



United
Women
in Faith

NORTHERN VIRGINIA DISTRICT

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

NOVA NOTES

FEBRUARY 2025



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.



A QUESTION TO ALL UWF UNITS!

Your District Mission Team would like to know: What are your UWF Unit's Prime Social Initiatives (2) and who is your point of contact? Examples of Prime Social Initiatives: Climate change, Racial justice, Food insecurity (food distribution, Others. i.e. human trafficking, education, youth incarceration, teen outreach, (Please share email address) to NOVA District's Myrna Meling at mpmeling@hotmail.com.

Let's get together to chat about what your units are up to during this winter. Please share with us the books you're reading, mission projects you're working on, and other activities. We'll share news from around the District and Conference UWF. Please join us for one or more times.

Note: If the weather is bad, I'll send a message the night before to re-schedule.

Hope to see you there!

Maria Ward

NoVa District Membership, Nurture, and Outreach

Saturday, February 1 -- 2:00 pm

Amphora Diner Deluxe

1151 Elden St.

Herndon

Sunday, February 2 -- 2:00 p.m.

Wegman's - 2nd floor of the cafe

8297 Stonewall Shops Sq.

Gainesville (near intersection of 15 & 29)

Saturday, February 8 -- 2:00 p.m.

South Riding Inn

43090 Peacock Market Plaza

Chantilly, VA 20152

Sunday, February 9 -- 2:00 p.m.

La Madeleine

5861 Crossroads Center Way Bailey's

Crossroads



BRAG about your unit to United Women in Faith National Office

United Women in Faith national office wants to learn more about your unit and your mission work so that they can continue to improve how they do their work for us. An **online survey** is now open so that you can answer questions about your unit's passions and plans. The survey questions are related to how your unit or group is thriving in sisterhood, faith, and action, and how you are committed to act boldly for justice and transform communities.

Your responses matter. Your answers will allow the United Women in Faith National Office to:

- Deliver more resources on the areas that matter most
- Gather engagement data based on region
- Celebrate all the work you are doing on behalf of women, children, and youth

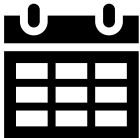
You can find the survey here:

[Unit Survey | United Women in Faith](#)

A sample is available so you can think about the questions and your answers before you begin to answer.

Need some help? Contact Maria Ward, District coordinator for membership, nurture, and outreach.

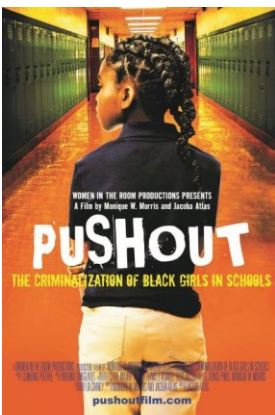
NoVa.UMF.MNO@gmail.com



For the 2025 NOVA United Women in Faith Calendar of events:

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

**Also. on this site is the [2025 NOVA District Officers](#) and contact information.



***PUSHOUT: The criminalization of Black Girls in Schools* Screening & Discussion**

Thursday, February 6, 2025, 7 pm

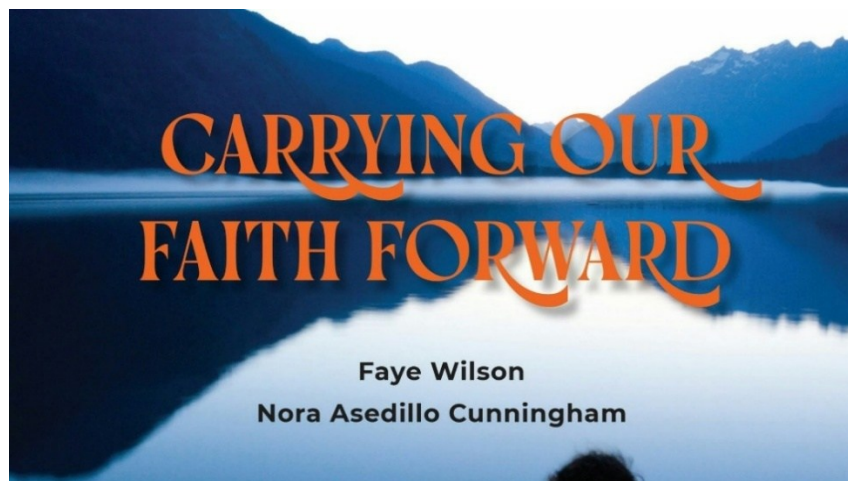
Link & Registration:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/Z1416slYSwWGA28jFRBT-w#/registration>

Join United Women in Faith for a special screening of **Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools**. The film screening will be followed by a small group discussion open to all and an information-sharing session for those interested in offering a similar program in their local context.

This event is hosted by United Women in Faith. There is no cost to participate. All are welcome.

Digital Community Gathering / February Program: Call to Prayer



Next monthly Community Gathering on ****January 30 at 8:00 pm ET** where we will discuss the February program from the 2025 Program Resource.

Zoom link to join: <https://uwfaith-org.zoom.us/j/84960211358>

UWF Digital
Thu, January 30
8:00pm - 9:00pm EST



To first go to the digital network: <https://uwfaith.mn.co/feed>

Aldersgate UWF February 11th!



Heart Pillow Stuffing Event & Luncheon
Tuesday, February 11th | 10:00am - 1:00pm
Aldersgate UMC (Guback Center)
Help us to stuff and sew 150 heart pillows to be delivered to local hospitals and then given to heart surgery patients. The United Women in Faith (UWF) invite you to their annual Heart Pillow Event.

We will stuff and sew 150 heart pillows to be delivered to local hospitals and then given to heart surgery patients. No registration or RSVP required. All materials will be provided. There is something for everyone to do, no matter what your sewing skills may be.

This event will be held in Guback Center. All attendees are asked to enter at Door #7 on the day of the event. Attendees are invited to wear pink or red to the event.

Following this event we will have a pizza luncheon; a love offering will be taken to offset the cost of the pizza. Special Valentine cookies will also be given out to participants.

Northern Virginia District
United Women in Faith
Winter Games Party



POSTPONED!

Was to be held Sunday, January 12, 2025, 2:00-4:00pm, Fairfax UMC but the inclement weather required this postponement until the Spring. Please look for more information in the coming months if you have any questions, please contact Beth Meserve beth.meserve@gmail.com

YOU'RE INVITED...

2025
Reading Program
Programa De Lectura
독서 프로그램



***to serve as a Volunteer Evaluator
with the Reading Program***

Did you ever wonder what goes into shaping the United Women in Faith Reading Program each year? At the heart of the Reading Program is the work of numerous volunteer evaluators who read and review a list of assigned books, offering careful and candid feedback regarding the books' overall quality and alignment with our mission. In 2025, we will be evaluating potential books for the 2027 Reading Program, again relying on the extraordinary work of a great team of volunteer evaluators.

Are you interested in serving as a volunteer evaluator for the Reading Program this year? If so, please take 10 minutes to complete the 2025 interest form. Both new and returning volunteers should use this form.

*We will consider interest forms on a rolling basis throughout the year, but completion by **February 15th** is preferred, as it allows us to plan appropriately for the spring cycle book assignments.*

February 2025:

So, even in my old age with gray hair, don't abandon me, God! Not until I tell generations about your mighty arm, tell all who are yet to come about your strength! ~ Psalm 71:18

February 5 – *God, thank you for healing generational trauma and building bridges to brighter futures. Sometimes it is the forgiveness of a young person that sets a whole family free. Amen. Anne Dennis-Choi, CEO, Alaska Child and Family, Anchorage, Alaska*

February 12 – *Jesus, thank you for the light and warmth of summertime. We rejoice for the days of joy, sunshine, and leisure. I pray that you restore my soul in time, in rest, in plan, and in you. Amen. Valerie Riedthaler, Order of Deaconess and Home Missioner, Sandusky City School District, Sandusky, Ohio*

February 19 – *Our Loving God, we thank you for your mercy you show us, help us to be in unity and peace in the worlds, and put our faith in you. Amen. Akouvi Blessing Dedjinou, Global Mission Fellows – International from Togo serving in Kenya*

February 26 – *Almighty God, help us to walk according to your Word so that we are light for others, especially the youngest ones. Guide us to share your love and meet their needs in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen. Tshiabu Makenda Elise, Women Desk Coordinator, South Congo Conference, Lubumbashi, Democratic Republic of the Congo*

Charter for Racial Justice (via Three Notch'd, Zoom)

RACIAL INEQUALITY IN IMMIGRATION LAW

February 15, 2025

9:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Via Zoom

A Program Sponsored by the Three Notch'd District UWF



The following letter more fully describes this annual Racial Justice Program; the guest presenters, Just Neighbors; and registration information. Please share this letter widely with all who may be interested.

Additional Information next page>>>>



UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH (UWF)

Three Notch'd District

Virginia Conference United Methodist Church (VAUMC)

RACIAL INEQUALITY IN IMMIGRATION LAW

February 15, 2025, 9:00 – 11:30 a.m., Via Zoom

We are inviting you to our annual Racial Justice Program honoring the United Methodist Charter for Racial Justice. The UWF is not only committed to the work of racial justice, we have also led the church in racial equity, and **the Charter for Racial Justice Policies** is an important mandate in this work. For more information and to read the Charter please go to: <https://uwfaith.org/what-we-do/serve-and-advocate/racial-justice/>.

Just Neighbors is presenting "**Racial Inequality in Immigration Law**," a program that focuses on racial inequity by their Director of Legal Services, Ms. Dominique Poirier. As you may know, **Just Neighbors** was founded in 1996 by pastors and attorneys of the United Methodist Church to develop a practical response to the legal challenges that low-income immigrants face in the United States. Initially focusing on northern Virginia, the organization now also serves the Eastern Shore, Harrisonburg, Winchester, Waynesboro, Lynchburg, and Warrenton. In 2020, **Just Neighbors** merged with DC/MD Justice for Our Neighbors and now serves Washington DC and Maryland.

Because Just Neighbors has always partnered with other nonprofit organizations, and because the United Methodist Church is, by its very nature connectional, our UWF Committee sees this event as a wonderful opportunity to extend the audience for this Just Neighbor's program resource beyond our core audience of District and Conference UWF members. We hope our sisters and brothers in other organizations within our denomination and in the larger community will take this opportunity to register and participate with us. This Zoom event will be from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, February 15, 2025, with a Question and Answer session. We will send out the agenda and resource information when confirming each registration. We know people are busy, so if they can't attend the whole program, they can attend when time permits. We plan to record the program and make it available later as a resource.

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/JKfDuctbQKKG9UZsCENPrg>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Please let the sender of this email know if you have any questions or comments.

Thank you so much for your time and attention.

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH.



Prayer & Self Denial Breakfast

You can see all our latest 2025 **resources** [here on the e-store](#).

You can also purchase these and more resources digitally on our [United Women in Faith Digital](#) space. This space is free to join, and is a place to deepen your understanding of all our resources and programs and to connect with others. At UWFaith Digital you can join live discussions, find trainings and groups, chat with others, download toolkits, take courses, and so much more. Log in and find a whole new community of United Women in Faith members.

QUICK LINKS

[A Time to Recharge and Reform](#)

[Catch Up on Faith Talks and Other Podcasts & Webinars](#)

https://uwfaith.org/resources/podcasts/?mc_cid=be81da7f08&mc_eid=42e341edfd

[Access the Leadership Toolkit](#)

[Catch Up on Faith Talks and Other Podcasts & Webinars](#)

CONTINUEING IN 2025:

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/>

January 2025 • Join Live Webinar on January 6, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

- Read Soul Feast Chapter.

Soul Feast with the Virginia Conference

Date & Time Selected Sessions:

Date & Time

'25 Selected Sessions:

Feb 3, 2025 06:30 PM

Mar 3, 2025 06:30 PM

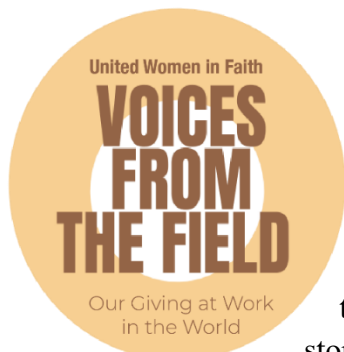
Apr 7, 2025 06:30 PM

May 5, 2025 06:30 PM

Jun 2, 2025 06:30 pm

Tuesday, February 25, 2025 at 12 PM

Voices from the Field: Planting Seeds and Watching Them Grow



Online event Go To Link Join us for an inspiring look at our mission work across the globe. **Register:** <https://na.eventscloud.com/ereg/index.php?eventid=828253&>

Explore how literacy is transforming opportunities for women in Peru, visit a training center in Sierra Leone where women learn new skills, and hear the impactful story of how Tbilisi Youth House in Georgia fosters education to change lives. This is a journey of how your Mission Giving helps plant seeds of hope across diverse communities.

Our Guests are:

ANDREA REILY ROCHA SOARES, Regional Missionary, Latin America

FINDA QUIWA, Regional Missionary, Africa

NANA DOLIASHVILI, Executive Director, Tbilisi Youth House Foundation, Georgia

The quarterly **Voices from the Field** events feature leaders sharing their work and life stories, daily challenges, hopes, and dreams. This conversation series highlights United Women in Faith's initiatives supported by **Mission Giving**—initiatives that significantly improve the lives of women, children, and youth down the block and around the world.



United Women in Faith laments the fires ravaging California, and we especially pray for our sisters and brothers of the Cal-Pac conference. Please pray for people and properties that have been devastated by the fires. We especially lift up the firefighters who are bravely working to bring relief to the communities.

[Toberman Neighborhood Center](#) in the San Pedro community of Los Angeles has been engaged in relief efforts and is providing lunch to children affected by school closures. If you would like to financially contribute to Toberman's efforts, you are welcome to do so online at <https://www.uwfaith.org/?form=Toberman> through your local United Women in Faith Treasurer, or via check to our national office (project # N922830).

You can bolster United Methodist efforts to help in relief and recovery by contributing to UMCOR's US Disaster Response and Recovery (Advance #901670). You can give directly to the Advance at <https://umcmmission.org/advance-project/901670/>. United Women in Faith members can also give through their local treasurer, referencing UMCOR #901670.

Read the full statement from United Women in Faith: <https://uwfaith.org/press/2025/united-women-in-faith-laments-over-the-wildfires-in-california/> Posted, January 15



In Memory...

**Shirley Jean (Jeannie) Pounds, 82,
of Alexandria, Virginia, passed away on December 6, 2024.**



Jeanne was a rock in the Alexandria District United Methodist Women for many years. She served in various roles, including Treasurer and Secretary of Program Resources (Reading Program), always ready to help and support where needed. She was also committed to Cranford UMC and UMW for 30 years and to Rising Hope UMMC for 16 years under Pastor Kerry, serving the homeless and the needy. She served on the administrative board of Rising Hope for several years.

People were drawn to Jeanne because of her soft-spoken, calming and joyful demeanor. What a remarkable woman with a beautiful Christian spirit. She was kind, humble and very talented in all that she did. Jeanne wore many hats with grace. Truly an Angel among us. She is very much missed.

There was no funeral service; however, Jeanne will be remembered in Candle Burning at UWF events.

A UWF Gift to Mission was given in Jeanne's honor and memory.

For more on Jeanne or to leave a tribute, go to

<https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/falls-church-va/shirley-pounds-12124910>

>>Thank You for supporting the Fluvanna Christmas Gift Ministry:

Thank you, thank you to all of you who donated toiletries, stationery, stamps, and greeting cards to the Christmas Gift Ministry for the women incarcerated at the Fluvanna Correctional Center in Troy, Virginia. Your donations are so important to the success of this ministry.

This past November I delivered to my Fluvanna contact 79 hygiene kits, over \$100 of postage stamps, plus several boxes containing stationery, greeting cards, and additional toothbrushes, toothpaste, lotion, shampoo and deodorant.

There were also monetary donations in the amount of \$735 given by individuals and units to the Fluvanna Resource Fund administered by GraceInside. These funds are used to purchase hygiene kit shortages, or provide travel expenses for funeral or deathbed visits, worship materials, and other incidentals necessary to support the prison population.

At Christmas about 1,200 grateful women at Fluvanna are given the hygiene kits. They look forward to receiving them. Just to know that people "in the outside world" are thinking of them, especially during the holidays, is very important to their outlook on life.

GraceInside (the chaplaincy that oversees this ministry) wrote: "We appreciate your continued support of this important ministry and thank you for your generosity and service to the Lord."

Again, thank you for your contributions to this great mission outreach, and for all you do to support women, children, and youth year after year. Love in action can change the world.



Advocacy

To stand alongside in support,
To give voice to, to defend what is right
To do so on behalf of
the best interest of others.

As followers of Christ, we are called to love God and God's Creation

www.umcreationjustice.org

And to love our neighbor, especially those most in need of justice.

Advocacy is our job. It comes in many different forms.

Share the monthly UM Creation Justice Tips with your family, friends, and congregation. Choose any or all tips. Forward them to someone you care about. Cut-and-paste to put them with your email signature, in your letters and emails, worship bulletins, newsletters, social media, or website.

Each month 10 Tips will arrive in time for you to choose and use. The service is free.

February 2025

Individual actions won't be enough to stop the environmental crises, but **your actions can be a catalyst for change**. When God called Moses to rescue God's people, God reminded this very unlikely candidate for leadership that he was standing on "holy ground" (Exodus 3:1-12). Like Moses, you may feel overwhelmed and inadequate, but God assured him—and you— "I will be with you." Where is God calling you?

For the entire list of this month's tips go to www.umcreationjustice.org





Save the Date for Herndon United Women in Faith's 'in house' retreat

2025 HUWF Spring Retreat

Saturday, March 29

8:00 AM (Continental Breakfast and Fellowship)

8:30 AM - 1:30 PM Program

Doe Fellowship Hall, Herndon United Methodist Church

701 Bennett Street, Herndon, VA

Registration required: Link and deadline not yet available. TBD

Contact: womensevents@herndonumc.org

Sent: Serving God Right Where You Are

John 20:21 Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."

Do you feel like serving God means adding more things to your plate? Do you want to make a difference but wonder how God could use you in this stage of life? Whether at work, at school, on the ball field, in your neighborhood, or at the gym-- what if you could serve God right where you are? Women of all ages are invited to join us at the 2025 Spring United Women in Faith's Retreat as we ponder and explore together how God is calling you to be part of his mission right where you are, as you are. For, you are **SENT**.

Retreat Leader: Kris Beckert: Kris Beckert is the lead pastor of Table Life Church near Harrisburg, PA and also serves as Mission Strategist with Fresh Expressions North America. She holds an M.Div. from Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, DC, and she also has served at churches in the Virginia Conference.

Also, Mark Your March Calendars!

Mar 5 In person 10 am NoVA District UWF **Quiet Day – Ash Wednesday** Location TBD
Contact: Karlene Masters karlenemasters@hotmail.com

Mar 15 SAVE THE DATE -- UWF Prayer Breakfast March 15

St. John's United Women in Faith will host a Prayer-and-Self-Denial breakfast on Saturday, March 15, 9-11 am. St. John's UMC is located at 5312 Backlick Road, Springfield, VA. The program "United Women in Faith: Transforming Communities" will begin with a breakfast followed by a presentation. Women from the NOVA District UWF are welcome to attend. Questions? Contact Brenda Romenius at email brendaromenius@yahoo.com

March 23, United Women in Faith celebrates a **Day of Giving** to raise funds for The Legacy Endowment Fund. For Genera

