote Mother-Daughter Speakers:*

As part of their appearance, **Stacey Abrams** and her mother, **Rev. Carolyn Abrams**, have offered to ask questions from our members and/or attendees. Please submit your questions to [AssemblyKeynote@uwfaith.org](mailto:AssemblyKeynote@uwfaith.org) by **January 15, 2026**, for consideration.

## Workshops

At Assembly 2026, each attendee will be able to attend one town hall and one workshop each day, for even more opportunities to learn and grow! The list of workshops with the descriptions, leader headshots, and bios are posted on the Assembly website, under the Workshops tab, so you may review the options prior to registering and make a list of your top choices. Go to [uwfaith.org/assembly](https://uwfaith.org/assembly) to access this information.

Much more information will be coming soon about Assembly 2026.

Remember that registration for Assembly 2026 must be done by November 30, 2025, to save \$30.00 and that rooms in the Arkansas block must be reserved by December 1, 2025, to get into that block of rooms.

Registration for Assembly 2026 ends April 13, 2026.

**REGISTER NOW !!**



# Message from Vice President - page 4

## T-SHIRTS AND SWEATSHIRTS

Many have asked about T-shirts after seeing the ones we had at Annual Meeting last year. We are again taking orders if you want a T-shirt or a sweatshirt. If you wish to order one, send me a note telling me which kind of shirt you want, what color you want, and the size you need. Include a check for the price listed for the type of shirt and the size you want. Send to Betty Cook, P O Box 621, Sheridan, AR 72150. I must have your order no later than September 25. Shirts will be delivered to you at Annual Meeting.

T-shirt prices are S-XL -\$24; 2X - \$26; and 3X-5X - \$28. Sweatshirts are s-XL - \$30; 2X - \$34; and 3x-5x - \$38. See pictures below for the colors available for each type of shirt.



I apologize for the lengthiness of this article, but there is just so much information to share. Please, please do not hesitate to give me a call if you have any questions or if I can assist in a registration for you for the Annual Meeting November 1, hotel for Assembly, or registration for Assembly.

Peace and joy



# Message from Treasurer Betty Baxter

Those of you interested in qualifying for the 2026 Five Star Woman award should begin now to meet the qualifications of giving in all the five areas of mission giving. The qualifying year runs from July 1 to June 30, but please don't wait until the last day to submit your form. This deadline is earlier than the other reports. Custom pins must be ordered by the Conference treasurer. It can take up to 8 weeks to get the pins. For more information or to get a Five Star Woman form, please contact your local treasurer.

Did you know that the United Women in Faith has gift to mission cards for various occasions - birthdays, congratulations, special day, etc. When purchasing these cards, not only do you get a card to send, you also give to mission. Gift in memory cards are also available, and again you are giving to mission. Please note that mission cards are available through your district treasurer. Turn your card order form, found at <https://uwfaithresources.org/prodDetail.cfm?productID=12391&catid=2199>, to your local treasurer who will send it on to the district treasurer. The district treasurer may need to order the cards from UWFaith resources.

Spread the word about the Osment-Neil Scholarship. The Arkansas Conference United Women in Faith provides scholarships each year to women furthering their education in religious studies. These scholarships are made possible through the Osment-Neil Endowment Fund which was established in 1972 to support young women attending Scarritt College for Christian Workers. After the college closed, its facilities became the Scarritt Bennett Center. At that point, the scholarship funds were made available to women studying in the religious field at any school

## Osment-Neil Scholarship Qualifications

1. Active membership in the United Methodist Church
2. Preparing for church-related vocation, such as Minister, Deacon, Deaconess, Missionary, Christian Educator or Church and Community Developer
3. Proof of enrollment in an accredited college or seminary
4. Evidence of financial need
5. An ability to maintain average grade point
6. Deadline for submission of application - October 1

If you or someone you know meets the above criteria, please contact Betty Baxter, Treasurer of the Arkansas Conference United Women in Faith at [betbax@windstream.net](mailto:betbax@windstream.net) for further information or to request an application. Scholarship funds will be distributed in early November.

May the peace of the Lord be with you.



# Message from Secretary Mary Williams

Good day Women of Purpose! I hope all are doing well in this season.

To the District secretaries, my deadline date to receive information from you is November 10, 2025. This is for the upcoming 2026 Arkansas Conference United Women in Faith directory. I will need the District Leadership Team information and only the local unit's president's information from your district. If you already have this, please send to me now. If not, please contact your local counterpart or the president and request said information.

District's will be having their fall annual meetings within the next couple of months and all units would have had their officers in place by this time. If you've already had your District Leadership Team/officers in place, please send the list to me now. This will also apply for the local unit's president's information too. I urge you to contact them if you have not. Any questions or concerns, please contact me.

# Communication Updates Beth Cobb

- Please follow the Arkansas Conference United Women in Faith on [Facebook](#). It is updated, in some way, every day.
- Please check out the Arkansas Conference United Women in Faith website when you have a chance. I have recently updated the website. You will be able to find pictures from our 2025 United Women in Faith Annual Conference luncheon and also pictures from our 2025 Mission u. If there is something that you would like to see added, please let me know. On the website, you will be able to find information about upcoming events, forms and information about all things United Women in Faith  
<https://arkansasunitedwomeninfaith.my.canva.site/>
- Important announcements and updates are sent via email, as needed. If you know of someone who might be interested in receiving *The Flame*, please have them email [aruwfnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:aruwfnewsletter@gmail.com) and I will add them to the mailing list.

# **Education & Interpretation Coordinator**

## **Rosetta Dubose**

United Women in Faith, Sisters of Grace, as we move into the fall season, be reminded that “we make a difference”. We make a difference in our local communities, our state, and our nation and in our world. We do this through our mission giving, our support of mission projects and by serving those in need in all the ways we can. We do this, and because we do, “YOU” do too. Our priorities and goals remain the same. Women, children and youth are what we are about.

Please continue to focus your Unit’s attention on projects and activities that revolve around these groups. The Arkansas Annual Conference meeting and E and I District Training will be in November and I hope all United Women in Faith members possible will be in attendance. More information about this will be forthcoming and registration will soon be available.

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

## **Committee on Nominations Report**

### **Jamie Bird, Chair**

The Committee on Nominations is happy to report that our proposed slate of officers for the 2026 Conference Leadership team is complete.

We were tasked with finding new coordinators for Membership, Nurture & Outreach and Education and Interpretation, as well as two new CON members. We were intentional in trying to find representatives for the CON from districts other than the Central area since several who are currently serving are from that district, and we are pleased to have two wonderful candidates--one from the South and one from the Northeast District. In addition, our secretary, communications coordinator, and CON chair all agreed to accept a second term.

We are grateful to those we contacted who considered positions and to those who said “yes” to serving.



# Spiritual Growth Coordinator

## Brenda Gullett

**“Oh, how I love your law!! It is my meditation all the day.” Psalm 119:97 ESV**

Hard to believe that another Mission u is in the books. Always a great experience, and I marvel at the work and dedication it takes to execute this event. I am grateful for all on the planning team and the workforce once we arrive. What would we do without those golf carts and drivers!!!

I was so pleased that 3 of the district Spiritual Growth coordinators were present and involved this year: Cindy Miller, Vikki Hamilton, and Stephanie Beene (& Sheba).

Designing the morning meditation has consistently been an engaging process, as it has taken the form of a guided meditation for the past three years. I receive much positive feedback about this providing a relaxing and positive way to begin the day.

I'm happy to share the links for your personal use or group study.

[https://youtu.be/l63yujrmjb4?si=\\_6mVzdiaLPK84nS](https://youtu.be/l63yujrmjb4?si=_6mVzdiaLPK84nS)

(15-minute guided meditation—Alone with God)

[https://youtu.be/l63yujrmjb4?si=\\_6mVzdiaLPK84nS](https://youtu.be/l63yujrmjb4?si=_6mVzdiaLPK84nS)

(15-minute guided meditation—The Power of Surrender)

[https://youtu.be/1Rp5bmeNizE?si=0kl0DFWv1Tn\\_tgaz](https://youtu.be/1Rp5bmeNizE?si=0kl0DFWv1Tn_tgaz)

(15-minute guided meditation-Calm Your Mind in God's Presence)

Songs:

Great is Thy Faithfulness: <https://youtu.be/dTKlqmdfHsk?si=k2WTg92GaFFWO92h>

I Surrender All: <https://youtu.be/OSmN-qeqyNk?si=gV2H7JZZE2nD89sk>

My Tribute: <https://youtu.be/OVeISoSl600?si=iakzfPWpWmfD7zsV>

Blessings to each of you as you meditate and prosper through God's word!

# Social Action Coordinator

## LaVerne Page

### Jesus Meets Us with Beauty

In a time when climate change disrupts lives and landscapes, especially in vulnerable communities, Jesus still meets us with beauty. Women, often first to bear the weight of environmental crises, are also on the frontlines of healing and hope. From planting community gardens to advocating for clean water and sustainable policies, women of faith are protecting God's creation for generations to come.

Throughout Scripture, Jesus often drew lessons from nature: the lilies of the field, the birds of the air, the mustard seed. These signs of beauty were not just decoration; they were living testimonies of God's care and provision. In every flower, sunrise, and breath of fresh air, we encounter Christ's reminder that creation is both fragile and sacred.

Here we find the concept of Refugia. In ecology, refugia are small, sheltered places where life survives during times of devastation—tiny sanctuaries that preserve seeds of renewal. Spiritually, refugia reminds us that even in seasons of crisis, God provides places of restoration and growth. Women of faith are creating such refugia—community gardens, prayer circles, education initiatives—where justice, resilience, and beauty are nurtured.

This is what I learned at Mission u. The lessons of climate justice and faith opened my eyes to the power of creating refugia in our communities. So I encourage each United Woman in Faith to plan to attend in 2027. Together, we will learn, grow, and act as Christ's hands and heart in a world that desperately needs both hope and beauty.

Jesus meets us in these refugia, where brokenness becomes fertile ground for new life. As we protect the earth, we participate in God's work of restoration, ensuring that future generations can see His beauty in creation.

# Resource Coordinator/ Lending Library

## Gretchen Diffie

Congratulations to those of you who completed one of the plans for the Reading Program this year! What were some of your favorite books? I challenge you to tell someone about them and encourage others to read them as well. One of my favorites was *The Girl with Seven Names*.

It's time to start reading for the 2025-2026 Reading Program. The 2026 books should be announced soon. The titles are usually listed in the last issue of response for the year as well. If you haven't already, visit [uwfaith.org](http://uwfaith.org). There is so much information available to us. Find what you are passionate about and see how you can become involved.

Check the book availability link on our Arkansas Conference United Women in Faith website to see what library books are available for check out. Be on the lookout for a "mini" lending library at the fall district meetings.

With students all around us returning to school to further their education, let us be reminded that our education is ongoing as well. We can never read or learn too much.

Happy reading!

Gretchen and Hannah Diffie

[croppergirl2002@yahoo.com](mailto:croppergirl2002@yahoo.com)

(501) 467-2262

If you are wondering if the Lending Library has the book that you are looking for, follow the link to view an up to date list of the availability of books



**Lending Library book**  
**availability**



# Membership, Nurture & Outreach

## Kim Barton

The results of the survey are in! In Arkansas 70.51% of units reported growth in new members!

National has started new member campaign for 2024-28. This campaign has a reigniting purpose, restoring connection and extending a life-giving invitation to women who are searching for something deeper. We can reach this goal by one woman telling another, one invitation at a time, 1 soul stirred at a time and 1 woman at a time becoming unstoppable. In Arkansas the survey shows that 34% of units have already committed to growth from 2024-28, 24% have committed to increasing attendance, and 21% to increasing giving. Is your unit ready to make this commitment? The goal for the 4 years is 200,000 new members nationally. We can accomplish this goal using this formula:

- Large Units (51+ members) adding 5 new members
- Mid-Size Units (11-50 members) adding 3-4 new members
- Small Units (10 or fewer members) adding 2 new members

The goal for 2025-26 is 30,000 new members nationwide. I believe Arkansas can do their part! Year One of a Bold New Era! This year is about sharing your "why"—your faith, purpose, and voice. Let your testimony create connections and inspire others to take action. Be bold: Write down three things that inspire you about UWFaith, post them online, and tag #UnstoppableUWFaith to spread the movement.

All members of the Conference Executive team should have the full survey report if you are interested in seeing it. Please feel free to reach out to me or to your District President or Membership, Nurture and Outreach by email so we can get that to you.

# Central District Happenings

Marleene Calvin, President



This year is already over half over. Where has time gone? We started the year with a successful Local Officer Training, January 4th at Conway First UMC. Our leadership team meeting was held February 1 st by zoom. We covered the training

and the upcoming Spring Mission Study event. April 11th, Grand Avenue was the host and it was an amazing event. Trisha Manns, Church and Community Worker serving the Central District, present the study Welcome Home. It was well attended. Several team members attended the Arkansas Conference UWFaith Luncheon June 18th in Hot Springs, as well as Mission u held July 23-26 at Hendrix College campus. Our next leadership team meeting was held July 12th by Zoom. We discussed our upcoming Fall Meeting that is to be held September 13th at Mabelvale Methodist Church. Registration has gone out to all the local presidents. All the necessary documents has been forwarded to our Communications Coordinator for the newsletter. We did make a few changes to our standing rules and slate of officers that will be voted on at that meeting.

Our tentative meeting dates for 2026 are as follows:

Local Officer Training – January 3rd and the 10th for inclement weather

Leadership Team Meeting – February 7, 2026

Spring Meeting Mission Study Event – April 11, 2026

Leadership Team Meeting – July 11, 2026

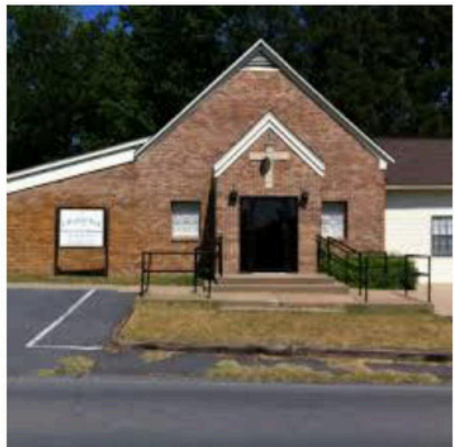
Fall Meeting - September 12, 2026<sup>9</sup> - Haven UMC, Hot Springs

I emailed the local units a month ago letting them know we are looking for units to host us for these events. Haven UMC immediately emailed me and will graciously host us for the Fall meeting.

I have also emailed local units with information concerning booking their rooms for the 2026 Assembly.

I am grateful for the hard work the leadership team does.





**Mabelvale Methodist Church**  
105000 Woodman St.  
Mabelvale AR 72103

## **Central District United Women in Faith** ***Fall Meeting***

***Saturday, September 13, 2025***

**Registration: 8:30 a.m.**

**Meeting: 9 am to 12:30**

**Registration Fee - \$15.00**

(Includes lunch)

**Registration Deadline – Sept. 8, 2025**

Registration received after this date or at the door - **\$20.00**

**Business Meeting and Presentation-**  
***"Self Care-Why Am I Taking this Medication?"***

*Link for on-line registration*

[https://www.aplos.com/aws/events/central\\_district\\_united\\_women\\_in\\_faith\\_fall\\_25](https://www.aplos.com/aws/events/central_district_united_women_in_faith_fall_25)

***Make checks payable to Central District United Women in Faith***

**Mail check and registration form to Registrar:**

Beverly Lyn-Cook, 14 Scarlet Maple Ct., Little Rock, AR 72223

(501) 412-6444

*Please Detach, Complete & Mail Registration Form Below*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Local Church \_\_\_\_\_

Do you require child/dependent care? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ (Pre-registration requires for childcare)

*Please bring a sack lunch for each child – no charge for children*

Child/Dependent: Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Do you require a wheelchair furnished by church? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_


Do you have special dietary requirements? \_\_\_\_\_ please specify \_\_\_\_\_

# Northeast District Happenings

Terry Gregory, President



The Northeast District is excited to Welcome Dr. Michael Adam Beck as our featured speaker at our Fall event on Saturday, September 6 at Walnut Ridge FUMC. Dr. Beck is a pastor, author, serving as the inaugural director of Fresh Expressions House of Studies at Perkins School of Theology. Dr. Beck holds a doctorate in Semiotics and Future Studies and is the author of several influential books including “Never Alone” which is the theme of our fall event. “Never Alone: Sharing the Gift of Community in a Lonely World” is a heartfelt exploration of how the church can respond to the deep soul wound of our time: isolation. Please email Tasha Weeks at [tashmweeks@gmail.com](mailto:tashmweeks@gmail.com) if you would like to register.




*Never Alone*

UWF NORTHEAST DISTRICT  
FALL CONFERENCE

**Saturday, September 6th**  
**10am-3pm**  
**Walnut Ridge FUMC**

Join us as we welcome  
Rev. Dr. Michael Adam Beck,  
renowned pastor, author, and  
innovator in church renewal, as  
he shares from his powerful new  
book *Never Alone*, offering hope  
and connection in a disconnected  
world.

**\$10 per person**  
**Lunch Provided**



SPONSORED BY  
The Methodist  
Foundation  
for Arkansas

**REGISTER HERE**

# Northwest District Happenings

Lynn Baker, President



## It's time to find JOY!

We are reminded constantly of all the doom and gloom, the chaos and crisis, the loneliness and lethargy – **WE NEED JOY!**

Have you ever had a book that spoke to your soul, one which gave you true **joy**? Recently, I read *Braiding Sweet Grass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer, a Reading Program selection. This book resonated with the very deepest part of me. It raised my awareness. It helped me become more intentional in finding the glimmers of hope and the true **joy** in God's amazing creation – like the tiny grasshopper resting in my daisy patch!

The Northwest District United Women in Faith give me hope and **joy** as we move forward with the work of putting love in action to change the world.

- It was raining again on June 7, but no flash flooding like in March to detour our Mission Study! About 60 women **joyfully** gathered at Clarksville FUMC to take a deep dive into the Welcome Home study led by Reverend Pam Estes.
- A great group of participants from the Northwest District attended Mission u in July. We were well represented in the leadership category: Chelsea Hodge - Registrar, Cindy Miller – Song Leader, and Julia Frost – Pianist. As we turned in our keys on the last day, it gave me great **joy** to hear two tiny voices happily singing the theme song: *My Life is in You, Lord!*
- We have a hard-working Committee on Nominations who have filled the proposed slate of officers for 2026. More **joy!**
- Our district is doing very well toward meeting our 2025 Pledge to Mission – truly **joyful** news!
- The 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting for the Northwest District is October 4 at Rogers First UMC. Registration and more information will be available soon. Another **joy!**
- Last, but not least...2026 Assembly is on the horizon. "Dream it! Believe it! Do it!" in Indianapolis, IN. Experience over-the-top **JOY**: May 15 – 17, 2026 [uwfaith.org/assembly](http://uwfaith.org/assembly).

See, it's not that hard to find **joy**. Sometimes, it's recognizing the vital work of women. Sometimes it's a tiny grasshopper. Just look for it!

With **Joy** and PURPOSE,





United  
Women  
in Faith



SCAN HERE  
TO REGISTER

faith

action

sisterhood

NORTHWEST DISTRICT  
UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH  
INVITES YOU TO THE

## 13TH ANNUAL GATHERING:

CONNE CTING  
CREA TING

Connecting with God and other women through a creative soul care activity and fellowshiping as sisters in the faith! Rogers UWF President, Amanda Wood, will lead a panel on growing your UWF community.

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4<sup>TH</sup> | 9:30AM-2:00PM**  
**ROGERS, AR**

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

Cost: \$15, which includes lunch | Please register by Sept 27

Check-in begins at 9:00am | Childcare is provided

Registration Form: <https://tinyurl.com/UWFAnnualGathering>

# South District Happenings

Kathy Seward, President



Hi to all from the Mighty South,

On May 31st, 17 members of the South District attended a Mission Study at Magnolia FUMC. Rev. Estes did a wonderful job as usual.

July 19th, we held our Leadership meeting at Arkadelphia FUMC.

July was busy with Mission u. Thank you to Carolyn, Sandra and all the people who worked so hard for such a successful time for all of us.

September 27th will be our fall meeting with the theme "Let's Grow Together". It will be held at Malvern FUMC.



UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH  
SOUTH DISTRICT  
FALL MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 27, 2025  
FUMC MALVERN, ARKANSAS

THEME: LET'S GROW  
TOGETHER

REGISTRATION: 9:30am  
PROGRAM: 10:00am  
LUNCH: 12:00pm

There will be no charge for the meeting but a donation to Pledge to Mission will be accepted. There will also be an Aldersgate Throwdown.

Reservations may be emailed to Kathy Seward, at [kseward3432@gmail.com](mailto:kseward3432@gmail.com), or to Marsha Parsley at [marsha.parsley@gmail.com](mailto:marsha.parsley@gmail.com). You may also text or call Marsha at 501-844-1387. Deadline for reservations is September 22<sup>nd</sup>.

FUMC Malvern is located at 127 E Page, in downtown Malvern. Parking is available on Ash Street, or in the lot across Page from the church. There are also two parking lots across Ash from each other on Pine Bluff Street. Enter at the office door on Ash Street.





# Mission u

## Carolyn Schumacher, Dean

Mission u was held at Hendrix College in Conway, AR July 23-26, 2025.

### Summary Of Registrations And Attendees

155 Registered

- 36 on-campus children and youth
- 3 commuter children and youth
- 82 on-campus adults
- 25 commuter adults with meals
- 4 commuter adults, no meals
- 5 virtual adults

149 Attended

6 did not attend

- 4 children and youth
- 1 commuter adult no meals
- 1 on-campus adult

There were five adult study leaders and five children and youth study leaders who completed training with the National United Women in Faith Mission u leaders. One of the children and youth leaders resigned on June 30<sup>th</sup>. The assistant agreed to lead that youth group. She did not attend training but did a fantastic job. The only positions not filled was Nursery (no one registered) and Activities Assistant. Some of the planning team stepped up and helped with activities.

All study leaders received a list of those in their class and room location before arriving at Mission u. An additional class time was added on Wednesday so introductions could be done, and leaders could begin the study. There was positive feedback from study leaders about this addition.

Great comments were heard about the study, Practicing Hope. I think everyone enjoyed their study leader.

Children and Youth Assistants asked for copies of the curriculum. I was able to order those and send them to the assistants. I hope that helped with working with the class. Some assistants want to be more than just a person in the room. The children and youth leaders were given the contact information for their assistant.

## Mission u - page 2

Workshops—Shelley Lee agreed to schedule workshops. Workshops covered a variety of subjects and were well attended. There was a glitch, but Sandra was able to solve that glitch.

Hospitality—The hours were changed, and we added an informal Intergenerational activity for the first night. Not all children and youth attended. There were some Intergenerational activities taking place. Judy and her crew did an outstanding job.

Plenaries and Worship was great and the timing on each one was within the scheduled time. Announcements and introductions were done before each session thanks to Sandra.

Check-In went smoothly without long lines. Having everything separated works well to getting everyone checked in quickly. Key and key card check out was a little different for attendees, but it worked to make sure we got all the keys and key cards returned. Thank you to Chelsea for doing the extra work.

First Timers Orientation was well attended. Basic information was given, and attendees' questions were answered. Full of HOPE they will return next year!

It has been an honor to serve as your 2025 Mission u Dean. I look forward to planning another great Mission u experience with the support of the 2026 Mission u Planning Team and you.

[Click here to view pictures from our 2025 Mission u](#)

[Click here to view our 2025 Mission u Facebook group](#)





United  
Women  
in Faith

## Legacy Endowment Fund Arkansas Conference September 2025

Greetings Sisters of Grace,

United Women in Faith have a duty to care for women, children, and youth and that is why we support the Legacy Fund. One way to care for others is to be an example for present and future leaders or the organization. We can set an example by committing to giving to the Legacy Fund. Although you often hear our requests for you to give repeatedly, there could be someone that has heard the request for the first time.

You can become a Friend of Legacy by making a major gift of \$5,000 or more to the Legacy Endowment Fund. Options are available for one-time gifts or customized multi-year pledges paid over 3-5 years. When becoming a member of the 1869 Society and leave a legacy by making a planned gift to the Legacy Endowment Fund planned gifts may include bequests or estate gifts, life insurance policies, the sale of assets or property, appreciated securities, retirement funds, or IRA Charitable Rollover Gifts, you are establishing a way in which UWF members, their families, and other supporters can leave a lasting legacy to support future ministry. With a monthly gift of \$18.69 or more you can become a Legacy Builder and help build a strong financial future for United Women in Faith. Your recurrent donation is easy to set up online by visiting [uwfaith.org/legacy](http://uwfaith.org/legacy) or texting "GIVE" to 20503. Lastly, you can honor a special person in your life, or a deceased loved one. This can be done by making a gift to the Legacy Endowment Fund a lasting tribute. We had a goal of \$450,000 set for our Day of Giving in March, the amount reported was \$553,826, which surpassed the goal. Thank you for your incredible contributions.

Ways to Give:

Online: [uwfaith.org/legacy](http://uwfaith.org/legacy)

By phone: 212-870-3705

By Mail: United Women in Faith

Attn: Legacy

Church Center for the United Nations

777 United Nations Plaza, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor

New York, NY 10017

# MIWATCH

## Jo Webber

Let me take time to thank you for your calls, text messages, visits, cards and call acts of kindness extended to me during my illness and recuperation. All the prayers that were sent up with my name on them brought me through. Blessings to each of you.

MIWATCH is behind schedule due to unforeseen circumstances. I had hoped we would be able to make visits by September. We need people who are willing to volunteer to drive the guardian and child(ren) to Newport, AR. Currently, we only have three drivers.

We have applications from mothers whose children are in Jacksonville, Little Rock, Sherwood-Central District; Mountain Home, Oxford-Northeast District; Rogers, Van Buren-Northwest District; Hatfield-South District. If you are interested in being a volunteer driver, please contact me or a member of the MIWATCH Steering Committee as soon as possible.

I want to thank Martha Altom for conducting the MIWATCH Workshop at Mission u. I appreciate her filling in the gap. There were many who attended the workshop. If you have questions, please contact me.

If you would like to have us to come and present a MIWATCH program, we will gladly do that. I had an engagement that I missed earlier this year, I do hope that I can reschedule that. I had a mass of emails that I have been sorting through. If you have sent me one and I have not responded, please contact me. I'm not trying to overlook anyone, it is an oversight on my part.

Please help us get the children to see their mom before this year ends.



# Check out this wonderful opportunity from The Methodist Foundation for Arkansas

LITTLE ROCK | TULSA | MEMPHIS | BIRMINGHAM | SELMA | MONTGOMERY

**APRIL 21-25, 2026**

## **A CIVIL RIGHTS JOURNEY FOR LAITY**



The **Methodist Foundation for Arkansas** will offer a Civil Rights Journey for Laity from **April 21-25, 2026**. Such study-travel opportunities grow from MFA's commitment to provide resources for leadership development and spiritual growth for United Methodist laity and clergy; this particular offering builds upon the Arkansas Conference's Dismantling Racism Initiative. The Foundation will subsidize a portion of each selected participant's cost for the five-day experience, which includes:

- Hotel accommodations in Tulsa, Memphis, Birmingham, and Montgomery
- Breakfast and dinner each day
- Private motor coach transportation
- Tours of more than a dozen museums and historic sites across four states
- Group conversation with at least one leader in the Civil Rights Movement

Participants can expect to pay between \$580 and \$715 for their portion of the cost (based on double hotel room occupancy).

Visit [methodistfoundationar.org/civil-rights-journey-2026](https://methodistfoundationar.org/civil-rights-journey-2026) to learn more and find the link to apply.

**Want to know more?  
Contact Cathy Hall:**

[chall@methodistfoundationAR.org](mailto:chall@methodistfoundationAR.org)  
501-664-8632

 **The Methodist  
Foundation  
for Arkansas**

601 Wellington Village Road  
Little Rock, AR 72211  
[methodistfoundationAR.org](https://methodistfoundationAR.org)







Benefiting Camp Aldersgate's mission of creating life-changing experiences for individuals with special needs.

Join us for this community favorite event and enjoy a day full of food, family, and fun!

**FRIED FISH - FISHING DERBY  
GAMES - CAROUSEL KIDS  
ACTIVITIES & MORE**



**SUNDAY, OCT. 12**

11:30 am - 2:30 pm



2000 Aldersgate Rd  
Little Rock, AR 72205

**INDIVIDUAL TICKETS: \$20**

**FAMILY PACKS FOR FOUR: \$65**



[campaldersgate.net/fish-fry](http://campaldersgate.net/fish-fry)







# Volunteer Opportunities

Food Prep & Assembly

Lead Activities

Assist Youth at the Fishing Derby

And More!

Volunteering at Fish Fry is the perfect opportunity for corporate groups, Rotary Clubs, school groups and youth volunteers (ages 14+) looking to earn service hours!

Scan the QR Code to Sign Up!



Camp Aldersgate provides barrier-free experiences for individuals with special needs. With the support of surrounding communities, businesses and friends, Camp Aldersgate provides an environment with fully accessible equipment and facilities to serve our campers. Camp Aldersgate offers year-round services and is accredited by the American Camp Association.

**Breaking Barriers.  
Building Bridges.**



**LEARN MORE AT [CAMPALDERSGATE.NET](https://campaldersgate.net)**



# *Around the Conference*



To view more pictures from the United Women in Faith Annual Conference Luncheon, that was held on June 18, 2025 at Hot Springs First United Methodist Church, they can be found by following this [link](#)



# Around the Conference

## ARKANSAS KOREAN FESTIVAL: HONORING MACARTHUR'S INCHEON LANDING

*Commemorating MacArthur's Incheon Landing  
and Celebrating K-Culture*

Dear \_\_\_\_\_.

The Korean American Federation of Arkansas  
(President Jong Pill Park) is proud to host this festival as a  
heartfelt tribute held at the birthplace of General Douglas  
MacArthur, whose leadership during the Incheon Landing helped  
save South Korea from the brink of collapse following North  
Korea's invasion.

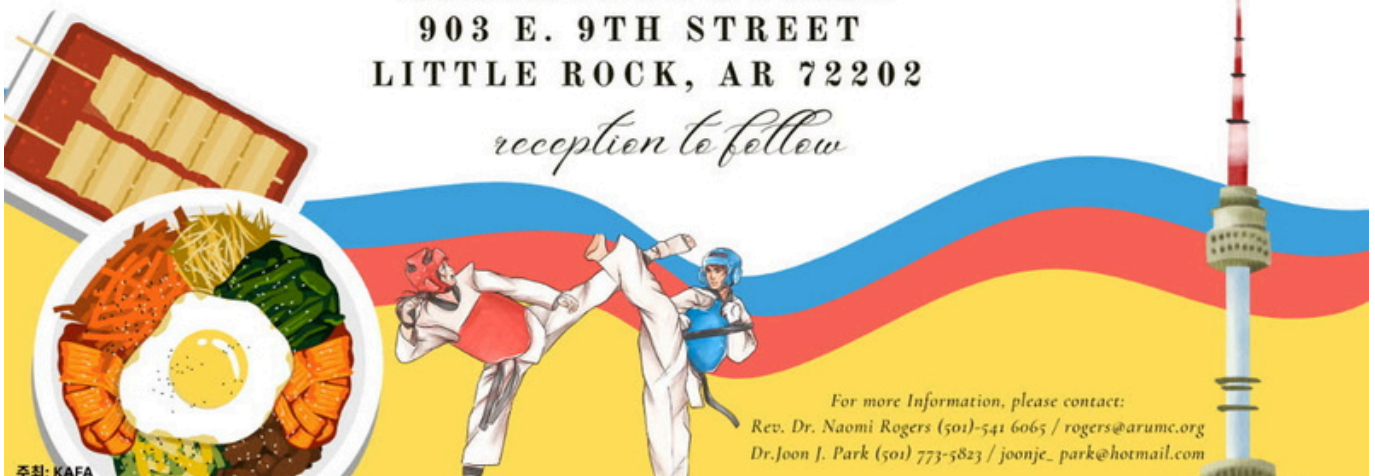
We honor the bravery and sacrifice of Arkansas Korean War  
veterans who took part in this pivotal operation. Supported by the  
Korean American community and the Consulate General of the  
Republic of Korea in Houston, this event celebrates freedom,  
gratitude, and enduring friendship. We look forward to  
commemorating this historic milestone with you.

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2025**

**10 AM**

**MACARTHUR'S PARK.  
903 E. 9TH STREET  
LITTLE ROCK, AR 72202**

*reception to follow*



주최: KAFA

For more Information, please contact:  
Rev. Dr. Naomi Rogers (501)-541 6065 / rogers@arumc.org  
Dr. Joon J. Park (501) 773-5823 / joonje\_park@hotmail.com

Submitted by Rev. Naomi Rogers

## ARKANSAS CONFERENCE UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH 2025 LEADERSHIP TEAM



### **PRESIDENT**

Maybelline Strong  
(C) 501-993-7420  
maybellinestrong@att.net

### **VICE PRESIDENT**

Betty Cook  
(C) 870-942-6461  
jbcook@windstream.net



### **SECRETARY**

Mary Williams  
(C) 479-719-4100  
mblass99@yahoo.com

### **TREASURER**

Betty Baxter  
(C) 501-454-2919  
betbax@windstream.net



### **COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS, CHAIR**

Jamie Bird  
(C) 501-269-4229  
jsbird@conwaycorp.net

### **COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR**

Beth Cobb  
(C) 479-719-0350  
aruwfnewsletter@gmail.com



### **MISSION COORDINATORS:**



### **SOCIAL ACTION**

LaVerne Paige  
(C) 501-416-0601  
lpaige1951@comcast.net

### **EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION**

Rosetta DuBose  
(C) 501-276-2266  
r.dubose@att.net



### **MEMBERSHIP NURTURE and OUTREACH**

Kim Barton  
(C) 501-472-5420  
kimbarton@conwaycorp.net

### **SPIRITUAL GROWTH**

Brenda Gullett  
(C) 870-489-0635  
brendagale.gullett@gmail.com



### **RESOURCE COORDINATOR/LENDING LIBRARIAN**

Gretchen Diffie  
(C) 501-467-2262  
croppergirl2002@yahoo.com

### **COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS:**



### **2025**

Neva Johnson  
(C) 501-231-4655  
Neva-johnson@att.net

Sue Haskins  
(C) 501-516-6665  
Beachgirl820@yahoo.com



### **2026**

Robin Williams  
(C) 501-952-9211  
rwilliams3302@gmail.com

Jo Webber  
(C) 479-310-6086  
jwebber63wesley@aol.com





**2027**

Tina Marie Boyles  
(C) 501-450-0622  
tmboyles62@gmail.com

Judy Mattox  
(C) 501-831-1633  
jegmattox@gmail.com

**2028**

LaDonna Busby  
(C) 870-307-1720  
nonnieandwin@yahoo.com

Jo Morrison  
(C) 501-506-0977  
fbwidow101@gmail.com

**SOUTH CENTRAL JURISDICTION LEADERSHIP TEAM**

Shelley Lee  
(C) 501-607-0389  
rslee1969@gmail.com

**PROGRAM ADVISORY GROUP MEMBERS**

Cathy Blackwood  
(C) 479-640-7590  
tree21958@gmail.com

Paulina Webber  
(C) 501-256-4784  
paulina.c.webber@gmail.com

**DISTRICT PRESIDENTS:**

**CENTRAL**  
Marleene Calvin  
(C) 501-425-0157  
Welovezumba2@yahoo.com

**NORTHEAST**  
Terry Gregory  
(C) 870-351-0314  
tkpg@aol.com



**NORTHWEST**  
Lynn Baker  
(C) 501-339-3458  
lbakeruwf@gmail.com

**SOUTH**  
Kathy Seward  
(C) 501-625-2920  
kseward3432@gmail.com



**MISSION u DEAN**  
Carolyn Schumacher  
(C) 501-920-6923  
Rncshoe@comcast.net

## 2025 ARKANSAS CONFERENCE UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH CALENDAR

### DATE

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| Jan 4       | Central District Local Officer Training – TBD   |
| Jan         | Northeast District Leadership Planning Meeting  |
| Jan 4       | Northwest District Local Officer Training via Zoom  |
| Jan 11      | South District Officer Training – Sheridan FUMC   |
| Jan 11      | Mission u Planning Team Meeting – Via Zoom  |
| Jan 12      | Northwest District Leadership Team Meeting via Zoom   |
| Jan 25      | Northeast District Leadership Team Meeting & Officer Training – Augusta FUMC                      |
| Feb 1       | Central District Leadership Team Zoom Meeting   |
| Feb 8       | AR Conference UWFaith Leadership Team Meeting – Methodist Foundation for AR                       |
| Feb 15      | South District Officer Training – Sheridan FUMC   |
| April 5     | Northwest District Spiritual Growth Study, Clarksville FUMC                                       |
| April 12    | Central District Spring Meeting – Grand Avenue UMC, Hot Springs, AR                               |
| April 12    | South District Spring Meeting – Star City FUMC  |
| April 26    | Northeast District Spring Day Apart – Jonesboro FUMC  |
| May 4       | Northwest District Social Action Webinar – Via Zoom   |
| June 18-20  | Arkansas Annual Conference – Hot Springs Convention Center, Hot Springs                           |
| June 18     | Annual Conference Luncheon – Hot Springs FUMC   |
| July 12     | Central District Leadership Team Zoom Meeting   |
| July 12     | Northeast Leadership Team Planning Meeting – Cherokee Village UMC                                 |
| July 24-25  | Northwest District Leadership Team Meeting during Mission u                                       |
| July 19     | South District Leadership Team Meeting – Arkadelphia UMC  |
| Aug 9 or 16 | Mission u Planning Team Meeting – North Little Rock FUMC  |
| August 23   | AR Conference UWFaith Leadership Team Meeting – Methodist Foundation for AR                       |
| Sept 13     | Central District Fall Meeting – Mabelvale UMC   |
| Sept 20     | Northeast District Fall Gathering – TBD   |
| Sept 27     | South District Fall Meeting – Malvern FUMC  |
| Oct 4       | Northwest District Annual Meeting – Rogers FUMC   |
| Oct 12      | Camp Aldersgate Fish Fry – Camp Aldersgate, Little Rock   |
| Nov 1       | 23rd Annual Meeting of AR Conference UWFaith & District Officer Training – North Little Rock FUMC |

