



United
Women
in Faith

NORTHERN VIRGINIA DISTRICT

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

NOVA NOTES

DECEMBER 2024



**Please share this invite and link with others in your group/circle/unit.*

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.

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.



***May you have a Blessed,
Joyful and Merry Christmas!***

Luke 2:10-14: "And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger"

REPORT FROM THE NoVA DISTRICT UWF TREASURER

At District Day, the annual meeting of the Northern Virginia District of United Women in Faith, held at *Friendship UMC* on October 19, two important items on the agenda were discussed and adopted. They were the Administrative & Membership Development Fund (A&MD) Budget for 2025 in the amount of \$5,660 and the Pledge to Mission to the Virginia Conference UWF in the amount of \$42,500. Additionally, the members and units listed below were recognized for their achievements:

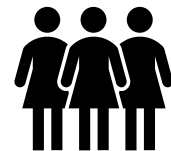
Candle Burning – Units donated a total of **\$2,851.73**. The candle burned for 1 hour 32 minutes, symbolizing the mission work the NoVA District UWF has supported during the past year.

Rainbow Givers – 11 members

Lorrie Rezendes – Aldersgate	Brenda Romenius – St. John’s
Cathy Gordon – Andrew Chapel	Terri Bucklin – St. John’s
Karlene Masters – Fairlington	Martha Anne Lee – St. Matthew’s
Doris Douglass – Friendship	Susan Piccione – St. Paul
Janice Watson – Herndon	Myrna Meling - Sydenstricker
Debra Fairweather – Mount Olivet	

Units contributing to the Five/Six Channels of Mission Giving –

Pledge to Mission, Gift to Mission, Gift in Memory, Special Mission Recognition,
World Thank Offering, and Candle Burning:



Six-Star Units

Aldersgate	Herndon	St. Matthew’s
Andrew Chapel	Mount Olivet	St. Paul
Friendship	St. John’s	Sydenstricker

Five-Star Units

Del Ray
Fairlington
Woodlawn-Faith

Reading Program – 17 units participated, with 13 units having a total of 65 readers who completed one of the four plans. Old Bridge UWF by far had the largest number of readers at 27! A certificate was not only issued to each individual who completed a plan, but also to every unit participating in the Reading Program.

Legacy Fund - 7 individuals and 4 units contributed:

Gloria Ruddick – Clarendon	Aldersgate UWF
Sandy Millard – Fairlington	Fairlington UWF
Brenda Romenius – St. John’s	Herndon UWF
Marty Bickford – St. John’s	St. Paul UWF
Martha Ann Lee – St. Matthew’s	
Marlene Cavaiola – Sterling	
Nancy Miller - Sydenstricker	

Note: More UWF members may have contributed online to the National UWF office, but it was not reported to the Treasurer.

Special Mission Recognition – The following Mission Team officers stepping down from their positions were recognized for their service to the NoVA District UWF: Beth Meserve, District president, and Dana Connor and Suzanne Dorick, Spiritual Growth and Social Action coordinators, respectively. Each woman in her own way was instrumental in furthering THE PURPOSE of United Women in Faith. They will be missed.

On Saturday, October 26, the Virginia Conference United Women in Faith held its 52nd annual meeting on Zoom, featuring Sally Vonner, the CEO of United Women in Faith (the national office) as guest speaker. At that meeting, it was announced that of the eight districts in the Virginia Conference UWF, the NoVA District UWF placed:

- 1) 3rd in number of 5/6-star units
- 2) 3rd in number of Rainbow Givers
- 3) 2nd in the largest number of books read in the Reading Program
- 4) 1st in the largest number of readers in the Reading Program

Well done, everyone!! Congratulations!! Thank you for your wonderful support in 2024. Onward to 2025.

Marty Bickford

ATTENTION UNIT PRESIDENTS AND TREASURERS!

December 10, 2024, will soon be here – the date your unit’s quarterly remittance is due to the treasurer of the Northern Virginia District United Women in Faith – the last one for this fiscal year ending December 31, 2024.

Your \$3 per member is also due to support the District’s Administration & Membership Development Fund (A&MD). To date, \$2,278 has been received – not quite enough to support our budget, which funds the District’s annual events, office supplies, postage, and program resources, among other things.

For 2024, the NoVA District UWF pledged \$42,500 to support the Virginia Conference UWF’s Pledge to Mission to the National Office of United Women in Faith. The funds received each quarter for undesignated Mission Giving (Pledge to Mission, Special Mission Recognition, Gift to Mission, Gift in Memory, World Thank Offering, and Candle Burning) are applied to the pledge. Only \$6,258.72 is needed to reach our goal of \$42,500. Your units have done an **outstanding job** throughout the year contributing to these five/six channels of Mission Giving, and I project – with your unit’s continued generosity – the pledge will be fully funded this last quarter of the year.

You are all to be congratulated for your commitment to United Women in Faith.

I am grateful for everything you do on behalf of women, children, and youth everywhere. Love in action can change the world!

Marty Bickford

NoVA District UWF Treasurer



United
Women
in Faith

INFORMATION FOR 2025 YEARBOOK NEEDED BY YEAR END

Contact information (name, address, e-mail, and phone number) of any newly-elected unit president is needed for the 2025 Northern Virginia District UWF Yearbook. The same contact information is needed for unit treasurers as well. If there are new officers in place, please send the above information as soon as possible, but not later than **December 31**, to Marty Bickford at martybickford121@outlook.com. Thank you.



**NORTHERN VIRGINIA
DISTRICT TRAINING DAY**



Go! Make Disciples! Transform the World!

In Person, Satellite, & Virtual Options

+ ADDITIONAL WORKSHOPS, SPEAKERS, & TRAINING!

Saturday, January 11, 2025

[Registration is Open!](https://2025.novatrainday.com/)

<https://2025.novatrainday.com/>

NoVa District Training Day returns on **Saturday, January 11, 2025!** This year we have **three** Keynote Speakers and three different ways to engage with Training Day.

This year's theme is **Go! Make Disciples! Transform the World!** and features keynotes from **Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson** (Richmond Episcopal Area) and **Bishop Kenneth H. Carter, Jr.** (Charlotte Episcopal Area) as well as an afternoon workshop with **Michael Beck** (Director of Fresh Expressions for The United Methodist Church).

**In Person
\$65**

In Person attendees will select their choice of Afternoon Workshop and will have full access to the Video Library. Lunch is provided with optional Lunchtime Roundtable conversations.

**Virtual
\$50**

Purchasing a Virtual Ticket gives you access to the live Keynote Sessions as well as Michael Beck's Afternoon Workshop. Also includes access to the Video Library at the close of the event.

**Satellite
\$45**

Satellite Tickets include two Keynote presentations and Michael Beck's Afternoon Workshop. Lunch is provided. We have Satellite locations in three districts.

****Early Bird Discount: In Person tickets cost \$60 until December 1.**

In Person Afternoon Workshops

In Person attendees can choose from the following:

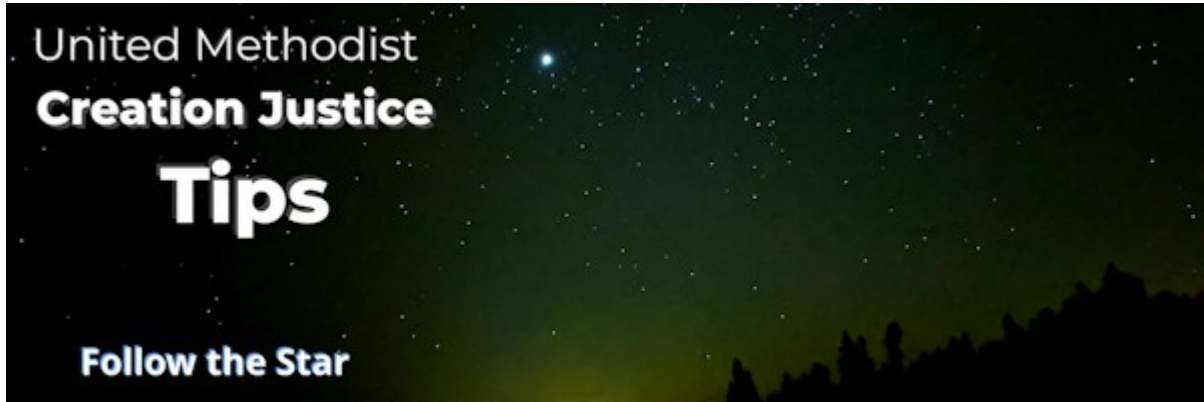
- **NEVER ALONE: SHARING THE GIFT OF COMMUNITY IN A LONELY WORLD**
Rev. Michael Beck
- **DEVELOPING FAITH IN AN ANXIOUS WORLD**
Andy Jung
- **LISTENING FOR THE PULSE**
Rev. Kameron Wilds
- **PETER AND JUDAS: THE PITFALLS AND POSSIBILITIES OF MAKING DISCIPLES**
Laura Holmes
- **CREATING A BETTER BULLETIN**
Rev. Billy Kluttz
- **WORK SMARTER NOT HARDER WITH AI**
Kim Johnson
- **MISSIONAL BUDGETING FOR FINANCIALLY VITAL CONGREGATIONS**
Anne Muradaz

**HEALTHY CLERGY, HEALTHY MINISTRY:
BALANCING PHYSICAL WELLNESS AND SELF-CARE** *Presented in Korean ,Rev. Taehwan Roh

The screenshot shows a webpage for 'AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS' at 1:15 P.M. It features a grid of workshop cards. Each card includes a title, speaker name, and a short description. The workshops listed are: 'NEVER ALONE: SHARING THE GIFT OF COMMUNITY IN A LONELY WORLD' by Rev. Michael Beck; 'DEVELOPING FAITH IN AN ANXIOUS WORLD' by Andy Jung; 'LISTENING FOR THE PULSE' by Rev. Kameron Wilds; 'PETER AND JUDAS: THE PITFALLS AND POSSIBILITIES OF MAKING DISCIPLES' by Laura Holmes; 'CREATING A BETTER BULLETIN' by Rev. Billy Kluttz; 'WORK SMARTER NOT HARDER WITH AI' by Kim Johnson; and 'MISSIONAL BUDGETING FOR FINANCIALLY VITAL CONGREGATIONS' by Anne Muradaz. There is also a QR code and a registration link at the bottom.

[Download Workshop List](#)

**Registration Closes on Jan. 8
- Don't Delay Questions?
Email NoVaDistrict@vaumc.org**



The Wisdom of the Magi

**The famous “three”
were attuned to nature
and saw in a star-studded sky the one
that would guide them to travel—
most likely bringing with them
support folks, family, and friends—
to One who was worthy of their efforts.
They brought their gifts as an expression of worship.
And they went home another way
to keep the Precious One safe.**

May our journey to this Christmas be filled with such wisdom.

**The United Methodist Creation Justice Movement is providing these following
Tips as a tool to equip church members, families, and individuals to respond to
God's call to care for creation and do justice with our neighbors.
For more about the UM Creation Justice Movement, go to umcreationjustice.org**

December 2024 Tips

“*God so loved the world...*” Most often Christians hear John 3:16 in relationship to personal salvation. But look again at what God loves enough to send God's own Son as a gift—the world! All of creation, not just humans. **If God so loved the world, then we need to also.** Choose at least one aspect of creation and love it through your gifts.



* Change the usual pre-Christmas conversation of “What do you *want* for Christmas?” to a **focus on “What do you *need*?”** You may find hints or right-out requests for something that would be especially helpful or meaningful and that may also be kind to the environment.

* If a loved one says, “I don’t need anything for Christmas,” choose a thoughtful gift that is zero-waste, such as a shampoo bar, a package of wooden clothes pins to use instead of plastic “chip clips,” preserves from local farmers, some bamboo toilet paper, a bracelet made of plastic recovered from an ocean, a packet of seeds for wildflowers. **Sustainable gifts spark lasting change.**

* Far away family and friends appreciate the gift you give through your cards and notes. Stay in touch with friends and family with **digital cards**. (<https://www.jacquielawson.com//>) The cost is low, especially if your list is long, and the subscription covers a full year of reaching out to family and friends. The cost to the environment is also very low.

* Have a conversation—not a confrontation—with your teen about any gifted money. Invite them to think about investing in their future and Creation’s. Help them explore possibilities related to their interests or concerns, **such as organizations that care for wildlife, replant trees, support ocean clean up, or address justice issues.** Ultimately, remember the money was a gift to them—not you. Your gift is to be a thinking partner.

* **Turn Christmas clean up into an educational and fun game for the children.** (or grandchildren) Challenge them to find the wrapping and packaging that can be reused and what can be recycled. Shiny, glittery, metallic, and plastic in all forms are no-no’s for recycling, but could they be saved and reused? The game may be a gift that impacts choices they make for years to come.

* When disposing of a cut Christmas tree, give your tree as a gift to Earth. Some places will pick up the trees and grind them into wood chips for paths in parks or for mulch. Other people find that they can cut up a tree and bury the pieces, which allows the decaying tree to add nutrients to the soil. **Don’t burn the tree.** That sends carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.

VIDEOS: "A MINUTE FOR MOTHER EARTH"!

A series very short videos to help your congregation recognize God's call in the midst of climate-related issues. Each "Minute" is based on the curriculum, *Wake Up World, A Curriculum on the Climate Crisis for Faith and Community Groups* (available free on the website and in print form from Cokesbury). Access the complete series of "Minutes" free at www.wakeupworld.earth.

Fairlington UWF Holiday Fundraisers 2024, Proceeds from our fundraisers (nuts and ornaments) support local and national non-profits impacting the lives of women, children, and youth. Email us at FairlingtonUMW@gmail.com for details or to ask questions.

To order nuts: <https://fairlingtonumw.terrilynn.com/>

(by the way, I've ordered these before and they taste great!)



2024 White House Historical Assoc.

Ornament Official 2024 White House

Christmas Ornament honors President Jimmy Carter. The ornament's anchor shape, an iconic symbol of hope and represents Carter's service in the United States Navy.



One of the tenets of being a United Woman in Faith is to "connect and nurture women through Christian spiritual formation." The VA Conference is offering a program to enhance our spiritual practices.

"Soul Feast" will be conducted by live Webinars on the first Monday of each month from 6:30-7:30 PM, until June 2025. The book "**Soul Feast**" by Marjorie J. Thompson 2024-2025 is available on Amazon (I bought mine for \$13.50). Attached is a description of each session and the chapter reading. You can register for the sessions at <https://vaumc.org/soulfeast/>

December 2024• Join Live Webinar on December 2, 6:30-7:30, read chapter 4

The **UWFaith at Sydenstricker UMC** would like to invite you to their two activities to be held at Sydenstricker UMC at 8508 Hooes Rd. in Springfield during this holiday season.

For more info, please call Myrna Meling at 571.488.3366.

1. Nov 30-Dec 1

The Sydenstricker United Women in Faith will be selling soup in the Grove on Saturday, November 30, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and Sunday, December 1, from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The sale will be in the Grove by the Christmas tree sale



2 December 7

The Sydenstricker United Women in Faith is hosting a Christmas Cookie Exchange on Saturday, December 7, at 10:00 a.m., and sponsoring a fundraiser with delicious baked goods on Sunday, December 8, beginning at 9:45 a.m in Hottle Hall Ladies are invited to bring 3 dozen cookies (2 doz to exchange and a dozen to donate to bake sale). We will hold gathering in Hottle Hall (as you walk up steps to church walkway take a left through double doors.



<https://www.risinghopeumc.org> , 8220 Russell Rd, Alexandria, VA

RISING HOPE MISSION CHURCH · WE ARE A COMMUNITY OF FAITH HELPING INDIVIDUALS RISE ABOVE HOMELESSNESS AND POVERTY ALONG THE ROUTE 1 CORRIDOR,

Rising Hope Celebration Journal (December 2024)

<https://mailchi.mp/risinghopeumc/srp2pauf83-10144246?e=fa5ba6c0e7>

At Rising Hope, one of our core values is celebrating life together! The Angel Gift program is a wonderful outreach that connects generous community members with families who may otherwise find holiday gift-giving difficult. This year, we aim to collect over 800 unwrapped gifts to distribute to our most vulnerable families. We'll also offer cookies, photos, and a gift-wrapping table during distribution on Saturday, December 14. If you're interested in participating, please [email Heather](#), our coordinator. We're deeply grateful to all our community partners who help make this outreach possible.

**Holiday Cheer at the Rising Hope
Food Market**

If you'd like to support Rising Hope's Holiday Markets by donating food, volunteering, or contributing in any way, please [email Raquel](#). (rburbano@risinghopeumc.org) Together, we can make the holidays a time of joy and abundance for all.

Rising Hope's Longest Night Service

We invite you to join Rev. Wilds, members of Rising Hope, and our partners at Ventures in Community for a Longest Night Worship Service on **December 18 at 6:00 P.M.** at **Rising Hope UMC**. This candlelit service is a time of remembrance and reflection, honoring the lives of those we mourn, especially our friends from the streets, both known and unknown. Gather with us in this moment of reflection and prayer as we seek to hold onto hope, even on the darkest of nights

We would love to hear about the activities you and your units work on to help our mission. Please consider **Thursday, January 30, 2025**

A Gospel Christmas
and Christmas Shopping
Marketplace


Bethany House
NORTHERN VIRGINIA

Gospel Christmas Concert
benefiting Bethany House of Northern Virginia
Saturday, December 7, 2024
McLean Presbyterian Church
1020 Balls Hill Road, McLean, VA 22101
Christmas Shopping Marketplace opens at 5:00 pm
Concert begins at 7:00 pm

Get tickets, sponsor the concert, or become a marketplace vendor!
bit.ly/gospelchristmas24
email: info@bhnv.org phone: 703-658-9500

Bethany House (<https://www.bhmv.org/>) – Saturday, Dec. 7, 2024 event.

Facebook invitation: <https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=979745610866628&set=gm.1288904295583424>

United Methodist Day at General Assembly

2025 Registration now open. Registration: <https://na.eventscloud.com/ereg/index.php?eventid=815503&>



United Methodist Day at the General Assembly

Thursday, January 30, 2025

The Pace Center

700 West Franklin Street

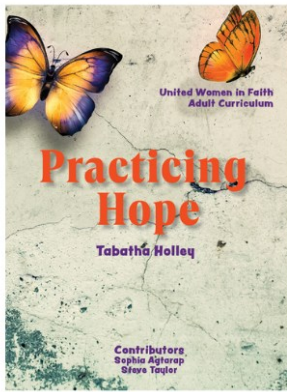
Richmond, Virginia Time: 7:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Regular Registration closes on January 17, 2025 - \$35

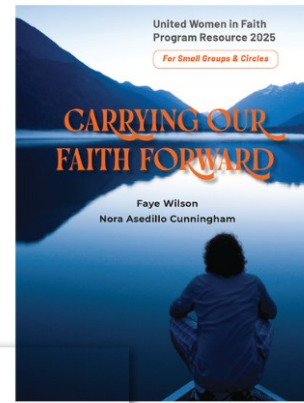
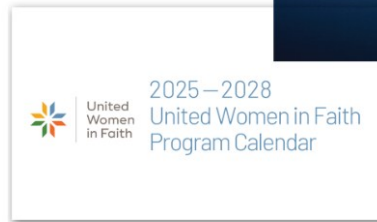
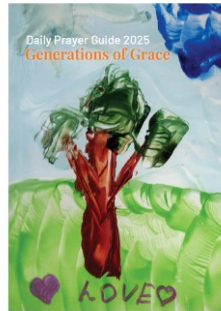
Student Registration - \$10

Questions? please contact Heather Wray at heatherwray@vaumc.org

Registration closes on January 17, 2025



2025 BUNDLE is available!



**ORDER YOUR
2025 BUNDLE
TODAY
and
SAVE 20%**

The Bundle 2025 – Early Bird Special!

K3222 \$49.99

<https://uwfaithresources.org/prodDetail.cfm?productID=11798&catid=2175>

The Bundle this year includes:

- Daily Prayer Guide 2025 (Retail price: \$19.99)
- Program Resource 2025 (\$14.99)
- Adult 2025 Curriculum for Mission u (\$14.99)
- Quadrennial Calendar 2025-2028 (\$14.99)

Hurry, this offer is available to the first 2,000 subscribers. *

If you'd like to lower your carbon footprint and want to purchase only the **digital formats**, please [click here](#). †

2025 Resource Bundle

\$39.99

USD

https://uwfaith.mn.co/plans/1428126?bundle_token=04f31227e01f63e0938a015d28610089&utm_source=manual

For an extra \$5 per resource, ** you can have both the print and online editions with special access to the Program Resource monthly Community Gatherings! Please [click here](#).

To join [2025 Resource Bundle](#),
you must have an account for United Women in Faith Digital.

Bundle information: <https://www.facebook.com/uwomenfaith/>

MARK YOUR 2025 CALENDARS!!

**Northern Virginia District
United Women in Faith
Winter Games Party**



Sunday, January 12, 2025, 2:00-4:00pm, Fairfax UMC

Please come at 2:00 p.m. and bring:

- a bit of finger food to share
- a can or two of food to replenish the Fairfax UMC pantry
- a game that we'll all enjoy



The address of Fairfax UMC-- 10300 Stratford Ave, Fairfax, VA 22030-3217.

Do you need a ride?

We will have board games, card games, puzzles, and coloring sheets!

We will be collecting canned food at this event to help support the Fairfax UWF Food Pantry. They have recently seen an increase in the number of families needing help.

We look forward to seeing you there. Plan now to join us and bring a friend! No RSVP Required. Free onsite parking. If you have any questions, please contact Beth Meserve beth.meserve@gmail.com



SAVE THE DATE!

On **January 26, 2025, on Zoom at 2:30 (Sunday afternoon)**, there will be a **Treasurer Training session**.

Please mark your calendar. This invitation is open to unit presidents, treasurers, and anyone on your executive committee who wishes to attend. Watch for the Zoom link and further information in mid-January. If you have any questions for me before January 26, please don't hesitate to contact me at martybickford121@outlook.com or 703-731-7992.