



United  
Women  
in Faith

# NORTHERN VIRGINIA DISTRICT

## UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

### NOVA NOTES

NOVEMBER 2022



#### 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.

#### A Prayer In Response to Gun Violence

**Let us lament with all those who are touched by gun violence**

**Let us lament the shooter's choice for violence**

**Let us lament laws that allow violent men easy access to guns**

**Let us lament our politicians' unwillingness to work for change**

**Let us lament with the hearts broken by loss today**

**Let us lament all the lives cut short today**

**Let us lament, O God, and then let us rise from our knees to work for change**

**In the name of Christ, the prince of peace. Amen.**

Included by Suzanne Dorick, UWF Social Action

#### Remembering Our Sisters

Listed in October 2022 UWF District Meeting

##### **Aldersgate UWF**

Sarah Elaine Walker (d 09/04/2021)

Laurina Poff (d 05/05/2022)

Marilyn Shoaff (d 05/15/2022)

##### **Bethel (Fauquier) UWF**

Haldeen Wilson (12/03/1936-06/09/2022)

##### **Cameron UWF**

Nathalie Billmyer

Lois Lowry

##### **Clarendon UWF**

Amy Barr (d 05/05/2022)

Gertrude Ensign (d 02/28/2022)

##### **Friendship UWF**

Mary Ann Bray (d 07/21/2022)

Nancy Fisher (d 08/16/2022)

##### **Herndon UWF**

Cindy Nance (d 09/05/2021)

Beverly Harris (d 8/2022)

##### **St John's UWF**

Marilyn "Lynne" Baker

Corene Danehower

Fran Matkins

##### **St Paul UWF**

Dorothy Elkins (d 11/28/2021)

Edith West Chapman (d 01/22/2022)

##### **St Stephen's UWF**

Sue Cotton (d 07/16/22)

##### **Sterling UWF**

Arlene Pfof

##### **Sydenstricker UWF**

Kay Tyson Robertson (d 10/02/2021)

Jennifer Talley Riordan (d 07/26/2022)

##### **Wesley (Vienna) UWF**

Mary Kate Black (d 05/23/2022)

Janet Dickson (d 03/20/2022)

Sibyl Carrick (d 01/26/2022)

Diane Riffer (d 05/01/2022)

**Our Call to Worship** *(from 2022 UWF District Meeting)*  
written by **Idalette Vickers** -- adapted by **Beth Meserve**

Let us be women who love.  
Let us be women willing to lay down our sword  
words, our sharp looks, our ignorant silence, and fill  
the earth with extravagant love.  
Let us be women who open our arms and invite  
others into an honest, spacious, glorious embrace.  
Let us be women who carry each other.  
Let us be women who leap to do the difficult things,  
the unexpected things, and the necessary things.  
Let us be women who live for peace.  
Let us be women who breathe hope.  
Let us be women who create beauty.  
Let us speak to the injustices in our world.  
Let us shout down the walls that separate and divide.

Let us fill the earth with the fragrance of love.  
Let us listen for those who have been silenced.  
Let us honor those who have been devalued.  
Let us say, Enough! with abuse, abandonment,  
diminishing and hiding.  
Let us not rest until every person is free and equal.  
Let us be women who say yes to the beautiful,  
unique purpose seeded in our souls.  
Let us be women who love, in spite of fear.  
Let us be women who love, in spite of our stories.  
Let us be women who love loudly, beautifully,  
divinely.  
Let us be women who love.

Northern Virginia District United Women in Faith

**Election of District Officers for 2023**

- President – Beth Meserve
- Secretary – Carol Malzahn
- Treasurer – Marty Bickford
- Communications Coordinator – Carol Pratt
- Program Resources – Barbara Barrick
- Spiritual Growth – Dana Connor
- Social Action – Suzanne Dorick
- Education and Interpretation – Lois Hidalgo
- Membership, Nurture and Outreach – Vikki Beaty
- Nominations – Brenda Romenius, Kirsten King, Loretta Henderson

**Vacancies!**

- 1. Vice president**
- 2. Nominations**

**Candle Burning**

**Candle Burning - \$1,902 = 53 minutes!**

- **Candle burning is a project of the Virginia Conference UWF**
- **Funds support UWF missions across Virginia and beyond**
- **Calculated at 60 cents per second – the cost to support UWF missions**

**Five and Six Channels of Giving:** Pledge to Mission, Gift in Memory, Gift to Mission, Special Mission Recognition, World Thank Offering, Candle Burning

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**Five-Star Unit**

Alexandria District	Arlington District
Fairlington	Friendship
Good Shepherd	Mount Olivet

**Six-Star Unit**

Alexandria District	Arlington District
Aldersgate	Andrew Chapel
St. John's	Herndon
St. Matthew's	
St. Paul	

**Legacy Fund**

Legacy Fund = \$976.70 – Alexandria District  
Brenda Romenius – St. John's  
Martha Anne Lee – St. Matthew's  
Marty Bickford – St. John's  
Aldersgate  
Cameron  
St. Paul

**Rainbow Givers**

**Alexandria District**

Marty Bickford – St. John's  
Nancy Devine – Aldersgate  
Marilyn Garber – Cameron  
Martha Anne Lee – St. Matthew's  
Susan Piccione – St. Paul

**Arlington District**

Dawn Copland – Andrew Chapel  
Margaret Cyrus – Herndon  
Shellie Klet – Herndon  
Karen McElfish – Mount Olivet

**Moving Forward in Mission Together**



United  
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For the first time, the Alexandria and Arlington districts of United Methodist Women held their annual meeting together as one district - the Northern Virginia District United Women in Faith ("District Day"). The agenda included electing officers for 2023, remembering our UWF sisters who passed away during the year, adopting a budget for next year, recognizing the participants in the Reading Program, and celebrating the accomplishments of our district units since last October. A huge "thank you" to everyone for your commitment to and involvement with the UWF. It's your faith, hope and love in action on behalf of women, children, and youth around the world that keep us going. We are blessed to have such a dedicated group of women whose actions speak louder than words. Congratulations!

~Marty Bickford



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Recap of the units who worked on **Living Into Our Purpose** this year:  
There were 20 units that participated in both the Alexandria and Arlington  
Districts.

**Gold Units:**

Aldersgate, Andrew Chapel, Fairlington, Herndon, Mount Olivet, Old Bridge, St. John's, St. Matthews, St Paul, St. Stephens, Sydenstricker, and Wesley.

**Silver Units:**

Friendship, Good Shepherd (Woodbridge), Roberts Memorial, Vale and Woodlawn-Faith.

**Bronze Units:**

Bethel (Fauquier); Cameron, and Sterling.

A new LIOP form will be forthcoming, but the changes will basically be in the top introduction—purpose. The requirements will remain the same, so please keep using your current forms to keep track of your accomplishments.

**Lois Hidalgo**

**Education and Interpretation (New) Northern Virginia District UWF**

[Ldhida@verizon.net](mailto:Ldhida@verizon.net)

NOVEMBER IS NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE  
MONTH FOR  
UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH



<https://mailchi.mp/1ff8d24c2abb/10-quick-tips-for-bulletin-newsletter-and-more-to-help-people-in-the-pews-take-action-and-protect-gods-creation-15766495?e=019be062db>



### Take a step toward sustainability. Tips Highlights:

- Our United Methodist Social Principles “affirm the traditional wisdom found within Indigenous communities, particularly the emphasis that native and first peoples have placed on living in harmony and balance with the earth and other animals as well as the need to protect the air, land and water.” Find out whose land you live on (<https://native-land.ca/>) and **research the culture and environmental practices of your Indigenous neighbors.**
- Only 15% of all discarded electronic devices is recycled. Lead, mercury, cadmium, nickel, beryllium, and zinc from e-waste can leech into soil or into the water supply, harming plant and human life. Browse for “electronics recycling” or “e-waste disposal” to **find options nearby.** Or as a church, when you find a company, **arrange an e-waste recycle drop-off event** and promote it to congregation and community
- Take **a step toward sustainability** at **Thanksgiving dinner.** Use cloth napkins and save a tree. Paper napkins can be composted. (They were once alive as trees.) Use your leftovers. Compost your food waste. If you don’t have access to a backyard composter or a compost service, check out the new [compost machines](#)

Be conscious of what the earth needs and what you *can* do—and give thanks.

### St. John UWF’s Harvest Banquet was held Tuesday, October 25, 2022



St. John’s UMC-United Women in Faith held their Harvest Banquet on Tuesday, October 25 at IN PERSON in Donaldson Hall. The United Methodist Men provided the delicious dinner. The program focused on supporting **Native American women and children.**

**Mission Projects** - We collected feminine hygiene products for the **Kwek Society**, an organization that works to end period poverty in Native communities. Pads, liners, and tampons are needed. We also collected monetary donations for the **Native American Children’s Fund**, which is a UMC-supported mission.

### Native American Assistance Resources

**National Indigenous Women’s Resource Center** [www.niwrc.org](http://www.niwrc.org)

The CSVANW takes ownership and responsibility for the future of Native women and children by providing support, education, and advocacy using our strengths, power and unity to create violence-free communities.

**Mending the Sacred Hoop** [www.mshoop.org](http://www.mshoop.org)

\*\*\*Although Indigenous Women make up just 1% of the Minnesota state’s population, from 2010 through 2018, 8% of all murdered women and girls in Minnesota were Indigenous.

**Coalition to Stop Violence Against Women** [www.csvanw.org](http://www.csvanw.org)

Our mission is to stop violence against Native women and children by advocating for social change in our communities.

**The Kwek Society** [www.kweksociety.org](http://www.kweksociety.org) -We are The Woman’s Society.

## UWF Support Organizations

### **Navajo UM Center-New Beginnings** [www.navajoumc.org](http://www.navajoumc.org)

New Beginnings provides transitional living for survivors and families of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking. We offer families a safe, community-based living environment, for up to a year. We are located in Farmington, New Mexico.

### **Nome Community Center, Inc.** [www.nomecc.org](http://www.nomecc.org)

For over a century, Nome Community Center has worked to uphold the spirit of its mission to “enhance the quality of life of the people of the Bering Straits Region.”

### **McCurdy Ministries Community Center** [www.mccurdy.org](http://www.mccurdy.org)

Also a UMC supported org. with Advance #581479)McCurdy Ministries Community Center creates hope and empowers the lives of children youth, adults and families through education, life skills and faith-based programs in Espanola, NM.

## UMC supported Organizations:

Donations can be made at [www.umcmision.org](http://www.umcmision.org) using the Advance Number

Native American Children’s Fund of OIMC Advance #583581

Blackfeet United Methodist Parish Advance #910092

Mississippi UM Choctaw Mission Advance #761544

## Winter Coats for Formerly Incarcerated Women

Friends of Guest House, A great organization that offers programs that assist formerly incarcerated women to regain their self-esteem and reenter the community, has issued an appeal for winter coats...new or gently-used. The women who enter Guest House come directly from prison (usually the Fluvanna Correctional Center for Women) with just the clothes on their backs. Although Guest House has a huge clothes closet, winter coats are items not generally donated. If you would like to support the winter coat fund, the options are listed below. Thank you.



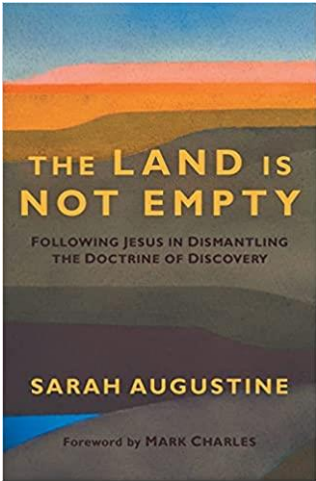
(Photo by [Markus Spiske](#) on [Unsplash](#))

Monetary donations – your check made payable to St. John’s UMW may be dropped off at the St John’s UMC (5312 Backlick Road, Springfield), or <https://friendsofguesthouse.org/work-with-us/why-donate/>

New or gently-used winter coats – sizes M-XXL are needed. They may be dropped off at St. John’s UMC (5312 Backlick Road, Springfield), Monday - Thursday, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

## 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.**



**Reading Program Book Talk with Sarah Augustine - Join us for a virtual Book Talk & Workshop** with the author of *The Land Is Not Empty*, Thursday, November 3, 7-8:30 p.m. ET/4-5:30 p.m. PT.

In the prophetic book *The Land is Not Empty: Following Jesus in Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery*, author Sarah Augustine, a Pueblo woman, reframes the colonization of North America. She investigates ways that the Doctrine of Discovery continues to devastate indigenous cultures, and even the planet itself, as it justifies exploitation of both natural resources and people.

**Register here.** (<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlscO-rqD8uHdxDU2yqUJtwI1JqNX-DSHr>)

So many people have reached out to us regarding the **\*Wesley Center Christmas List**. Please use the link below to purchase the gift for the children that we serve. Please let me know if you have any questions.

[https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/IPLJIOCS5K45?ref =wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/IPLJIOCS5K45?ref =wl_share)

Questions? Contact:



**Renyatta L. Banks**  
Executive Director  
Wesley Community Service Center  
757. 399.0541 office  
757.977.9107 cell

\* Established in 1937, the center began as Methodist Women in Portsmouth joined to form a city mission board that would become involved in community needs and social issues. The Center is now in its seventy fourth year of service and ministry.

They continuously work to convey the message of human dignity and worth supported by the love of God.

<https://www.facebook.com/wesleycenterportsmouth/>



Reminder for *NoVA Notes*, our new Bi-District newsletter for the Alexandria and Arlington Districts! We will distribute this 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 what your unit doing for the 2022 & 2023 church-years so we can share with our sisters in Christ. **Please send the information for the newsletter by the 20th of the month.** Please, we NEED your NoVA events information! You can send your stories and news to our new e-mail address: [UMWNoVaNotes@gmail.com](mailto:UMWNoVaNotes@gmail.com).

Thank you!  
Carol Pratt

Centreville United Methodist Women will host the **2022 Annual Holiday Bazaar & Craft Fair** on Saturday, **November 5** from 9 am to 3 pm at Centreville UMC, 6400 Old Centreville Road, Centreville, Virginia. [https://centreville-umc.org/Fall Festival & Vendor Information- https://centreville-umc.org/connect/173455-2/umw-bazaar-craft-fair](https://centreville-umc.org/FallFestival&VendorInformation-https://centreville-umc.org/connect/173455-2/umw-bazaar-craft-fair)



VENDORS · JEWELRY · PECANS · CASSEROLES · WHITE ELEPHANT · BAKED GOODS · PIZZA

Aldersgate's UWF Annual Christmas Market is Back!

1301 Collingwood Road, Alexandria, VA 22308, Saturday, November 12th | 9:00am -2:00pm

### **Rising Hope Mission Church**

Rising Hope Food Market is committed to offering a variety of foods that are both culturally relevant and nutritionally dense to our families. Would you please consider joining us in our efforts by donating some of the following items? (<https://www.facebook.com/RisingHope/>)

