



United
Women
in Faith

NORTHERN VIRGINIA DISTRICT

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

NOVA NOTES

JULY, 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.

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.

The Spark of Creation

By Sharon Rosenfeld

Used with permission

From Beth Meserve

MAMA He doesn't speak to you anymore, does he?

Not since before the rain.

NOAH No. No. I don't know what father wants.

The spark of creation, that's all you've got left now.

The spark of creation will have to be your guide.

What do you do when the opinion you value most – a voice you have grown deeply accustomed to – is silent?

The above dialogue is from the musical *Children of Eden*. It tells a biblically inspired story of creation in the first act, and a similarly inspired story of Noah in the second. The story isn't completely accurate to the events of the Bible, but it's close. The musical leans heavily into the impact of making a choice, and how the choice to disobey the Father in the Garden of Eden opened us up to a world of chaos caused by our own free will.

One of the key scenes has Noah is on the deck of the ark, calling out to God in the darkness. It paints a major contrast to the colors of creation in Act 1 or the parade of animals boarding the ark a few scenes before. He's defeated, he's scared, and he has no idea what God wants him to do. He feels abandoned, though God is with him in ways he can't understand.

For all of the liberties that the script takes, the emotion of this moment is exactly right. For Noah, for many heroes in the Bible, for you and for me.

For as long as humans have walked on God's Earth, we have longed to hear his voice. We have sought the guidance of any force that seems to be of God; pieced together the wind and the weather, searched the stars for

breadcrumbs leading back to the divine. We've gotten it wrong at least as many times as we've gotten it right. Probably more.

A prophet is defined as someone who declares a message that they believe has come from God. The true prophets have inspired hope, justice and mercy; they have validated the Gospel and changed the world.


Unfortunately, anyone and anything can claim to bear a message and speak on behalf of the Lord. The Bible warns over and over and over again about false prophets and how easy it is to be led astray. After all, when you are scared and alone the voices of the world will be the loudest and the easiest to hear.

But do not be discouraged. The Spirit of God is living in you.

The prophet Joel proclaimed that a day was coming when God's Spirit would be poured out on all people and, on Pentecost, that prophecy came into focus. The age of the Spirit had come: Jesus provided us salvation and gave his followers new life in the Spirit.

*If no outer force will show you your course, you'll have to look inside
Your only illumination, the spark of creation*

You have been anointed by the Spirit to hear his voice. Because of Jesus, *you* are the prophet you seek.



UWF Reading Corner

Read! Read! Read! Read! Read! Read! Read!
Only two months left until our Reading Lists are due into the District Office.
Turn in the UWF list of all books you read this year to your Program Resources/librarian.
Due date is August 31!!!
Read! Read! Read! Read! Read! Read! Read!

JUNE 29, 2023, 2:00 pm!!



FAITH TALKS ON AMERICAN METHODISTS AND WOMEN'S RIGHTS

Listen to the live Faith Talks podcast as host Jennifer R. Farmer interviews DR. ASHLEY BOGGAN. Dr. Boggan is the first woman to lead the office of General Secretary for the **General Commission of Archives and History** of The United Methodist Church. She is the author of **Nevertheless: American Methodists and Women's Rights**. Join us for this in-depth discussion on John Wesley, Methodist women, and women's rights.

Register: https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_9K7g9_aCQX-P21EcRtub0w?mc_cid=af7571bbaa&mc_eid=e004e08076#/registration



The NOVA United Women in Faith invite you to the virtual "**Mini-Mission Encounter**" on Saturday, July 8, 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM. "**Who Can We Be Together? A Biblical Exploration of Luke 13**" will be presented by Rev. Nancy Robinson. We will gather for fellowship at 9:00 AM, and begin the program at 9:30 AM. A flyer is attached to this email note. There is much to learn about serving others from the parables that Jesus taught in this well known chapter from Luke. In addition to our study together, we will hear about mission and ministry activities from representatives of:

Wesley Community Service Center in Portsmouth, VA, a National Mission program, and;
Shade and Fresh Water, a Global Ministries program serving 3,000 at-risk children and youth
If you wish to make a monetary donation to these mission programs, please send your check to:
Marty Bickford, 3561 Martha Custis Drive, Alexandria, VA 22302.

Make check out to: NOVA District UWF, with a note "Mini-Mission."

Join Zoom Meeting July 8 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82944476239>

Meeting ID: 829 4447 6239

Passcode: 722099

Phone only: 301 715 8592

Meeting ID: 829 4447 6239

Passcode: 722099

Save this Date! No reservations required -- hope to see you there!



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Mission Encounter 2023, <https://vaumc.org/event/mission-encounter-2023/>

Mission Encounter committee (this link is to a e-brochure with the programs information!) **Hybrid**. “Living the Good News: Reflecting God’s Love”. Several courses to choose from, visit www.vaumc.org/me for more information and to register.

July 28 – 30, 2023 Friday-Sunday

**Living the Kin-dom Exploring the Lord’s Prayer as a Spiritual Practice for Social Transformation
Climate Justice A Call to Hope Action God's Mission and
Spirituality in Relationships**

What is Mission Encounter?

Mission Encounter is a joint effort between VAUMC United Women in Faith and Serving Ministries, inviting members to be involved in the mission of God.

In other conferences, this gathering is known as Mission U, hosted by the United Women in Faith. Uniquely in Virginia, however, we made it a joint event and call it Mission Encounter. We pray that every member will hear the call of our Lord to be part of the mission, and be sent to the world!

What happens at Mission Encounter?

For participants, Mission Encounter is an opportunity to study current issues impacting society based on current social justice and mission-related topics. Participants grow in understanding the mission of the church in the current world context; conference events are open to all.

Mission Encounter is a cooperative event sponsored by the Virginia Conference Missional Ministries Board and the Virginia Conference United Methodist Women.

Mission Encounter will provide an opportunity for members to choose a course, which encourages us to live out our faith!

For course information open the Mail in Registration link above.

Registration Fee: \$30—Registration for online participation and UMCOR kit

\$75—Registration for in-person class, 3 meals, and UMCOR kit

\$200—Registration for in-person class, 3 meals, UMCOR kit, and hotel room (with roommate)

***The Deadline has passed so I am not sure if a way there is a way to still follow the process. It can't hurt to ask!*

Registration period is Online registration using a credit card is encouraged. <https://vaumc.org/ME/>

Questions concerning registration? Call Betsy Hanmer 434-736-9241

Bundle 2024

20% offer available
through December

Order the print subscription today for 20% off
your full Bundle order!
(Regularly \$49.97
with shipping and handling fees.)

Bundle materials will start shipping in December.

This offer is available for the first 1,500 subscribers – act now! **

* The Program Resource 2024 will start in January. The interim months of September through December 2023 will be offered free on our digital portal: [UWfaith.org/digital](https://uwfaith.org/digital).

** This offer for The Bundle is for 20% off the full retail price, including shipping/handling, and is available through December 31, 2023 for the first 1,500 subscribers. (Afterwards, the Bundle will be discounted to \$45 but shipping and handling costs will be added to the order.)

Taxes will apply to NY and TX residents. An Order Form is also available on the web store to download and print. Please make checks payable to: United Women in Faith.

Order the Bundle today:

https://uwfaithresources.org/prodDetail.cfm?productID=10698&mc_cid=383d5dd569&mc_eid=cb535e7e1f



Creation Justice Tips for July 2023

Plastic Free July (<https://www.plasticfreejuly.org/take-the-challenge/>) is an invitation to learn about the devastation single-use plastic, especially, is causing and what you can do to bring about change. **Take the challenge. Tell your friends.** Make a difference.

By choosing a reusable cup for your coffee or tea, each person helps prevent up to 500 single-use cups each year from sitting for a thousand years in landfills. When you are out or at your church's social time, **ditch the disposable coffee cup habit.**

Reuse plastic bags from inside cereal boxes, for example, for freezing food or storing leftovers. Roll the top and clip it with a wooden clothes pin—another way to avoid plastic.

For more about the UM Creation Justice Movement, go to umcreationjustice.org.



(I used this website for daily devotionals for input for my church's-St. John's UWF newsletter. As a former wedding photographer, I have heard this bible verse read at many weddings and love it! -Carol Pratt)

1 Corinthians 13:4-6

⁴Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. NIV



In Touch Daily Devotional

<https://www.intouch.org/read/daily-devotions/the-power-of-love>

Devotion: The Power of Love

God offers His love to every person, no matter their past—and He wants us to do the same.

Today's passage tells us that love doesn't "rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth" (v. 6). In other words, God doesn't want His children to turn a blind eye to sin. Yet at the same time, Christians are to look for ways to help unbelievers discover the Father's love for them.

The Lord lovingly created each of us, and even though we're all sinners who have fallen short, we have the potential to be made into something good. He considers even the most evil and corrupt person worth saving. How do we know this is true? Because in the first verse we teach our school children, Christ said that whoever believes in His Son will have eternal life (John 3:16). And why would He do this? The answer is in the same Because God loves us. There is nothing we can do to deserve His love. God doesn't work that way. He loves every single person, no matter how awful his or her sin may be.

The Lord extends His care, His mercy, and His salvation to anybody who wants it. He keeps no record of wrongs. He loves without conditions. And He wants us to love others in the same way.