



United
Women
in Faith

NORTHERN VIRGINIA DISTRICT

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

NOVA NOTES

NOVEMBER 2023



Please Share and forward this United Women in Faith Newsletter

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.

Northern Virginia District United Women in Faith Annual Meeting Saturday, October 21, 2023, Mt. Olivet United Methodist Church

Installation of 2024 Officers

The UWF NoVA District Annual meeting was held on October 21 at Mt. Olivet UMC in Arlington, VA. The event was graciously hosted by the Mt. Olivet UWF with a continental breakfast. UWF President Beth Meserve welcomed everyone to this in-person and hybrid event with a list of announcements of wonderful activities of UWF units in the NOVA District. A Candle in Memory was lit and the names of departed sisters was read. Dr. Karen McElfish gave an informative presentation on the subject of "**Climate Justice**" that was of great interest to all in attendance.

Treasurer Marty Bickford presented the current status of the budget and the proposal for the UWF Nova District budget in 2024. Marty also announced the names of units for Legacy giving, Rainbow givers, and recognized out-going officers Doris Douglas, Debbie Fairweather and Carol Malzahn for receiving Mission pins.

Lois Hidalgo, Mission Coordinator for Education and Interpretation presented of LIOP certificates to the Gold, Silver, and Bronze units. Five- and Six-star units were also recognized for their financial support. Many units were recognized for their participation in the Reading Program.

Following the awarding of certificates, Karen led the women in a litany for the installation of the 2024 UWF NoVA District officers. The following women were installed.

President
Beth Meserve (Sterling)

Secretary
VACANT at this time

Communications Coordinator
Carol Pratt (St. John's)

Vice President
VACANT at this time

Treasurer
Marty Bickford (St. John's)

Secretary of Program
Resources
Barbara Barrick (Grace)

Spiritual Growth Coordinator

Dana Connor (Aldie)

Social Action Coordinator

Suzanne Dorick (St. John's)

Education & Interpretation

Coordinator

Lois Hidalgo (Oakton)

Membership, Nurture &

Outreach

Vikki Beaty (Franconia)

Nominations

Class of 2023 – Brenda Romenius (St. John's)

Class of 2024 – Kirsten King (Bethel/Fauquier)

Class of 2025 – Loretta Henderson (Woodlawn-Faith)

Class of 2026 – VACANT at this time

Class of 2027 – VACANT at this time

The following Appointed Subdistrict Coordinators were also recognized:

2024 – Northern Virginia Sub-District Coordinators- Northern Subdistrict – Janet Keener

Western Subdistrict – VACANT at this time

Eastern Subdistrict – Marlene Dakita

Western Subdistrict -Myrna Meling

The meeting was adjourned at Noon.

District Day - Maria Ward with Karen McElfish, the guest speaker.



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 Mount Olivet on October 21, two important items on the agenda were discussed and adopted. They were the Administrative & Membership Development Fund (A&MD) Budget for 2024 in the amount of \$5,605 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 \$2,886. The candle burned for 1 hour 20 minutes, symbolizing the mission work the NoVA District UWF has supported during the past year.

Rainbow Givers – 11 members

Lorrie Rezendes – Aldersgate

Diane Cole – Andrew Chapel

Doris Douglass – Friendship

Martha Anne Lee – St. Matthew's

Susan Piccione – St. Paul

Cathy Liverman – St. Stephen's

Mary Jo Klinefelter – Herndon
Patricia Simons – Herndon
Debra Fairweather – Mount Olivet

Patti Keppler – St. Stephen's
Dottie Barber – St. Luke's

Legacy Fund - 5 units and 3 individuals contributed:

Brenda Romenius – St. John's	St. Paul	Fairlington
Marty Bickford – St. John's	Herndon	Woodlawn Faith
Martha Ann Lee – St. Matthew's	Aldersgate	

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

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

Fairfax
Good Shepherd
St. Stephen's
Dottie Barber/St. Luke's

Special Mission Recognition – Former and current Mission Team officers were recognized. For 2022: Phyllis Kirkman, Secretary, and Debra Fairweather, Treasurer, of the former Arlington District UMW, and Martha Anne Lee, Treasurer of the former Alexandria District UMW. For 2023: Carol Malzahn, Secretary, and Vikki Beaty, Membership, Nurture & Outreach; both have served the Alexandria District and NoVA District UWFs and are stepping down from their positions. Finally, we recognized and thanked Nancy West who has served the NoVA District UMW/UWF in several positions over the years. Nancy has resigned as Coordinator of the Southern Subdistrict. We are saddened that she will not be on our Mission Team going forward; we will miss her.

On Saturday, October 28, the Virginia Conference United Women in Faith held its 51st annual meeting at Good Shepherd UMC, Henrico, VA, featuring Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson as the keynote speaker. At that meeting, it was announced that of the eight districts in the Virginia Conference UWF, the NoVA District UWF placed:

- 1) 2nd in participation of units in LIOP, tied with Shenandoah River
- 2) 3rd in number of Rainbow Givers, tied with Valley Ridge
- 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!!

LIOP-Living In Our Purpose UWF District



Thank you to everyone who participated in Mission Work and turned in LIOP forms. For this year, we had 21 units turn in LIOP forms.

Gold UWF Units:

Aldersgate

Andrew Chapel

Del Ray

Friendship

Good Shepherd

Herndon

Mt. Olivet

Old Bridge

Roberts Memorial

St. John's

St. Matthew

St. Paul

St. Stephens

Sydenstricker

Wesley (Vienna)

Woodlawn Faith

NoVa UWF At Large
Member

Silver

Fairlington

Bronze:

Sterling

Participating but no specific level reached: Annandale and Cameron"

As always, if you have any questions, contact Lois Hidalgo ldhida@verizon.net



Re-printed from October NoVA Notes:

Election Day in Virginia – November 7

Sisters, let's not forget to vote in our local and state elections this year. Your sacred vote matters deeply as we strive to bring about the kingdom of God in our homes, neighborhoods, communities, and world. The Social Principles of the UMC affirm that "the strength of a political system depends upon the full and willing participation of its citizens" (Social Principles ¶ 164.B).

Photo by [Element5 Digital](#) on [Unsplash](#)


Here are some links to help you vote this year:

The calendar of the election season:

- Nov. 4 (Saturday): Last day to vote early in person
- Nov. 7 (Tuesday): Election Day - Polls are open 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Virginia Department of Elections with links to the candidates and issues you'll vote on:

[Virginia Department of Elections - Candidates & Referendums](https://www.elections.virginia.gov/casting-a-ballot/candidate-list/) <https://www.elections.virginia.gov/casting-a-ballot/candidate-list/>

If you need a ride to the  polls, please contact Maria Ward at maria.ward@gmail.com

****UWF District Mission Team Meeting Moved to November 11th on zoom.
Beth Meserve will send out the zoom link closer to the date. beth.meserve@gmail.com**

Christmas Ministry for the Inmates at the Fluvanna Correctional Center for Women

Here's a brief overview of the ministry:

1. In existence since 1998, the year the correctional center opened
2. Sponsored through GraceInside, Virginia's Prison Chaplain Service
3. Supported entirely by donations from individuals, churches, and organizations throughout the state of Virginia and beyond
4. Administered through Effort Baptist Church, Palmyra, VA, which is the donation delivery point
5. Each inmate at the Fluvanna Correctional Center for Women receives the gifts listed below

Here's a complete list of the approved donations. Please note that the correctional center does not permit ANY substitute or additional items.

Hygiene Items (place in a gallon zip lock bag)

1. One individually wrapped toothbrush (must be in the original container). Battery-operated toothbrushes are NOT permitted.
2. One tube of toothpaste, 6 oz. (must be in the original container).
3. One deodorant stick, 2.6 oz. - (as close to 2.6 oz. as possible but no larger); no spray or roll-on
4. One bottle of shampoo, 15 oz. -18 oz (as close as possible to 15 oz. but no larger than 18 oz)}
5. One bottle of lotion, 15 oz.-18 oz (as close as possible to 15 oz. but no larger than 18 oz)

Greeting Cards and Stationery Items

1. Christmas cards and greeting cards for all occasions. All cards are sorted by a local team of volunteers after they're received. Please try to avoid purchasing cards that contain aluminum foil on the card or envelope flap.
2. Stationery items - writing paper of any size and envelopes either 3 5/8 x 6 1/2 or 4 1/8 x 9 1/2
3. Forever postage stamps (used to send donation acknowledgment letters); please place them in a separate zip lock bag.
4. Wooden pencils (unsharpened)

Money Contributions. For donors who wish to contribute money, please make your check payable to "GraceInside" and write "FCCW Resource Fund" in the Memo section. These funds are used to purchase any shortage of Christmas gift items and to support inmates in other ways, such as providing classroom materials; providing worship supplies; or paying travel expenses for funeral or deathbed visits. Please mail all checks to GraceInside, 2828 Emerywood Parkway, Richmond, VA 23294.

Deadline for Receipt of Donations: Please deliver your donations to St. John's UMC, 5312 Backlick Road, Springfield, VA 22151, no later than November 8, 2023. Please contact Marty Bickford (martybickford121@outlook.com<mailto:martybickford121@outlook.com> or 703-731-7992) if you have any questions.

If you would like to donate to the Fluvanna Christmas Ministry, **there is still time. The donation delivery date has been extended through Wednesday, November 8.** Below is information for monetary donations, and the drop-off location.

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Around the Northern Virginia District:

Holiday Bazaar and Craft Fair



On **November 4**, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., **Centreville United Methodist Church**, 6400 Old Centreville Road, Centreville, VA 20120. 40+ vendors, Silent Auction, Grandma's Attic (gently used jewelry), Holiday House (decorations for all holidays), Book Nook, and a delicious ham lunch.

This Year's Bazaar Beneficiaries:

Western Fairfax Christian Ministries www.wfcmva.org, CUMC Food Ministries, UMCOR and Just Neighbors www.justneighbors.org.

****FYI-this church is accessible, no stairs, one level, parking in lot by building.**

2023 Christmas Market at Aldersgate UMC



This year's United Women in Faith (UWF) Christmas Market will be on **Saturday, November 11th, from 9am - 2pm**. The whole church and community are invited, so mark your calendars. A great place to get a jump start on your holiday shopping. All money raised at the Christmas Market will go to missions and charities supported by the Aldersgate UWF. Vendors, White Elephant, Jewelry, Baked Goods, and more. Lunch from 11:00am - 1:30pm.

<https://www.aldersgate.net/scheduled-events/christmas-market>



Fairlington UWF Holiday Fundraisers 2023

Proceeds from our fundraisers 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.



2023 White House Historical Association Ornament

Fairlington UWF is selling them for \$24 each (for 1-9 ornaments) or \$23 each if you purchase 10+ ornaments. Reserve your ornament by emailing Karlene Masters or Elizabeth Mitchell at Fairlingtonumw@gmail.com. We will confirm your order, the amount owed and arrange pick up or delivery. Your check payable to Fairlington United Methodist Women is due when the items are delivered.

Terri Lynn Nuts, Chocolates and Gift Tins - Visit Fairlington UWF's online store with Terri Lynn (<https://fairlingtonumw.terrilynn.com>) to place your order. Shipping is FREE if you order \$30 or more per delivery address. This is a great way to continue sharing nuts and candy with family and friends



Free the Girls (FTG)

ATTENTION! BRAS FOR FREE THE GIRLS NO LONGER BEING ACCEPTED

For several years, St. John's United Women in Faith (formerly United Methodist Women) has been collecting new and gently used bras for "Free The Girls," a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that was launched to provide job opportunities to women rescued from sex trafficking. SADLY, THIS MISSION OUTREACH HAS COME TO AN END.

Free The Girls (FTG) has notified St. John's that it will no longer accept bras, but instead is "... expanding our focus to include additional reintegrative strategies for survivors of trafficking." It is the hope of FTG that we will continue our partnership by investing in its work going forward with financial donations (www.freethegirls.org).

That being said, we are researching other organizations that may welcome new or gently used bras for their clientele, e.g., domestic violence and homeless shelters. FTG has suggested the following: The Bra Recyclers <https://thebrarecyclers.com/>, I Support The Girls <https://isupportthegirls.org/>, and Donate Your Bras For a Cause <https://www.donateyourbras.com/>. Please visit these websites for further information.

Thank you for supporting this mission with bra and monetary donations for the past 10 years. Little did we know how popular FTG would become when we started. Your enthusiasm was infectious. To be sure there are many sex-trafficking survivors leading better lives because of you. It's been a good run.

Questions? Contact Marty at martybickford121@outlook.com.



You're invited!

Tribal Justice

Film Screening + Reflection

Wednesday, November 1, 7PM-9PM Eastern / 4PM-6PM Pacific

Join us for a special screening of the film *Tribal Justice*. The screening will be followed by remarks from Daryl Junes-Joe.

Nov 1, 2023 07:00 PM ET

Description:

Join United Women in Faith members and friends for a screening of the film *Tribal Justice* followed by remarks from Daryl Junes-Joe. This virtual event is hosted by United Women in Faith. There is no cost to participate. Registration is accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. It will be two hours long and it will not be recorded. All are welcome. Register: https://uwfaith-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAvd-6hpi4iHdfO074YNV6Y6hFb0aYhOhXq?mc_cid=e117ca7d0f&mc_eid=42e341edfd#/registration



Join Faith Talks
Podcast LIVE on
Native American Heritage Month
November 2, 2 PM ET

Join us for bimonthly conversations with
United Women in Faith, hosted by Jennifer R. Farmer.

We'll focus on Native American Heritage Month. While the contributions of indigenous people cannot be constrained to one month, we will use this moment to celebrate the culture and heritage of First Nations people. We will also highlight some of the challenges facing tribal communities, including environmental injustice and preservation of sacred land, water, and air. As an organization dedicated to putting faith, hope, and love into action on behalf of women and girls across the world, we will also discuss the far too many indigenous women and girls who are missing and murdered.

United Women in Faith Digital Resources and Community – in one secure space

After two years of piloting, we are excited to share the launch of [United Women in Faith Digital](#), a safe and secure online community that allows us to connect with one another, deepen our faith, and access digital versions of our beloved print resources.

United Women in Faith Digital is **completely free to join**, giving you access to groups where you can:

- connect over shared interests,
- engage in conversation around resources like *Faith Talks* and *Voices From the Field*, and
- access exclusive content created just for this digital space.

Additionally, your favorite print resources have been reimagined for a digital experience, allowing you to purchase the *Program Resource*, *Daily Prayer Guide*, and Mission u curricula. Your subscription to the digital Program Resource also gives you access to **monthly community gatherings** where you can connect with the author and other women who are leading this resource in their context.

With easy access from your computer or an app on your phone, United Women in Faith Digital allows you to connect with members from across the country and around the world, sharing your ideas and best practices and allowing you to connect with one another regardless of the distance between us.

Visit uwfaith.org/digital to join now. You will be invited to join one of our regular *Open House* gatherings where you will learn more about this platform and how to get started. Before you know it, you will be making new friends, connecting with someone you've known for decades, diving into a resource, and so much more.



CREATION JUSTICE MINISTRIES



Tips for November 2023 (selection)

- Changing seasons bring on the desire for changing wardrobes. Before you race off to online or local clothing stores, **listen to Joshua Becker** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dvfd48K1rCg> for **practical ways to enjoy clothing** without falling into the traps of consumerism: *7 Steps to a Minimalist Wardrobe*. Shop with a friend or family member who has also seen the 4-minute video.
- **Choose aluminum cans over plastic bottles.** Plastic can be successfully recycled just once or twice, and only 3–6% of plastic that makes it to the recycling bin is truly recycled. On the other hand, [aluminum](#) can be recycled infinitely—as long as you put the can into the recycle bin.
- Enjoy your Thanksgiving celebrations, **starting with a sustainability mindset:** reusable dinnerware, cloth napkins, less meat/more plant-based foods, a plan to use leftovers, a kitchen set up to maximize compostables and minimize trash, even washable rags for cleanup instead of wasting trees with paper towels. Earth will be thankful you did.
- Just after we have said thanks for all we have, Black Friday, Cyber Monday, and the blitz of holiday media tell us to buy more! **Be thoughtful about how much you really need.** Then check out [Green America's Directory of Sustainable Gifts, Holidays, and Special Events](#) before you shop. https://www.greenamerica.org/directory-sustainable-holidays-and-special-occasions?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=75f2e3fe-4f9e-4200-a4e9-b28ecffa2274

Sign up now for "A MINUTE FOR MOTHER EARTH"!

Each month you will receive four free video clips—just 60–90 seconds long—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 for Faith and Community Groups* (available from Cokesbury). Take a minute right now and sign up today: Email adygertgearheart@hotmail.com

World Thank Offering 2023

Thanksgiving & World Thank Offering 2023 <https://uwfaith.org/blog/2023/world-thank-offering-2023/>



Through your gifts to the World Thank Offering, you support the total program of mission carried on through United Women in Faith's national office in the United States and around the world. The November program offered in the United Women in Faith Program Resource 2023, Exercising Faith: Spiritual Practice in Action can be downloaded at www.uwfaith.org/resources.

The World Thank Offering is a way for members of United Women in Faith to show gratitude for God's blessings and find creative ways to raise funds to improve the lives of women, children, and youth.

Join the creative movement to make your own "gift box" to promote World Thank Offering! Post a photo of your World Thank Offering bank, no matter what it looks like, to show that giving together makes great change. The Do-It-Yourself bank can be downloaded [here](https://uwfaithresources.org/prodDetail.cfm?productID=10466&catid=2186) <https://uwfaithresources.org/prodDetail.cfm?productID=10466&catid=2186> in English, Korean, or Spanish. Or create your own, using this **black-and-white template** (<https://uwfaith.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/WorldThankBoxTemplate.pdf>

Reminder for NoVA Notes, our **Bi-District newsletter** for the Alexandria and Arlington Districts. Invite other UWF members to the events & you can **send by the 20th of the month**, your stories, photos (jpg. format helpful) and UWF news to Carol Pratt at our e-mail address: UMWNNotes@gmail.com . Thank you! Carol Pratt

Mark your calendars!

Saturday, December 2 – Southern Subdistrict Annual Advent Breakfast.

The speaker will be Pastor Katie Phillips, minister at The VINE UMC.

December 2 UWF Event at Cokesbury UMC, 14806 Blackburn Road, Woodbridge 22191

9:00-11:00am <https://cokesburyumc.church/>

Saturday, December 16, 9:00 a.m.-noon

Fairlington UWF Breakfast with Santa to support Just Neighbors and Christ Church Refugee Program

Fairlington UMC, 3900 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22302. More details soon.



Photo by [Erol Ahmed](#) on [Unsplash](#)



United
Women
in Faith

If you as a signed in UWF member didn't receive this email:
Oct. 19, 2023 (emailed letter-a partial print)

As part of a sisterhood of women committed to putting faith, hope, and love into action, I am reaching out with an important message...we are enacting a series of cost-savings measures, supported by the board of directors... United Women in Faith will eliminate five staff positions by the end of the year and two additional positions in 2024...

*Additionally, we will move our headquarters by the end of the year to the Church Center for the United Nations (CCUN), which we own. ... please do not lose sight of our mission. **United Women in Faith is devoted to uplifting women, children, and youth. I know that in time**, like generations of United Women in Faith before us, who survived church disruptions, pandemics, wars, and other societal unrest, we, too, will see brighter days ahead. **We will continue to put our love into action.** We will see the growth in our giving and membership that we envisioned through our rebranding... I thank you for your dedication to our beloved organization and solicit your prayers and continued engagement. Please continue to support our missional work with your financial gifts as we build back to the pre-pandemic level. With your consistent giving, we will achieve our goal of being a place for women of faith to find spiritual growth, purpose, belonging, and opportunities for service and advocacy to **make an impact in the world**. Now is the time to invite women to join us.*

...United Women in Faith wants to be who God has called us to be—united women in faith—and we need your support to do so. Our ability to thrive depends on you. Let us stand together as the bold, courageous women we have been for 154 years knowing that with God's help and our love in action, we can change the world...

We will continue to put our love into action. We will see the growth in our giving and membership that we envisioned through our rebranding.

~Sally Vonner, General Secretary and CEO, United Women in Faith



Photo by [Ricardo Gomez Angel](#) on [Unsplash](#)