



United
Women
in Faith

Trumpet Sound

East Central District

President's Note...

It is February, this month we have Valentine's Day that falls on Ash Wednesday, a Leap Year, and the beginning of Lent. How can that be? Easter is on March 31st this year, so an early Easter means an early lent. I love this time of year because we get this huge reminder of how much God Loves Us! That he gave us the gift of his only son, who died on the cross, was buried, and on the third day rose again to give us all eternal life if we believe and have faith! .

I'm also excited for some exciting new things coming up in the East Central District. On April 6, we will be presenting this year's Mission Study, "Living the Kingdom" & Soul Care Retreat where you can feed your mind and your body. On May 4, we will be having a Creation Care/Social Action Event at Mackay Gardens and Lakeside Preserve. You can tour the historic home "La Rochelle", tour the gardens with a Master Gardener, learn about pollinator houses and make one to take home with you. If you cannot attend this event, I hope all of our units are participating in Creation Care events in your local area. There are flyers with more details in this document.

Those of you that would like to attend Mission U this year Jul 19-21, at the Westin Lake Mary but the costs are prohibitive, there are scholarships available. If you would like to request a scholarship, please let me know at janetblume.umw@gmail.com and I will get you the form and all the information you need to submit on time. I hope to see you all there!

There are also some events in this issue being offered by our District units. With our smaller numbers, please consider supporting each other events. Let's come together as supportive sisters and help each other's units and hopefully make new friends and support missions!

Faith-Action-Sisterhood

Janet

God, Your love is so far beyond our understanding. Even if we can't fully comprehend it please help us receive it, embrace it, believe it with all our hearts. You are the One who created us. You have a good plan for our lives. You alone have determined our identity and destiny.

We are unconditionally, fully loved by You.

Amen

Table of Contents

Page 1	President's Notes
Page 2	Leadership Training
Page 3	Calendar of Events
Page 9	Sec/E&I Message
Page 11	Reading Program
Page 12	Comm on Nominations
Page 17	Unit News
Page 22	Communications Notes

Moments from the Florida Conference United Women in Faith Leadership Training...



Calendar of UW Faith Events

February 3, 2024 Leadership Training for Unit Officers

9:45 AM— Noon

Virtual on Zoom

February 25—March 1, 2024 Child Advocacy Week

State House, Tallahassee FL

March 16, 2024 Haitian Convocation

El Shadai UMC-Fort Myers FL

April 6, 2024 Women’s Soul Care Retreat/Mission Study

9:45—4:00 pm

Community of Faith UMC

Davenport, FL

April 19-21, 2024 Southeastern Jurisdiction

Quadrennial Event

Chattanooga TN

May 4, 2024 Social Action/Creation Care Event—MacKay Gardens and Lakeside Preserve

Lake Alfred, FL

June 6-8, 2024 Florida Annual Conference

Florida Southern College

Lakeland FL

July 19-21, 2024 Mission U (In-Person)

Westin Lake Mary, FL

July 23, 25, 30 & Aug 1, 2024 Mission U (Virtual)

Tuesdays & Thursdays On Zoom

October 5, 2024 District Annual Meeting

9:00 am- 1:00 pm

Location TBD

November 9, 2024 Conference Annual Meeting TBD

Lakeland, FL

Upcoming UWFaith Florida Conference Events

2024 Florida Children's Week

New Dates—February 25—March 1, 2024 You can find more details [here](#).

Children's Week Florida is the only annual event held that celebrates and honors its commitment to children, youth and advocates.

An opportunity at the local level to decorate hands with colorful artwork, inspiration words to be on display during the week. Artwork must be postmarked by Monday, **February 12, 2024** to be included in the large display at the Capitol Rotunda. Click [here](#) for the instructions and details.

2024 SEJ Quadrennial Meeting

April 19-21, 2024—Chattanooga, TN. You can find more details [here](#).

GET TOGETHER to feel the joy of faith-filled women, uniting.
GET TOGETHER too nurture your soul.
GET TOGETHER to deepen your relationship with God.
GET TOGETHER to explore the power of love to make a difference.

Upcoming UWFaith National Events

Black History Month

February 1, 2024 You can find the calendar [here](#).

Faith Talks

February 1, 2024 at 2:00 pm ET. You can find the links [here](#).

March 7, 2024 at 2:00 pm ET. You can find the links [here](#).

Faith Talks are monthly conversations with United Women in Faith hosted by Jennifer R. Farmer, Spotlight PR. Each conversation explores themes and resources that empower us to put faith, hope and love into action.

Save the Date

April 6, 2023

9:45am-4:00pm

East Central District Mission Study & Soul Care Retreat



Living the Kin-dom

**Exploring the Lord's Prayer as a
Spiritual Practice for Social Transformation**

Hosted by

Community of Faith

9120 Teacher Lane

Davenport, FL 33897

**Come learn about the Lord's Prayer and feed your soul with
activities for the mind and body!**



United
Women
in Faith

East Central District
Social Action/
Creation Care Event

**Mackay Gardens and Lakeside Preserve
945 Mackay Blvd Lake Alfred FL**

May 4, 2024

10:00am-2:00pm

- ⇒ **Spend part of your day in God's creation**
- ⇒ **Tour the historic Mackay family home "La Rochelle"**
- ⇒ **Tour the gardens with a Master Gardener**
- ⇒ **Learn about pollinator houses and make one to take home**
- ⇒ **Bring your own chair and a lunch to enjoy in the shade of the pavilion**
- ⇒ **Take a walk along the lakeside trails**
- ⇒ **Invite a friend or make a new friend**
- ⇒ **And it's FREE! FREE! FREE!**

Register on our website at www.flecduwfaith.org/

**For additional information, email
our Social Action Coordinator at
gillianwolfe@hotmail.com**

faith

action

sisterhood

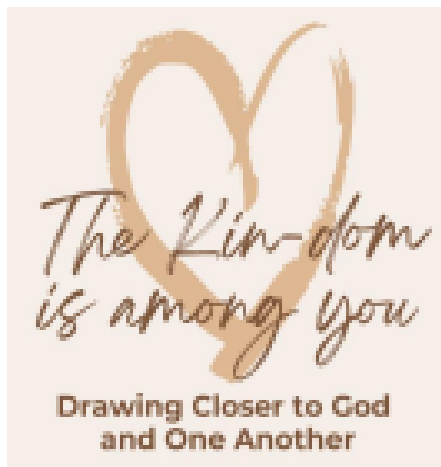


Save the Dates for Mission u 2024: Friday, July 19 – Sunday, July 21

The Westin Lake Mary, Orlando North
2974 International Parkway
Lake Mary, FL 32746

Virtual Mission u 2024 will take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays, July 23, 25, 30, & August 1

Join us at Mission u 2024 as we explore what it means to draw closer to God and one another.



Mission u 2024 offers three exciting curricula on this theme. Order your copy here: uwfaithresources.org

Adult: Welcome Home by Neomi Fletcher

The adult curriculum uses the image of home to explore how living in close proximity to the kin-dom is like making a home with God. Participants are invited to develop practices for building healthy, welcoming communities as a result of being anchored in the abiding love of God.

Youth: Cultivating Symbiosis - The Nature of God's Kin-dom by Nica Sy

In Creation, we see the power of symbiosis, or interdependent relationship. The youth curriculum explores the idea of symbiosis between our relationships with one another and our relationship with God. By drawing closer to one another and our world, we draw closer to the kin-dom.

Children: Me in the Kin-dom by Kathy Cook

The children's curriculum uses the Lord's Prayer as a lens to help us see that we are all members of the family of God. Children will begin to understand that the kin-dom is living with Christ and one another on earth as in heaven.

More Information Coming Soon!

Get Together!



United
Women
in Faith

SOUTHEASTERN JURISDICTION
QUADRENNIAL EVENT

SEJUWF.ORG

Come to Chattanooga, Tennessee on April 19-21, 2024

GET TOGETHER to feel the joy of faith-filled women, uniting.

GET TOGETHER to nurture your soul.

GET TOGETHER to deepen your relationship with God.

GET TOGETHER to explore the power of love to make a difference.

WHY YOU SHOULD REGISTER

What does it mean to answer the call to "love one another" (John 13:34) in 2024? Come GET TOGETHER to explore the possibilities through

- Inspiring worships
- Engaging workshops
- Riveting and motivating speakers
- Renewing soul care

PRICE

The Southeastern Jurisdiction Quadrennial Event is a great value at the early registration fee of \$210. Few other faith-based conferences offer so much for such a low fee.

FEATURING

Rev. Janet Wolf as our Keynote Speaker.
Linda Furtado as our Music Director

TOGETHER we can do more. TOGETHER we can be more TOGETHER the power of love in action can change the world.

Message from the Secretary...

I am very excited to see you all at our Leadership Training Feb 3rd. Please bring your questions and suggestions to the meeting. If I do not have the answer, I will find out and get back to you. A huge thank you to each unit that has already sent their unit leadership updates to me. If you have not done that yet, or your leadership team has changed this last year, please send the changes to lindawelander.umw@gmail.com. I hope to get a digital copy to each president and secretary by early February.

We are also busy planning our Mission Study on April 6, 2024. The curriculum is on the Lord's Prayer. Something new! Four hours of instruction is a long time to sit, so we are excited to try a combination Mission Study and Soul Care Retreat this year. The Study will be divided into 4 sessions with 30-minute soul/self-care sessions in between. We are lucky to have line-dancing, chair yoga, games, as well as Bible trivia, crafts, and a service opportunity. Come join the fun, fellowship, and a great curriculum.

Education and Interpretation Report

There is a revised Mission Today Report Available. You may use the revised form for entering 2023 information or the earlier version that you have already.

In 2024 we will only use the revised edition. I will be sending a copy of the revised edition to the President and Secretary of each unit in the next few days.



MISSION TODAY ANNUAL REPORT

To qualify as a MISSION TODAY UNIT, the unit must participate in at least **eight** of the following criteria, four or five of which must be marked with an asterisk (*). **Certificate Types: Gold: 17 to 19 criteria met; Silver: 9 to 16 criteria with 5*; Bronze: 8 criteria with 5*; Participation Certificate: 5 to 7 criteria with a least 4*.**

Program Year being reported _____ Date _____

Unit/Church/City _____

Submitted by: _____ Office _____

1. * Made and met our **Unit Pledge to Mission**.
2. Was a **Five Star Unit** by contributing through all five channels of Mission Giving.
3. * Used the **Daily Prayer Guide** at every unit meeting.
4. * Used at least two programs from the **UWF Program Book** during the year.
5. * Had at least one member subscribe to *response Magazine or response Podcasts*.
6. Had a regular **Response Moment** at circle/unit meetings where an article is highlighted.
7. Had at least two members complete Plan I of the **Reading Program**
8. * Had a minimum of four members attend, or the unit conducted or co-sponsored at least one **Mission Study** during the year.
9. Had at least one member, other than conference or district officers attend **the Conference Mission u event**.
10. * Had at least one member, other than a conference or district officer attend a **district/conference training or spiritual growth event**.
11. Had at least two members, other than a conference or district officer, attend the **district and/or conference Annual Meeting**.
12. Reached out to **persons in mission** (Deaconess/Home Missioner Regional Missionary, Global Mission Fellow, etc.) or **National Mission Institution** in at least one way.
Example: _____
13. Had at least one member sign up to receive Social Action e-mails for Climate Justice and Racial Justice.
14. * Implemented the **Charter for Racial Justice** in at least one way.
Example: _____
15. Had at least one member participate in the online **Faith Talks**.
16. * Honored **God's Creation** (environment) in at least one way. Example: _____
17. Helped address the **needs of women, children, and youth** in at least one way.
Example: _____
18. * Added at least **one new member**.
19. Connected with the larger organization by inviting at least one **conference or district officer to speak at a meeting** during the year.

REVISED AUGUST 5, 2022

Reading Program

UW Faith 2023—2024

The ECD United Woman In Faith Book Club's reading list for 2023 to 2024. Please consider participating on a monthly basis.

You must register on our website at <https://www.flecduwfaith.org/reading-program> in order to receive the zoom link.

We meet the second Tuesday of every month at 7 pm. Hope to meet you online for the next session!

Thank you so much!

Submitted by Wendy Hamlett

February 2024 A Knock at Midnight: A Story of Hope, Justice and Freedom by Brittany K. Barnett

Brittany K Barnett was a law student when she came across the case that would change her life forever – that of Sharanda Jones, single mother businessowner, and like her, Black daughter of the rural south. A victim of America’s war on drug. Sharanda had been separated from her young daughter and was serving a life sentence without parole for a first- time drug offense. As Barnett studied the case, a system came into focus with widespread racial injustice at thee core of America’s addiction to incarceration. Moved, Barnett set to work to gain Sharanda’s freedom. The memoir is at once Barnett’s coming-of-age story and a powerful evolution of what it takes to bring hope and justice to a system built to resist them.

March 2024 Together: The Healing Power of Human Connection in a Sometimes Lonely World by Vivek H Murthy

In this ground breaking book, the 19th surgeon general of the United State Dr. Vivek Murthy makes a case for loneliness as a public health concern: a root cause and contributor to many of the epidemics sweeping the world today- from alcohol and drug addiction to violence to depression and anxiety. Loneliness, he argues, is affecting not only our health, but also how our children experience school, how we perform in the workplace, and the sense of division and polarization in our society. His message underscores the importance of human connection, the hidden impact of loneliness on our health, and the social power of community.



Committee on Nominations

You might be a United Woman in Faith if you have been the President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer in your unit. Unit offices are often held by the same women year after year or women rotate from one office to another. When an officer resigns it is often a struggle to find someone to fill that position. It is the job of the Committee on Nomination to recruit the candidate and not the outgoing officer or other officers responsibility. . Many of the units do not have a Committee on Nomination so the leadership team does not change and grow. Every member of a unit should fill out a talent bank form. From the form the committee gets to know a person's ability, interest, strengths and weakness. The form is not a commitment to hold an office, but it helps the Committee on Nominations match a person to a position that would be a perfect fit. These forms also help the unit to suggest women who the District Committee on Nomination should reach out to about holding a district office. You do not have to have held a unit office to serve as an East Central District officer.

East Central district is one of the strongest districts in Florida with a full slate of officers for 2024.

Our elected officers that make up the executive committee are:

- ♦ Janet Blume is in her second year as President, she previously served as the District Secretary for three years and Education & Interpretation for two years.
- ♦ Paula Foley is the Vice President, the first time we have had this position filled in 6 years. She will support Janet especially doing program planning.
- ♦ Maryann Mueller has been the Treasurer for past two years and helps all the unit treasurers.
- ♦ Linda Welander began as Secretary last year. She was the Education & Interpretation Coordinator before taking the secretary position. She helped plan the District Mission U program.
- ♦ The Committee on Nomination chair is Tracey Perry, she has served faithfully on this committee for the past three years. Dottie Mathias (previous chair), Live Kotkin, and Julie Weed serve on this committee. There should be at least 5 members so this in one area we need your help to get filled.



Committee on Nominations

Appointed offices on the leadership team are:

- ◆ The Secretary of Program resources was recently vacated. This office helps promote all the books in the United Women in Faith reading program and all of the program material.
- ◆ Diane Abresky is the Communication Coordinator, without her you may not be reading the Trumpet Sound.
- ◆ Gillian Wolfe has been our Social Action coordinator, for the past four years she has kept us aware and motivated with all the issues United Women in Faith help to bring about change.
- ◆ Phoebe Lustre and Doris Hatfield co-lead Membership, Nurture and Outreach. Our membership and all the ways units work are what makes our district strong.
- ◆ Lynn Campbell is the Parliamentarian. She was an East District President from 2012 to 2015.

There is one coordinator position that is vacant, Education & Interpretation If the Mission Study is your passion, let the Committee on Nomination know you may like to fill this office.

A district officer is elected or appointed to a position for a two year term. They can serve in that position for four years, except for treasurer and who can serve for six years. A district officer can only serve for a total of eight year.

Let's keep the East Central District United Women in Faith strong and healthy. Fill out your talent bank form and agree to hold an office. The district Committee on Nomination needs you so we will have a full slate of officers in 2025 and years to come.

Committee on Nomination,

Tracey Perry, chair tracey.perry@ocps.net

Dottie Mathias dottiemathias.umw@gmail.com

Julie Weed rwjaweed@aol.com

Live Kotkin kotkncln@ptd.net



United
Women
in Faith

POTENTIAL LEADER'S INFORMATION FORM
(To be completed by the potential leader)

Type or Print (attach additional sheets as necessary) Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Mobile Phone: _____

Email: _____

Local Unit/City: _____

Age: 20's___ 30's___ 40's___ 50's___ 60's___ 70's___ 80's___

Race/Ethnicity: _____ Employed Yes___ No___

Languages Spoken: _____

Professional Skills, job experiences : _____

List Office(s) held within United Women in Faith:

Local: _____

District: _____

Conference: _____

Jurisdiction: _____

Additional service other than United Women in Faith in the community and on the local, district, conference, jurisdiction or general church level:

Please return to: Dottie Mathias—Chair, Committee on Nominations
16447 Citrus Parkway, Clermont, FL 34714
Email: Dottiemathias.umw@gmail.com
Phone: 352-708-3222 or Mobile: 717-449-0879



POTENTIAL LEADER'S INFORMATION FORM (Cont'd)
(To be completed by the potential leader)

Name: _____ Date: _____

Areas of Special Interest or Concern:

- ___ Secretarial ___ Program Planning ___ Public Policy
___ Communication ___ Administration ___ Community Building
___ Workshops ___ Translator ___ Inclusiveness/Pluralism
___ Computer ___ Recruiting Members ___ Publicity
___ Newsletters ___ Social Issues ___ Retreats
___ Accounting/Bookkeeping ___ Creativity ___ Music
___ Organizing/Detail Oriented ___ Recording Minutes ___ Youth
___ Nominations ___ Signing ___ Children
___ Other (specify) _____

Which office(s) on the District United Women in Faith team would you most like to hold given the opportunity to serve?

- ___ President ___ Membership Nurture & Outreach
___ Vice President ___ Social Action
___ Secretary ___ Spiritual Growth
___ Treasurer ___ Program Resources
___ Education & Interpretation ___ Communications
___ Chair of Nominations

Why are you interested in this position(s) and what qualifications do you feel you have for your office(s) of choice?

Would you be able to use your fits and talents to uphold and strengthen United Women in Faith through the PURPOSE of this organization? _____

Is it possible for you to be away from your home or employment for: (circle)
Full Day Yes or No Weekend Yes or No Extended Time Yes or No

___ I am sorry but I am unable to accept an office this year. Please keep my name on file and contact me in _____ (month/year).

Please feel free to provide other information you feel is pertinent: _____

Eight Precious Gifts that Don't Cost a Cent

By David Loved

1. The Gift of LISTENING

But we must really listen, no interruptions, no day dreaming, no planning your response ,just listen.

2. The Gift of AFFECTION

Be generous with appropriate hugs, kisses, pats on the back and handholds. Let these small actions demonstrate the love you have for friends and family.

3. The Gift of LAUGHTER

Clip cartoons, share articles and funny stories. Our gift will say, "I love to laugh with you."

4. The Gift of WRITTEN NOTE

It can be simple, "Thanks for your help." note or a full sonnet. A brief, hand-written note may be remembered for a lifetime, and may even change a life.

5. The Gift of COMPLIMENT

A simple and sincere, "You look great in red." "You did a super job." Or "That was a wonderful meal." Can make someone's day.

6. The Gift of a Favor

Every day we should go out of our way to do something kind.

7. The Gift of SOLITUDE

There are times when we want nothing better than to be left alone. We should be sensitive to those times and give the gift of solitude to others.

8. The Gift of CHEERFUL DISPOSITION

The easiest way to feel good is to extend a kind word to someone. Really its not that hard to say, "Hello" or "Thank You"



United Women In Faith Unit News

Sanlando UWFaith Unit News

Sanlando UWFaith along with the Sanlando Congregation had a wrapping night on December 14th for the annual Mobil Manor Christmas parade where gifts are given out to all the children in the underserved community in Longwood Florida. This event has taken place for many years and the families and children look forward to Santa and Mrs. Claus each year. This year due to weather, the event was hosted at the church and about 40 families came for fellowship and cookies with Santa. Sanlando UWFaith is happy to help make this a wonderful event every year by donating all the wrappings and doing all the wrapping of the gifts (husbands even came to help) !

Submitted by:
Live Kotkin



Solid Rock UWFAITH Unit News

The United Women in Faith here at Solid Rock United Methodist Church shared Love in Action in 2023 in the following ways:

Donated over 100 Personal Care items to Guardian Care Nursing Home in Orlando.

A donation was sent from the UWFAITH to Florida United Methodist Children's Home to purchase Christmas gifts for the children.

The women also did a scholarship sponsor for one of our youths who selected to be a Debutante in December 2023

We will be hosting a brunch for Women's History month on March 16.

Submitted by:
Pamela May, UWFaith President



UNITED
METHODIST
WOMEN OF
FAITH

2ND ANNUAL
WOMEN'S HISTORY
MONTH CELEBRATION

One Love, One Heart



Together as One

MARCH 16 2024 • 10 AM
BRUNCH, FELLOWSHIP &
INSPIRATION

TICKETS ARE \$25

440 S. KIRKMAN ROAD
ORLANDO, FL 32811



SOLID ROCK UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH ORLANDO



New Horizons UWFAITH Unit News

As we enter a New Year, New Horizon United Women in Faith extend to all our "Sisters in Faith" a Happy and Blessed New Year. As the New Year begins our women are gearing up for a busy year with many projects, -one of which is our February rummage, book and bake sale along with other events and meetings showing love in action. Karen Hatfield presented a program at our January meeting referring to bible passages, one from Philippians 2: vs.3&4" *do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves.*" We receive many thank you, blessings and comments, but one of the most recent ones was a note from our friends at Palm Krest. ***Every time you come here you brighten our days. thank you.***

Respectfully submitted, Julie Weed, NHC Unit Secretary

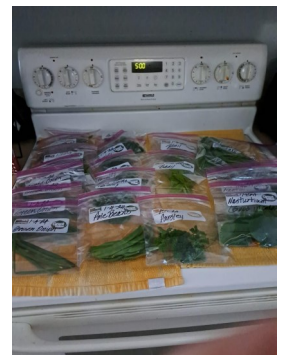
Community of Faith UWFAITH Unit News

The Community of Faith United Women in Faith started off December by collecting and donating underwear for children and women in the HELP NOW facility that houses women and children seeking a safe non-abusive place to live. Often the occupants have to leave their home with just the clothes they are wearing. So new undergarments were greatly needed.

Later in the month we decorated a Christmas tree that represented our group and church in Historic town square in Davenport FL. Our churches mission statement is to LIVE BY FAITH; BE KNOWN BY LOVE, & BE A VOICE OF HOPE in this world. We placed painted wooded crosses to represent LIVE BY FAITH; painted wooden hearts to represent BE KNOWN BY LOVE, and a stress ball painted globe to represent BE A VOICE OF HOPE IN THIS WORLD. We also hung wooden gingerbread men painted in white, black, brown, red, yellow and rainbow to represent our inclusiveness that all people are welcome in our group and our church as well.

We also have a vegetable and herb garden that helps support a food distribution in Haines City and twice this month we harvested, washed, bagged and labeled some of our yield to be distributed the first and third Friday of the month.

Submitted by: Lori Moffett



A Note From Your Communications Coordinator...

What is your unit doing to show LOVE IN ACTION?

Send in your article telling us how you are showing your Love in Action in 2024 so we can share it with others!

The Trumpet Sound will be published bimonthly (April, June, August, October, December). ***Due date for all articles are the 15th of the previous month.***

Here are some ideas for articles:

- ◇ What is your unit doing to show Love in Action for women, children and youth?
- ◇ How is your unit serving in missions?
- ◇ Have you used the UWFaith Program Book for a unit event?
- ◇ Have you done a program on Call to Prayer and Self-Denial?
- ◇ How have you used the Daily Prayer Guide?
- ◇ What are your upcoming UWFaith events?

Please make sure the article is no more than three paragraphs. Also, send a couple pictures with your article.

Email your articles to dianeabresky.umw@gmail.com by March 15th. In the subject line add Trumpet Sound.

If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at the above email.

Past Trumpet Sound Publications can be found on the website by following this link:

<https://flecduwfaith.org> under publications.

We invite you to view the website: <https://flecduwfaith.org> or visit us on Facebook (5) Florida East Central District United Methodist Women | Facebook