



United  
Women  
in Faith

# NORTHERN VIRGINIA DISTRICT

## UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

### NOVA NOTES

SEPTEMBER, 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.**

**Please Share and forward this United Women in Faith Newsletter**

#### **What I did on my 2023 Summer Vacation...**

from Carol Pratt, UWF Nova Notes Newsletter Communications.

UWF sisters, thank you for all of your prayers, caring thoughts and cards for me after I had surgery in July. The surgery was on a Sunday morning and while I was waiting, I was able to text my prayer request to my pastor before the morning church worship service. I knew this would bring more prayers to add to my own. 😊 🙏

I thank and praise God for his love and care! Yes, the bad news was that they found ovarian cancer but the good news was that all of the cancer tumor was removed, it was determined to be stage 1, found early and no chemo treatment would be needed. God is Great!

I have been recovering and I am being spoiled and blessed with cards, gift cards for food, and relaxing/mending in Burke, VA. Thank you!

*24 The Lord bless you  
and keep you;*

*25 the Lord make his face shine on you  
and be gracious to you;*

*26 the Lord turn his face toward you  
and give you peace.*

*Numbers 6:24-26*

Thank you, Maria Ward for putting together and emailing out the August UWF NOVA Notes Newsletter! It has valuable information for UWF events and to help with your 2022/23 UWF reports.



## Mini-Mission Encounter – Who Can We Be Together? “report”

On July 8, the UWF NoVA District held a **Mini-Mission Encounter** by Zoom. Rev. Nancy Robinson gave a wonderful presentation for “Who Can We Be Together: A Biblical Exploration of Luke 13.” Forty-five women participated in the program. Using the examples of The Parables of The Mustard Seed and The Yeast (Luke 13:18-20), she led groups of women in discussions and prayers to show how much the seeds of faith can grow and nurture others.

Guest speaker Renyatta Banks, Executive Director of the Wesley Community Service Center, gave a presentation on the work of the WCSC in a low-income high-crime area in Portsmouth, VA. The WCSC provides food, pre-school and after-school programs, and social services to children and families in need. The WCSC is a UWF National Mission. She shared the vision, as well as the challenge of raising funds and finding workers to address the renovation of the old facility which is being up-dated for ventilation, painting and structural concerns.

Also, Doris Douglas presented information about “Shade and Fresh Water,” a **UMC global ministries mission program** that provides support for indigent children in slum areas of Brazil. The program began in 2000, and has trained teachers and churches in Brazil to provide Christian learning programs and services for children and teens. Thousands of at-risk children’s and teens’ lives have been transformed for receiving this love embraced in Christian faith.

Many women who participated in the program were touched by the needs of the two featured mission programs. Subsequently, their donations were sent to the **Wesley Community Service Center** (\$1,455) and **Shade and Fresh Water** (\$1,075).

**\*\*NOTE:** Those who participated in the program can receive “2 bonus credits” for the Reading Program!  
*-Thank you, Brenda Romenius for this Mission Encounter “report”.*



Online at <https://umcmission.org/advance-project/901670> . (You can designate your gift specifically for Hawaii.) By check made out to Global Ministries/UMCOR with “Advance #901670-Hawaii” written on the memo line and given to any United Methodist church.



**Rising Hope Online event -- Visit [www.risinghopeumc.org](http://www.risinghopeumc.org)**

Rising Hope is holding its first **online auction** from **September 18-29**. We have things like theater tickets, golf foursomes, photo shoots, wellness sessions and more! You'll be able to review all the items online and bid on them to support the terrific mission work of Rising Hope. Please send an e-mail to [events@risinghopeumc.org](mailto:events@risinghopeumc.org) for more details. And you can donate items for the auction! Click this link for the donation form: [Online Auction 2023 \(squarespace.com\)](https://www.squarespace.com)

**Rising Hope Open House** wants to celebrate with you at the annual **Open House** on **Saturday, September 23, from 11:30-2:00**. You can enjoy food prepared by our Rising Hope kitchen team, art, games, and lots of information on how to connect



CREATION JUSTICE MINISTRIES

**Racial Justice:** Belmont UMC is inviting us to their offering of a five-week online class, 7:00-8:30 p.m. on Thursdays, starting **September 7**, entitled "**Why We Can't Wait: The Legacy of 1963 for 2023**". The Rev. Dr. Jim Melson, Director of the Cornelius Corps, will be facilitating the class and will focus on the significant events that took place in the Civil Rights movement in 1963. Using a variety of resources, we will look at and discuss the Letter from the Birmingham City Jail, the Medgar Evers assassination, the bombing of the 16<sup>th</sup> Street Baptist Church, the assassination of President Kennedy, as well as other 1963 events.

Register here: "Why We Can't Wait" Online Class Sept.-Oct. 2023

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeDaLJ9JnTTPNC2myYUVyTA821ZoQnS8dym\\_DSCpF0tSONT1Q/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeDaLJ9JnTTPNC2myYUVyTA821ZoQnS8dym_DSCpF0tSONT1Q/viewform) )

# Divine Creator,

As our siblings on Maui suffer the unimaginable loss of family, friends, pets, homes, businesses, jobs, and dreams, along with any sense of certainty about the future, we come to you.

Feeling powerless to alleviate the suffering and with the knowledge that you suffer with the people of Lahaina, we come to you.

We pray for wisdom in the midst of confusion.

We pray for healing in the midst of pain.

We pray for love in the midst of anger.

We pray for justice for Hawai'i.

Amen.



**Please pray for the people in Hawaii and support as you are able.**

Above is a prayer from **Creation Justice**. Prayer written by Alan Potter.



## **United Methodist Creation Justice Tips:**

*Jesus has told us that we are to care for the “least of these who are members of [Christ’s] family” (Matthew 25:40). Working to deal with climate change recognizes that people like Jesus described, those with few resources or connections, will suffer the most from the ravages that are more and more evident.* Heat, drought, and lightning are the “perfect storm” to ignite wildfires, which scorch the ground and pollute the air for hundreds of miles. Additionally, the loss of the trees negatively impacts God’s systems that capture carbon for the health of the earth. **\*Tip- Support organizations that replant trees after wildfires.**

**\*Tip-Reuse a plastic bottle to decrease the water wasted in flushing a toilet.** Fill the bottle with sand or pebbles, put it in the tank. An average home can save about five gallons of water every day. **Jesus calls us to care for humanity and to work for climate justice.**

**For more about the UM Creation Justice Movement, go to [umcreationjustice.org](http://umcreationjustice.org)**



**Virginia Conference United Women in Faith Young Women's Event - Friday & Saturday,  
September 15-16, from 6 pm Friday to 4 pm Saturday**

Camp Overlook between Harrisonburg and Winchester, VA

[YWE Registration 2023.pdf - Google Drive](#)

Retreat Leader: Rev. Heather Wray, there are scholarships available for this event. Scholarships are available through District Presidents of United Women in Faith. Please contact your District Pres. or Janice Webb (703-777-3116) with questions. This event is the first Young Women's UWF Event in-person gathering since COVID!

Blessings Lodge, Camp Overlook  
3014 Camp Overlook Lane  
Keezletown, VA 22832



**Join Faith Talks Podcast LIVE on Prayer September 7, 2 PM ET**

The Bible shares with us in Philippians 4:6, "*Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.*" This is so clear and yet, leading with prayer is not always our first instinct. Prayer is a tool and resource for women and people of faith in general.

Please join me for a moving discussion on prayer with Sophia Kristina Agtarap, deaconess, equity and inclusion champion, and Rev. Dionne P. Boissière, first African American chaplain of the Church Center for the United Nations, on Thursday, September 7 at 2:00 p.m. ET. Register:

[https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_ZF0uwsaMTCOvHWaSEO1BrQ?mc\\_cid=d76b79a36e&mc\\_eid=42e341e  
dfd#/registration](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ZF0uwsaMTCOvHWaSEO1BrQ?mc_cid=d76b79a36e&mc_eid=42e341edfd#/registration)

**UWF Reading Corner**

**Read! Read! Read! Read! Read!**

Your report is due **September 10.**

This link is for the Reading Program Report Form

[Reading Program Report Form and catalog](#)

<https://uwfaith.org/resources/reading-program/>



UWF leader Concetta Jones-Here is our School Give away. We blessed 100 kids with School Book bags filled with School Supplies. We gave out lunches also. Pictured the members of UWF, Woodlawn United Methodist Church, Alexandria Va



Special Mission Recognition Pins Presented to Leslie Casson Stevens and Pastor Christian White  
United Women in Faith provides the opportunity for local groups to honor those in mission with women, children, and youth with a Special Mission Recognition pin. Each pin not only acknowledges the effort given by the individual, but also represents a financial contribution to mission in the recipient's name from UWF unit.

On Sunday, June 25, Fairlington United Women in Faith presented SMR pins and certificates to Leslie Casson Stevens, for her work with Fairlington Preschool, and Pastor Christian White, for his work with children and youth. FUWF surprised both recipients during this worship service, which the children of the congregation helped lead.

If your UWF unit would like to recognize someone within your congregation or community for their work with women, children or youth, contact your group's treasurer or Marty Bickford, NoVa UWF District Treasurer, at [martybickford121@outlook.com](mailto:martybickford121@outlook.com) to discuss ordering a SMR pin. The order form is available in the "forms" section of the [www.novauwfaith.org](http://www.novauwfaith.org).

**Your UWF unit's annual reports are due very soon.**

Reports you need to send – August 31 – September 10 – the sooner the better! Please work with your unit officers to prepare and submit these reports:

Living Into Our Purpose	Lois Hidalgo	<a href="mailto:ldhida@verizon.net">ldhida@verizon.net</a>
Reading Program	Barbara Barrick	<a href="mailto:barbarabarrick0302@gmail.com">barbarabarrick0302@gmail.com</a>
3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter Treasurer's Report	Marty Bickford	<a href="mailto:martybickford121@outlook.com">martybickford121@outlook.com</a>
Deceased Sisters	Vikki Beaty	<a href="mailto:bvikki@aol.com">bvikki@aol.com</a>

If you need help, please respond contact Maria Ward [alexandria.umw.president@gmail.com](mailto:alexandria.umw.president@gmail.com)

## Virginia Conference Call to the 51st Annual Meeting

You are invited to the 51st Annual Meeting of the Virginia Conference United Women in Faith **October 28, 2023, 10:00 AM**, Good Shepherd UMC, 9155 Hungary Road, Henrico, VA 23294. Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson will be the guest speaker.

Please pre-register using the link provided on the registration form available at [vauwf.org](http://vauwf.org).

A booklet will be available for you to download which will include the agenda, calendar, budget, nominations, reports, and other useful information.

You are welcome to celebrate this year, the 154th year of United Women in Faith and her predecessor organizations.

Nancy Walsh  
President

Registration link and additional information: <https://www.vauwf.org/annual-meeting>

## 2024 –UWF NoVA DISTRICT TEAM

***“For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.” Romans 12:4-8***

The District Nominations Committee is seeking candidates for positions on the 2024 NoVA District Team. We are looking for women who have a love for Jesus Christ and a heart for mission that supports women and children in need.

Following is the current 2024 Slate of UWF NoVA District Officers who have said “YES!” to serving on the UWFaith District Team:

### 2024 UWF NoVA District Team (to be voted for approval on Oct. 21)

President	Beth Meserve
Vice President	<i>Vacant at this time</i>
Secretary	<i>Vacant at this time</i>
Treasurer	Marty Bickford
Communications	Carol Pratt
Spiritual Growth	Dana Connor
Social Action	Suzanne Dorick
Program Resources	Barbara Barrick
Education & Interpretation	Lois Hidalgo
Membership, Nurture & Outreach	<i>Vacant at this time</i>
Nominations	Brenda Romenius (Chair) Kirsten King (Class of 2024) Loretta Henderson (Class of 2025) <i>Vacant at this time (Class of 2026)</i> <i>Vacant at this time (Class of 2027)</i>

#### *Appointed Coordinators:*

Northern Sub-District	Janet Keener
Southern Sub-District	<i>Vacant at this time</i>
Eastern Sub-District	Marlene Dakita
Western Sub-District	Myrna Meling

Many can speak from personal experience that the fellowship and friendships from serving on the District Team are fulfilling and inspiring for working with incredible women!

Specifically, we are looking to fill positions for:

Vice President - primarily supports the president and works together with the Leadership Team in planning a calendar and programs for the NoVA District UWF.

Secretary - records the minutes of the NoVA UWF Executive District meetings (usually, meets 4 times a year by Zoom and the annual District meeting in the Fall)

Membership, Nurture & Outreach - encourages units with ideas for membership. Also submits an annual report to the District and UWF VA Conference of the number of active units and members.

Committee on Nominations - primarily works to identify candidates to fill District positions. A great way to meet the wonderful women in our district! Usually meets twice a year.

The proposed 2024 Slate of UWF NoVA District Officers will be presented at the Annual UWF NOVA District meeting in October. We hope that you would prayerfully consider joining this team.

**Questions? Please contact Brenda Romenius [brendaromenius@yahoo.com](mailto:brendaromenius@yahoo.com) by September 1, 2023.**

Peace & Grace,

UWF Nova District Nominations Team  
Brenda Romenius Phone: 703-336-2831  
Kirsten King  
Loretta Henderson

Reminder for NoVA Notes, our Bi-District newsletter for the Alexandria and Arlington Districts!  
In this monthly 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 (**Who, What, How & When** of your event is helpful information and **an invitation** for all) You just add the UWF Notes address ([umwnovanotes@gmail.com](mailto:umwnovanotes@gmail.com)) to what you are emailing to your other unit members. **Share and invite other UWF members** & you can send your stories, photos (jpg. helpful) and news to Carol Pratt at our e-mail address: [UMWNoVaNotes@gmail.com](mailto:UMWNoVaNotes@gmail.com) .

Thank you! Carol Pratt, NoVA Notes

