



United
Women
in Faith

NORTHERN VIRGINIA DISTRICT

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

NOVA NOTES

JANUARY 2023

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



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.

Declutter Your Spiritual Life

Remove the distractions and seek Jesus.

You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. Jeremiah 29:13 (NIV)

It has been a long day and you're ready for a treat. A bowl of ice cream would just hit the spot. In the kitchen, you find your utensil drawer is stuck shut again. You jiggle and yank the handle, finally releasing whatever had blocked it. Staring at the jumbled contents, you sigh. All you need is the ice cream scoop. Shuffling through various wooden spoons, silicone spatulas, and stainless-steel knives—each created for only one purpose—you finally find the familiar rubberized handle. Now to work it free from the tangled mass.

That drawer, with all its useful and helpful items, sometimes reminds me of the way life can get cluttered with busywork. Like the garlic press I recently purchased, I always find ways to cram one more volunteer opportunity or social engagement into my week. Sometimes I lose track of the point. Why am I doing it and who am I doing it for? With my focus split in a hundred directions, none of these things bring me—or others—closer to Jesus. Finally, I empty the drawer, carefully selecting which utensils to keep and which to donate. Now I'll be able to find what I need with ease.

I need to do the same with my free time. Things that distract me from Jesus or from serving Him better should be removed. Psalm 27:8 reminds me, "You have said, 'Seek my face.' My heart says to you, 'Your face, LORD, do I seek'" (ESV). I want to declutter my soul, to seek Him with all my heart and find Him, and to reach for Him and recognize His touch deep inside.

How about you? Is it time to declutter your life, remove the distractions, and seek Jesus?

Lord, Help us to declutter our lives that we might seek you with all our hearts.

*Adapted from a devotional by Heidi Gaul
January 2023 Devotion from Beth Meserve*

UWF NOVA District Training Day

You are cordially invited to join us via Zoom to learn about **United Women in Faith Officers and their duties.**

You have two opportunities to learn:

January 7 10:00-11:30am

January 8 2:00-3:30pm

Everyone is welcome. If you are an officer and want to learn more about your office, please join us. If you are not an officer, but you are curious about what your officers do, please join us.



We hope to see you there on Zoom!!

Zoom information:

Here is the Zoom information for Saturday the 7th at 10:00 and Sunday the 8th at 2:00. It's the same Zoom link both days:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86297243330>

Meeting ID: 862 9724 3330

Passcode: 868788

Phone only: 301 715 8592

Meeting ID: 862 9724 3330

Passcode: 868788

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.**

Have You Registered? NoVa District Training Day is right around the corner. Are you registered?
NoVa District Training Day will be **Saturday, January 14, 2023** beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Register: <https://2023.novatrainngday.com/>

The decision in early 2022 to hold the 2023 Bi-District Training Day (now NoVa District Training Day) in a virtual format.

Northern Virginia District Training Day is designed to give church leaders support, training, and inspiration for another year in Ministry. 2 Keynote Speakers. 40+ Additional Workshops.

Plan to spend Saturday, January 14 with Kate and Tod live via webinar and then explore the 40+ additional prerecorded workshops we've prepared for you!



KEYNOTE: No Cure for Being Human: Resilient Faith for Tough Times

A workshop by [Kate Bowler](#)



KEYNOTE: Leadership and Discipleship in a World of Continual Change

A workshop by [Tod Bolsinger](#)

Author, Co-owner/Principal, AE Sloan Leadership, Inc

See the website NOW for INFORMATION on speakers and workshops.

NEW: Team Pricing! This year we are offering Team Pricing to help you do that. We have a 5-person ticket and a 10-person ticket available from now until * January 5, 2023.

Visit our [ticketing page](#) to purchase a team ticket. (<https://2023.novatrainngday.com/tickets/>)

This year we are offering four different ticket types. Please see the partial list below.

Day-Of Pass: For \$30 you can purchase a Day-Of Pass. This will allow you to participate in both of the live webinar sessions with our Keynote Speakers

All-Access Pass: For \$50.

Two different **TEAM tickets**.

See the website NOW for INFORMATION on speakers and workshops.

NEW: Team Pricing! This year we are offering Team Pricing to help you do that. We have a 5-person ticket and a 10-person ticket available from now until January 5, 2023.



Join VICPP at the General Assembly to advocate social justice on Wednesday, Jan. 18, 2023! We're so excited to be back in-person for our flagship advocacy day in 2023! Join us in Richmond to make a difference at the state capitol! <https://www.virginiainterfaithcenter.org/general-assembly/2023-session/>



Thursday, January 26

United Methodist Day at the General Assembly 2023

<https://na.eventscloud.com/ereg/index.php?eventid=719504&>

The Pace Center, 700 West Franklin Street, Richmond, Virginia

Early Bird Registrations through December 31, 2022 - \$25

Regular Registration as of January 1, 2023 - \$35

Student Registration - \$10



United
Women
in Faith

**Your Northern Virginia District UWF executive team will meet
by zoom on Saturday, January 28.**

Please let UWF NOVA District President Beth Meserve and Maria Ward alexandria.umw.president@gmail.com know if you have any items that you would like us to consider for this zoom meeting.

Creation Justice Tips for January 2023

<https://umcreationjustice.org/tips/>

“I have a dream....” Martin Luther King cast his vision for all to see and aspire to. He also worked to bring it about. **What is your dream for creation? for justice?** How will you work to bring about a healthy, equitable, and inclusive future for all of God’s kin-dom? Read God’s vision: [Isaiah 65:17-25](#).

Isaiah 65:17-25, Common English Bible

New creation and new Jerusalem

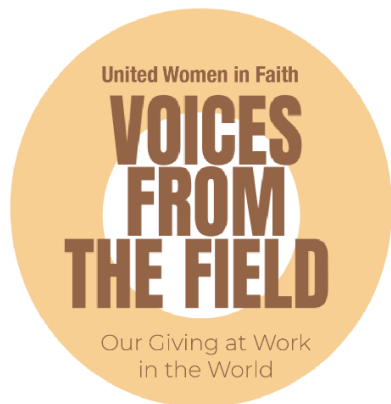
- ¹⁷ Look! I’m creating a new heaven and a new earth:
past events won’t be remembered;
they won’t come to mind.
- ¹⁸ Be glad and rejoice forever
in what I’m creating,
because I’m creating Jerusalem as a joy
and her people as a source of gladness.
- ¹⁹ I will rejoice in Jerusalem and be glad about my people.
No one will ever hear the sound of weeping or crying in it again.
- ²⁰ No more will babies live only a few days,
or the old fail to live out their days.
The one who dies at a hundred will be like a young person,
and the one falling short of a hundred will seem cursed.
- ²¹ They will build houses and live in them;
they will plant vineyards and eat their fruit.
- ²² They won’t build for others to live in,
nor plant for others to eat.
Like the days of a tree will be the days of my people;
my chosen will make full use of their handiwork.
- ²³ They won’t labor in vain,
nor bear children to a world of horrors,
because they will be people blessed by the LORD,
they along with their descendants.
- ²⁴ Before they call, I will answer;
while they are still speaking, I will hear.
- ²⁵ Wolf and lamb will graze together,
and the lion will eat straw like the ox,
but the snake—its food will be dust.
They won’t hurt or destroy at any place on my holy mountain,
says the LORD.

Photos of the “Ugly Christmas Sweater UWF” Party, Sunday, December 4, 2:00 p.m. at Pender UMC Fairfax



“While the earth remains, Seedtime and harvest, Cold and heat, Winter and summer, and day and night Shall not cease.” [Genesis 8:22](#)

Photo by Carol Pratt



Greetings from Voices from the Field!

The link to view a **recording** of the Dec 5, 2022, event from *Voices from the Field*, with Emma Cantor, is now available. Please click on the below link where the video is posted on YouTube.

Voices from the Field: [Voices from the Philippines with Emma Cantor - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cGt-WSdz7X4) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cGt-WSdz7X4>

If you would like to make a financial gift, please click here: <https://uwfaith.org/give>.

Voices from the Field events are held quarterly. The next event, '**Love, Justice, Service: The Ministries of Deaconesses & Home Missioners**', will be held on **March 7, 2023**, at 7:30 PM ET. A link to register will be sent out around 4 weeks prior to the event date. We encourage you to help us promote it to members, women in your church, friends and family, and across your district and annual conference.

<https://mailchi.mp/d22770c7eec8/10-quick-tips-for-bulletin-newsletter-and-more-to-help-people-in-the-pews-take-action-and-protect-gods-creation-16153427?e=8680f8a178>



From Old Bridge UMC UWF Unit <https://www.oldbridgechurch.org/>

An Advent Tradition Returns to Northern Virginia

Starting in the 1980's some local UMW units began gathering together for an annual Advent prayer breakfast and hymn sing. The idea was to begin the Advent season in a spirit-filled, faithful manner with Christ at the center. Of course, being UMW, there was also Mission, fellowship, food and fund. Unfortunately, COVID caused the cease of this decades-old tradition for 2020 and 2021. But we're back! On December 3, 2021 over 50 attendees came to the Advent prayer breakfast hosted by the UWF unit at **Old Bridge UMC** in Woodbridge, VA. Members from six congregations along with District officers and at-large members attended. Ages ranged from about 10 to 94.

For Missions, attendees brought food donations for our local food bank. We also donated cards and signed them during the breakfast. They'll be used as greetings in multiple Mission efforts underway in our UWF district.

The Pastor at Old Bridge, Kyungsuk Cho and his wife, Hyesook, started us off with the Korean version of one of our Christmas Carols. He then blessed our bountiful breakfast buffet. After the meal, we heard an Advent message prepared by Rev. Dr. Katie Phillips about Mary and her miracle pregnancy. While this message was reverent, it also had a splash of humor as Katie performs Improv Comedy in her free time.

Our breakfast ended with a rousing sing-a-long of Christmas carols. An inspirational closing prayer was delivered by Pastor Woodard of Dumfries UMC. We all left the breakfast energized and ready to **keep Christ as the reason for the season**.