



United
Women
in Faith

NORTHERN VIRGINIA DISTRICT

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

NOVA NOTES

APRIL 2023



UWF Mission Statement

United Women in Faith seeks to connect and nurture women through Christian spiritual formation, leadership development, creative fellowship, and education so that they can inspire, influence, and impact local and global communities.

RENEWAL

“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.” Psalm 51:10

What is it about Spring that makes us feel alive? Spring is witness to bare branches turning green with leaves, fresh, colorful shoots coming out of the ground, and the gathering of birds preparing their nests. People experience Spring in different ways: for some it is anticipation of a spring break; others look forward to a new sport season; some happily pack away their “cold weather” clothes; and many feel the need to give a thorough “spring cleaning” of their home.

In all these things is a sense of renewal.

Through the Spring Lenten season, Christians prepare our hearts for repentance with reflections on how we can be better witnesses to our faith and be better neighbors to others in need. We turn our thoughts to Easter. Jesus Christ’s resurrection from death is the ultimate symbol of renewal.

Renewal takes many forms that we see from the outside, but it all begins from within. Physically, plants and animals need light and water to thrive. So, too, does our spirit that seeks its connection with God. We yearn for the “light of the Lord” and the “living water” that Jesus Christ gives to us.

At first, we may see renewal as a seasonal process like Spring. The reality is that renewal is a process that is constantly at work – we are never just “done.” Renewing our spirits, like caring for a garden, takes effort. Renewal creates change – change within us, which, in turn creates change in how we live.

There are many ways to open ourselves to renewal of our spirits: a Bible Study that is on-line or in person, reading the Bible with a program plan, journaling, singing, daily devotions, fellowship with other Christians, and prayer ministries are just a few. A phone call or card for a shut-in can raise the spirits of someone who may feel neglected. Putting our faith in action by volunteering for a food pantry or offering to give a neighbor a ride to church or an appointment is a generous service of love.

Theologian Thomas Merton said “There is in us an instinct for newness, for renewal, for a liberation of creative power. We seek to awaken in ourselves a force which really changes our lives from within. And yet the same instinct tells us that this change is a recovery of that which is deepest, most original, most personal in ourselves. To be born again is not to become somebody else, but to become ourselves.”

I hope this Spring brings a sense of renewal within you.

Brenda Romenius
Chair, UWF Committee on Nominations

The fundraising page t-shirt page has been launched!

You can order online at:

<https://www.customink.com/fundraising/northern-virginia-united-women-in-faith>

The shirts are available in **3 options**:

- ❖ Crew Neck T-shirt
- ❖ V-Neck T-shirt
- ❖ Polo Shirt.

All options come in Black or White Shirts are **\$25 each**, Sizes from **S-XXL**. If you're not sure of your size, there is a sizing guide available on the website.

If you order online, you have the option of having the shirt(s) sent directly to you

(\$9.95 shipping), or sent to Vikki Beatty bvikki123@aol.com (no shipping charge to you). If you have the shirts sent to Vikki, you will need to make arrangements with her to pick up the shirt(s) when they arrive.

The shirts will be printed when the fundraiser is over. Estimated delivery date is Tuesday, May 2, 2023.

Order form Attached. Each unit can decide whether they want their members to order online individually, or use the order form and have one person order online for the whole unit. Either way works. Please let Beth Meserve know.

beth.meserve@gmail.com

We only need to sell a minimum of 50 shirts by April 15, then shirts will be printed and sent to Vikki Beatty in bulk, unless when you make your purchase, you request direct shipment. The profits from the shirt sale will benefit women, children, and youth globally through your district Mission Giving to UMCOR-Ukraine and the Legacy Fund.

Wear your shirt to UWF events to show others where you're from! Remember, **we are God's mosaic of faithfulness**: through our differences, we are all part of God's story – we reflect God's love and presence in all we think, say, and do with faith, hope, and love to change the world.



“V-neck” example

Calling all of your used or unused greeting cards!

They will be trimmed to use the artwork and verse as *spirit lifters* in meal sacks delivered to homeless.

Devotionals, regardless their age are needed as well.

The liturgical calendar does not change and daily devotionals tend to follow this calendar so the year is inconsequential.

PLEASE recycle cards, devotionals, tablets, and calendars with **Vikki Beatty**, to continue their life as spirit lifters.

Please place your name and unit to enable her to send a *thank you*.

Call Vikki (703-577-9061), email (bvikki123@aol.com);
when delivering items to her, they may be placed on the table beneath her mailbox.

New web store for United Women in Faith opened on March 13!!

<https://uwfaithresources.org/prodlist.cfm?catid=0>



United
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We hope it will facilitate finding your resources. You will be able to locate your familiar Mission u study books, Program Resource and Daily Prayer Guides, as well as PDF resources arranged within specific categories. We will be expanding the **All Access** membership, increasing the selection of materials that will inform and inspire.

The fulfillment center will be keeping regular business hours (Monday-Friday, 9am-6pm ET). You can still call (1-888-409-8137) or email [customer service](mailto:cs@uwfaithresources.org) (cs@uwfaithresources.org) with your orders.

Visit the [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](https://uwfaithresources.org/faq.cfm) (<https://uwfaithresources.org/faq.cfm>) on the new site to familiarize yourself with the offerings. Explore the website by categories and use the search tools to help you find what you need.

We will be continuing to add enhancements, so do let us know if you don't find what you are looking for or have ideas or comments through the *Contact Us!* page also on the new site.



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. 69 previously recorded Faith Talks episodes recordings can be accessed online.

<https://uwfaith.org/resources/podcasts/>

Apr 20, 2023, 2:00 pm, National Office Event.

UWF Updated Purpose

**We are a community of women whose PURPOSE is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ;
to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and
to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.**

NOVA UWF Events/News Follow-Up!

St. John's Women's Prayer Breakfast (UWF) March 4, 2023



Speaking with Rev. Kameron Wilds



St. John's UWF library display



One of Two carts full from Prayer Breakfast Donations to Rising Hope UMC



Rising Hope Display



ST. JOHN'S WOMEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST-update & report:

On Saturday, March 4, St. John's United Women in Faith held a Women's Prayer Breakfast with the theme of *"Racial Justice... because we believe racism is a rejection of the teachings of Jesus Christ."* Rev. Kameron Wilds, senior pastor of Rising Hope Mission

Church was the guest speaker and discussed the challenges of systemic racist policies that impact the Route 1 communities it serves. In addition to the presentation by Rev. Wilds, there were thoughtful discussions of the role United Methodist Women/United Women in Faith have done since 1869 for Racial Justice. Forty people attended, many of them from other UWF units in Northern Virginia.

Financial donations of \$680 were received for this *"Prayer and Self-Denial"* breakfast, which will support numerous UWF programs for women, children and families. Generous contributions of diapers, baby wipes, shampoo, deodorants and various sundries were also collected for Rising Hope's ministries.

This was at St. John's the first in-person breakfast gathering for the women since the Covid pandemic struck in 2020. Sincerest appreciation and thanks to all St. John's UWF members who made this such a meaningful event!

UWF group of Woodlawn Faith United Methodist Church's,



Alexandria VA got together on Saturday in March to do Mission work. They made 100 ladies' Hygiene kits to take to local shelters and made 50 kits to send out Global United Community. They packed, danced and prayed over the kits. The event was held in Woodbridge VA at Sister Audrey Diggs House near the water.



United Women in Faith

Sydenstricker United Methodist Church
speaker Rev. Evelyn Archer-Taminger
Saturday, April 29 at 9:30am - 11am
Topic: *Saints* (not official yet: *Women throughout Time*)
Light refreshments

Sydenstricker UMC - Hottle Hall. Additional information to follow when available.

<https://www.sydenstrickerumc.org/>

Creation Justice Ministries:



To read more about how climate change impacts agriculture and our Christian call to respond, download

Earth Day Sunday 2023

Download Creation Justice Ministries'
2023 Earth Day Sunday Resource: Sowing Seeds!

DOWNLOAD HERE!

<https://secure.everyaction.com/2wyebyqZVa0Gk03XoqsN8VQ2?contactdata=dm2l8qJi2SOQ5G+tjV%2f1WWen0RQJgyMAFuRNhXNXP+MEK r0F7bVZkkxMUAVEWtc%2fhA0E8EY5z8ncu%2fE54xtNI43+Nv0f%2f+W3+xf5mjtyLLbmCGx1Pher0HAic0MAaF1vwHP4r7kY5Erfv25317p RKrJt7RX2HAXnLZlyBRH+9tPlfXL2rNZcvgRWD%2fX11F4HyilMozSSA9Y2rsrfit8NIOsNro71r8dxk8Wmn7quvT2rrexXcrgtWJRbOY+P3G 1x&emci=969fb703-73c2-ed11-a8e0-00224832e811&emdi=62dcb73d-8ac2-ed11-a8e0-00224832e811&ccid=5179503>

Join **Creation Justice Ministries** in observing Earth Day Sunday with this resource! This resource provides stories from people committed to caring for our planet through the food system, reflections, sermon starters, prayers and more to guide you and your congregation in faithful action.



United Women in Faith: Facebook page

Thank you for your support of the Legacy Endowment Fund, which honors the spirit of the women who founded this organization and helps to build a permanent resource to support the programs and ministries that we all hold so dear – activities like Mission u, Leadership Development Days, climate and racial justice work, and grants for our National Mission Institutions. Your gift to Day of Giving for the Legacy Endowment Fund builds a strong tomorrow for United Women in Faith.

If you have already given, many thanks! If you haven't had a chance, there is still time! Visit <http://www.uwfaith.org/DayOfGiving> to make your secure donation.



All About Resurrection!

Easter, Spring, and Earth Day mesh in April this year. Think about the lovely overlap: God resurrected Jesus from the dead and brought about new life through the church; God created the season that faithfully resurrects the cycle of life year after year; God works with faithful people through Earth Day to resurrect and renew care for Creation. God's desire for life over death is clear. **Let us work with joy for resurrection!**

- **Plant a patch or a whole garden full of food for pollinators.** Essential to the growth of food for humans (both body and soul), butterflies, bees, and birds teeter toward extinction due to human-caused destruction of habitat and use of pesticides. Plant for creation.
- Debris in waterways and plastic in oceans harm marine life—and ultimately all life. Pull together family, friends, or church members to **cleanup a beach or stream nearby**. If possible, weigh the collection and report it widely. Otherwise, raise funds and make an Earth Day donation to the [Ocean Blue Project](https://oceanblueproject.org/), and they'll do the work for you. <https://oceanblueproject.org/> I know daughter would walk home from her job with a trash bag, picking up trash in the parking lots and parks along the way home. She would often fill an entire trash bag quickly!

Never doubt that a few people can make a huge difference. From two people with a concern came the first Earth Day in 1970, which was in the United States. In 2023, over a billion people in 193 countries have caught the vision!

What you do matters.

- Avoid food waste, which in landfills becomes methane and exacerbates the climate crisis. Consume less in the first place. Across the globe, near and far, too many people are hungry. Consuming too much and wasting what's left over aren't healthy for people or planet. **Justice means assuring enough for all.**
- Stop the soot! For many people the air is visibly polluted—and harming their health. United Women in Faith are speaking out for earth and justice. **Sign their [petition](#)** to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to strengthen the work to clear the air. Your voice counts for justice.

~Above from United Methodist Creation Justice Movement/Suzanne Dorick





Helping homeless families and youth ...

The *Arlington Bunny Hop* is a 5K Charity Run/Walk sponsored by Clarendon UMC in support of *Bridges to Independence* (www.bridges2.org). Bridges provides support for homeless families and at-risk youth in Arlington, VA.

The event is Saturday, **April 15, 2023**. You may join us in Arlington or run on your own.



Earth Day

Celebration

Earth Day is an annual event on **April 22** to demonstrate support for environmental protection. First held on April 22, 1970, it now includes a wide range of events coordinated globally by www.earthday.org including 1 billion people in more than 193 countries. The official theme for 2023 is *Invest In Our Planet*. (Wikipedia)

The Shenandoah River District United Women in Faith Social Action Committee presents Earth Day Retreat: Celebrating God's Great Creation

Saturday, April 22, 2023 via Zoom from 9:00 AM – 12:00 noon

Facilitator: Karen McElfish, Commissioned as an Earth Keeper
by the Board of Global Ministries,



GroupHugging'22-unsplash>

September 2022 Chair-VA Annual Conference Organizing Team for Creation Justice Movement Member-VA Conference Church & Society Creation Justice Team Retreat Outline Opening Worship: A Celebration of the Beauty and Wonder of God's Great Creation Presentation by Karen McElfish: United Methodist-sponsored programs of Creation: Justice Movement.

Register by clicking on this link: <https://agile-defense.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEvfuqurDgoHt2euJLEvIunb9U8vObgHEdq>

Participation applies to parts of Section 3 of the "Living into Our Purpose" form, EXPERIENCE FREEDOM AS WHOLE PERSONS (HOPE). *See attached flyer.*

RISING HOPE UMC THROWBACK PROM April 22, 2023

Relive your glory days at our first Throwback Prom! Before dancing the night away, you'll enjoy heavy hors d'oeuvres and classic mocktails (no spiking the punch!). Then, move to the gymnasium, to dance the night away.

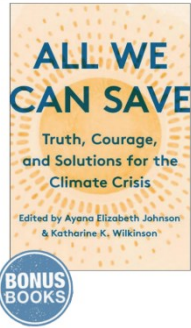
Come dressed in your favorite prom dress or tuxedo (not required - no peer pressure)! We'll begin at 5pm for hors d'oeuvres and the dance begins at 6pm. Silent Auction and ways to support Rising Hope throughout the night.

The Prom will be held at the Teen/Senior Center at the Old Mount Vernon High School. Interested in Sponsoring? Email us at events@risinghopeumc.org for details or check out the link below.

Tickets : \$50-\$3000 <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rising-hopes-throwback-prom-tickets-537720475417>



Coming in May!



Read Together Book Discussion

All We Can Save: Truth, Courage and Solutions for the Climate Crisis

Thursday, May 4, 2023

7PM-8PM ET/ 4PM-5PM PT

Join United Women in Faith members and friends for a Read Together small group discussion of *All We Can Save: Truth, Courage and Solutions for the Climate Crisis* edited by **Ayana Elizabeth Johnson and Katharine K. Wilkinson**. *All We Can Save* appears in United Women in Faith's [2023 Reading Program](#) as a leadership development bonus book.

Register: https://uwfaith-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMof-6pqjgtGNx3pUf1wsb5io3mx11_AwnX

Please note that *pre-reading of the book is required. * This is an interactive small group book discussions that requires all participants to have read the book prior to attending. Please do not register if you are not able to read the book before May 4th. Space is very limited and registration is accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.



2023 Spiritual Life Retreat May 13, 2023, Speaker: Linda Porter President of United Women of Faith Three Notch'd District. Plans are being made for our Spiritual Life Retreat. You do not want to miss this exciting event so please put the date in your calendar. More information will be coming soon along with registration. Zoom event.

[Click here to register for the Spiritual Life Retreat](#)

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0ldemprD0tGNwBSLoQI2wqhZ8Ow_fJBQCF

May 21, 2023 is UWF (United Women in Faith) Sunday at St. John's United Methodist Church, 5312 Backlick Rd., Springfield, VA . Rev. Dr. Carla Works, Wesley Theological Seminary visits St. John's and preaches on that Sunday.



Dr. Carla Works teaches New Testament studies. Her research interests include the Pauline epistles, the New Testament's use of Israel's scriptures, biblical ethics, and theological interpretation. She holds a Master's degree from Yale Divinity School and a Ph.D. from Princeton Theological Seminary. Her publications include *The Church in the Wilderness: Paul's Use of Exodus Traditions in 1 Corinthians* (Mohr Siebeck, 2014), *The Least of These: Paul and the Marginalized* (Eerdmans, 2020), and "Philippians" in *The Women's Bible Commentary* (Westminster John Knox, 2012). She is passionate about teaching and learning for the service of the church.



Reminder for NoVA Notes, our Bi-District newsletter for the Alexandria and Arlington Districts! We will distribute this UWF NoVA notes newsletter monthly to keep you informed of what's happening with the United Women in Faith in our area. In this newsletter, you can watch for news about upcoming events both in the districts and the Virginia Conference. We would love to hear from you! Let us know (Who, What, How & When of event is helpful and **an invitation** for all) the information your unit has planned for the 2023 newsletters by the 20th of the month. We need the events information to invite others! **Share and invite other UWF members** & you can send your stories, photos (jpg. helpful) and news to Carol Pratt at our e-mail address: UMWNoVaNotes@gmail.com.

Thank you! Carol Pratt, NoVA Notes



Photo by [Aaron Burden](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Easter is April 9, 2023

Luke 24:6-7:

"He is not here;

he has risen!"