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President's Note...

And with a blink of an eye, it's 2025! Is anyone else finding it hard to believe that it is already 2025? It's now time to reflect on what we accomplished last year and the new things we have to look forward to in the new year!

The first thing I want to do is thank everyone in the East Central District that paid a pledge this year, and to all of the units who sent in their pledges this year that allowed the District to make our pledge this year! I know things have gotten harder for many of you and making your pledge has become more difficult, so I thank you! If you do not make a pledge, maybe this year is time to start. Our pledges help to fund our mission institutions all over the United States and other programs around the world that support women, youth, and children. Maybe you can start with a \$20-30 pledge for 2025. Give what you have even if it seems like little. In God's hands your little becomes a lot, just like the little boy's five loaves of bread and two fish. Imagine what we can do if we all made a pledge in 2025 and left it in God's hands!

On February 1st from 10:00 am-Noon, we will be holding our Annual Leadership Training on Zoom. We will have an overview of the changes to the United Women in Faith Handbook 2025-2028 that is now available in print (spiral bound, \$24.99) and also can be downloaded (free) from the United Women in Faith website at <https://uwfaithresources.org/prodDetail.cfm?productID=12087&catid=2199> We will be providing current forms and reporting deadlines for the District. We will also have specific breakout room training by offices/position. I hope to see you all there! There will be door prizes!

We will be presenting this year's Mission Study, "Welcome Home" on March 22, 2025. If you would like to host our Mission Study this year, please contact Paula Foley at foleyps@msn.com or Janet Blume at janetblume.umw@gmail.com. We can go over the particulars with you and set it up.

Mission U will be held this year at the Westin Lake Mary from 18-20 Jul 2025 and this year's Mission Study is "Practicing Hope". There are scholarships available for all ages. The deadline to apply is May 15 and you can download the application from the Conference website at <https://flconfuwf.org/2025-mission-u>

We are also in need of a location for this years District Annual Meeting. If your unit would be interested in hosting this years meeting, contact me at janetblume.umw@gmail.com.

The church is not just a building, but a community of faithful people. The United Women in Faith are the church. You and I are the church. Jesus also used the example of His body being the church on earth. He is the head of this body and we need each other to function optimally. The church needs each of us to be fully functional. So go out into the world and your community and be the church!

Faith-Action-Sisterhood

Janet

I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light
 so that you can understand the confident hope
 He has given to those He called—His holy people
 Who are His rich and glorious inheritance—Ephesians 1:18 NLT

MAY YOU SHINE
THE LIGHT OF
CHRIST IN THE
NEW YEAR!



United
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Message from the Secretary...

Thank you to all the units that have already sent me their officer updates. I have information from Broadway, Community of Faith, Edge Memorial, Winter Park, Sanford, Lakeside, Sebastian, Solid Rock, Mt. Dora, FUMC Orlando, and Azaela Park/Faith. If you don't see your unit on this list, I would appreciate hearing from you as soon as possible. We are looking forward to 2025 as a new, larger, more-active district. We would like to get to know each of you and for you all to get to know each other. I am looking forward to meeting with you at our Leadership training in February.

I hope your holidays are filled with joy, laughter and the love of Jesus!

Submitted by:
Linda Welander
Secretary



United
Women
in Faith

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2025 - 2026
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**Vacant
E&I Coordinator**

**Vacant
Social Action Coordinator**



United
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Committee on Nominations

Being newly appointed to the role of nominating committee chair, I've been doing some research about my new responsibilities. You may be surprised, as I was, to learn that "the nominating committee holds the key to shaping the future of an organization by selecting its leadership." I knew that we selected future leaders into positions, but that we held the key to shaping the future was eye-opening. The committee is an important and vital part of any organization and works best when "the leadership is continually filled with new ideas, vibrant personalities, coming from a variety of personal and business experiences." The nominating committee is responsible for making that possible.

What ideas, gifts, talents, experiences, and joys can you bring to the District United Women in Faith table? There are several roles that need to be filled this year and into the future. If it is to be the best place it can be we need you to share and participate and become part of the team.

Please pray and think about your possible role because we want to continue to be the best group of United Women in Faith, and we need every voice and every member saying "yes" to the role that God is calling us to do. Whether it is at the local, district or conference level, please know that you are needed. There is room for all!

Blessings on this New Year!

Gillian Wolfe



United
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Unit Survey Season!

Below is a copy of the email from Ebony Y. Diaz, Director of Membership & Engagement, Membership Office, United Women in Faith

SUBJECT: It's Unit Survey Season - Join Us in Shaping the Future of UWF!

Our 2023 Unit Survey is here! As a leader in United Women in Faith, you play a vital role in shaping the future of our mission. The insights of the women from your conference help us to shape the future of our organization's progress, fueling our shared goals to expand membership, build funding, and make a greater impact in our communities and the world.

By completing this brief survey, valued member feedback supports planning and efforts for 2025 and beyond in:

**Growing and Engaging Membership
Fostering Leadership Development
Increasing Program Awareness and Participation**

With that, we need your help to get the word out to local leaders. Please forward this email on to those in your database and share the update about the Unit Survey in your upcoming newsletters, meetings, trainings and events, etc.

To Access the Survey:

The survey link is available on the **Members & Leaders Portal** <https://uwfaith.org/login/> for you to complete and/or share.

If you are not already logged into the Members and Leaders Portal, you will be asked to log in first. Then click 'Unit Survey' under Quick Links.

If you are filling out the survey, please locate and access your region > conference survey link > and then follow the steps from there.

There is an **sample survey** (<https://uwfaith.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Unit-Survey-2023-Review-Copy.pdf>) available, which is meant to act as a guide for the survey questionnaire and showcase the questions asked. **Please note: the National Office will NOT be accepting any paper submissions.** However, we support and encourage Districts to work with Local Units who may not be capable of completing the online version of the form. Again, **no paper submissions** will be accepted at the National Office.

As a reminder, the survey closing date is March 31, 2025, and the survey should take approximately 10-15 minutes to complete.

Remember, the unique perspectives of our members, women like you, women out in the world today, are invaluable as we work to strengthen our sisterhood and continue the work we do on behalf of women, children and youth. We look forward to your support and the input of the leaders in your networks—together, we are advancing a legacy of faith in action!

If you have any general questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office at: Membership@uwfaith.org or me directly, at the contact info below.

Warmly, Ebony Y. Diaz, Director of Membership & Engagement, Membership Office, United Women in Faith



Carrying Our Faith Forward

2025 Leadership Training

Training will
be held on Zoom

February 1, 2025
10:00 am- Noon

Register on our website at :

<https://www.flecduwfaith.org/events>

— East Central District —
United Women in Faith



Calendar of Events



United
Women
in Faith

2024 & 2025 Calendar of Events East Central District

February 1, 2025 Officer Training for Unit Officers
Virtual on Zoom

March 15, 2025 Haitian Convocation
El Shadai / Wesley UMC-Fort Myers FL

March 22, 2025 Mission Study
TBD

March 23, 2025 UWFaith Day of Giving
On-Line

April 13-18, 2025 Child Advocacy Week
State House Tallahassee FL

May 17, 2025 Conservation / Social Action Event
TBD

June 2025 Florida Annual Conference
Florida Southern College, Lakeland FL

July 18-20, 2024 Mission U
Westin North Orlando, Lake Mary, FL

July 23, 25, 30 & August 1, 2025 Mission U Virtual
Zoom

October 5, 2025 District Annual Meeting
TBD

November 8, 2025 Conference Annual Meeting
First United Methodist Church, Lakeland, FL

There is more detailed information on our website at www.flecdumw.org/events



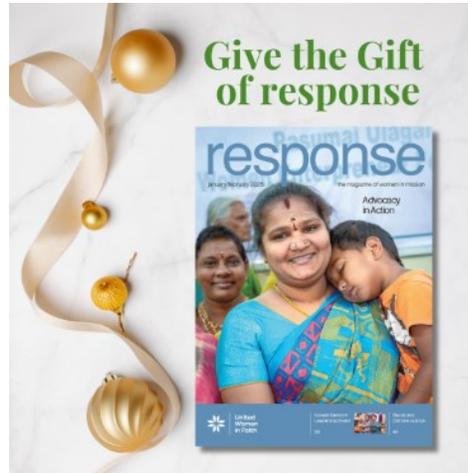
2025 Calendar of Events

UW Faith Florida Conference

January 17	Program Committee	Zoom
January 20	Leadership Team meeting	Zoom
February	Finance Committee	Zoom
March 14	Program Committee	Zoom
March 15	Haitian Convocation	El Shaddai/Wesley UMC
March 17	Leadership Team meeting	Zoom
March 23	United Women in Faith "Day of Giving"	
April 14-18	Children's Advocacy week	Tallahassee
April	Racial Justice Committee	Zoom
May 16	Program Committee	Zoom
May 19	Leadership Team meeting	Zoom
June 5-7	Florida Annual Conference	Lakeland
July 18	Program Committee	Zoom
July 21	Leadership Team meeting	Zoom
July 18-20	Mission u	Westin, Lake Mary
July 22, 24, 29, & Aug31	Virtual Mission u	Zoom
August 2	Finance Committee/Budget approval	Zoom
August 6	Mission u Committee	Zoom
September 12	Program Committee	Zoom
September 15	Leadership Team meeting	Zoom
September	Social Action/Racial Justice event	Zoom
October	Racial Justice Committee	Zoom
November 8	UWF Conference Annual Meeting	[tbd]
November 14	Program Committee	Zoom
November 17	Leadership Team meeting	Zoom
December	Advent event	Zoom

2026

January	Leadership Development/Goals Setting	[tbd]
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Give a Gift Subscription of response!

Do you know a member who would love a **response** magazine subscription? Do you know a young woman, a community leader, a church friend, or a potential new member who would love to hear about the work of United Women in Faith? Do you want to share stories about how women like you are inspiring, influencing, and impacting their world? This season, give the gift of **response** magazine!

response is the official award-winning magazine of United Women in Faith that explores spiritual growth, shares stories of membership and sisterhood, and showcases the impact of our work and Mission Giving at the local, national, and international levels. Print and digital subscriptions are available. All print subscriptions include complimentary digital access.

[Click here](#) and select on “Give a Gift Subscription” to get started. You can pay via credit card or send a check to

response

Reading Program

UWFaith 2024—2025

What Reading Program plan are you going to achieve this year?

- ◆ Plan 1 is 5 credits, one from each category
- ◆ Plan 2 is 10 credits, two from each category
- ◆ Plan 3 is 15 credits, two from each category and the rest is your choice
- ◆ Plan 4 is 20 credits, two from each category and the rest your choice

Why credits and not books? You can get a credit in other ways than just reading the great books.

- ◆ Listening to two or more **Faith Talks** is a credit in *Spiritual Growth*.
- ◆ Listening to two or more podcasts of **Voices From the Field** is a credit for *Education for Mission*.
- ◆ Participating in a **Mission U** study (2024 or 2025) counts as 2 credits in *Spiritual Growth*.
- ◆ You should be reading **Response Magazine** in all the plans, and reading the six issues is credit for *Nurturing for Community*.
- ◆ Even movies or television programs based on current Reading Program books are eligible for the same category credit as the original book.

Remember the United Women in Faith Reading Program runs from July 1, 2024, until June 30, 2025. Keep reading!

Dottie Mathias
Secretary of Program Resources

Reading Program

UW Faith 2024—2025

East Central District Book Club by Zoom on the second Tuesday of the month at 7pm **January book club** discussion will be on the *1619 Project* by Nikole Hannah-Jones. It is a bonus book, so it counts for 2 credits in the Education for Mission category. If it sounds familiar, Hulu has the 1619 Project as a series. Watching the series counts the same as reading the book for the reading program.

THE 1619 PROJECT: A NEW ORIGIN STORY (FOR ADULTS) NIKOLE HANNAH-JONES RANDOM HOUSE/ONE WORLD (2021) The 1619 Project is an exploration of the meaning and overall impact of slavery on American life. Produced in August 2019, the 400-year anniversary of the arrival of the first enslaved people to Virginia, it retells United States history through essays, photos, and podcasts. Ultimately, The 1619 Project addresses the impact of slavery on the nation's foundational ideals, economy, health care system, racial segregation, music, and more, examining the systems of race and caste that still operate in America today.

February book club will discuss *Abuelita Faith* by Kat Armas. It counts as a credit for Spiritual Growth for the reading program.

ABUELITA FE/ABUELITA FAITH: WHAT WOMEN ON THE MARGINS TEACH US ABOUT WISDOM, PERSISTENCE, AND STRENGTH KAT ARMAS BRAZOS PRESS (2021) Kat Armas, a second-generation Cuban American, grew up on the outskirts of Miami's famed Little Havana neighborhood. Her earliest theological formation came from her grandmother, her abuelita, who fled Cuba during the height of political unrest and raised three children alone after her husband passed away. Combining personal storytelling with biblical reflection, Armas shows us how voices on the margins—those often dismissed, isolated, and oppressed because of their gender, socioeconomic status, or lack of education—have more to teach us about following God than we realize. This book is a Christianity Today 2022 Book Award finalist.

Reading Program (Cont'd)

UW Faith 2025—2026

Cont'd—

March book club discussion will be for the book *Beautiful Country* by Quan Wang. This book is a credit for leadership.

BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY: A MEMOIR QIAN JULIE WANG DOUBLEDAY (2021) Adult Books
Seven-year-old Qian arrives in New York full of curiosity—and over whelmed by fear and scarcity. While in Chinese, the word for America translates to “beautiful country,” her new life is anything but beautiful. Formerly professors, now Qian’s parents labor in sweatshops and fight constantly, desperate to survive in poverty in the richest country in the world. Shunned by her classmates for her limited English, Qian turns to books—and small joys that keep her going. This New York Times best seller reveals a family fracturing under the weight of invisibility, and a girl coming of age in the shadows, who never stops seeking the light.

Join the discussion on January 14th, February 11th, and March 11th at 7:00 pm
Register to join the book discussion at www.flecduwfaith.org/events



UW Faith

Unit News

Sanlando First UMC UWFAITH Unit News

“Past-Present-Promise” SUWF Event Delights Crowd, Raises Funds for SCS

The recent 2024 fall Sanlando United Women in Faith (SUWF) gathering, “Past-Present-Promise,” drew nearly 100 SUWF members and guests to celebrate faith, friendship and food, while also successfully raising funds for Sanlando Christian School (SCS). Held Sunday, Nov. 17, the event marked the first large gathering to be held in our beautifully renovated Fellowship Hall. SUWF President Live Kotkin welcomed everyone and oversaw the short business meeting before turning it over to SCS Director Erica Holloway who shared a powerful message of just some of the challenges faced by our young students and their families. Vice President Mary Marra – fashion show MC extraordinaire! – and her team of more than 25 stunning Sanlando models, including several daughter, mother and grandmother trios, took to the runway to show off their favorite and most fun outfits from their private closet collections. From holidays and team/fan rivalries to graduations, weddings, and New Year’s Eve party horns and PJs, the 12 month fashion show was a huge hit for the crowd. At the close, Membership Co-Chair Connie Bentivegna presented Live Kotkin with a floral bouquet and words of praise to thank her for her four years of outstanding leadership as she retires from the executive position. A huge thank you to the many women behind the scenes who made the fall gathering a blockbuster success. Donations to Sanlando Christian School are still being accepted through the giving/other tab at Sanlando.org, specifying “SCS.”



Community of Faith UWFAITH Unit News

November Meeting - Lots of Kingdom work!

Community of Faith UWF Davenport FL. December 2024' Lots of Kingdom Work this month. At the end of November at our meeting our group sanitized and boxed custom jewelry to sell at Loughman Oaks Elementary Christmas Shop. Many of the children who attend that school are financially challenged and have no money to purchase Christmas presents for their parents and siblings. The school has created a Christmas Shop where children can purchase gifts for their family members at an extremely reduced rate of 10 cents to \$20.00 depending on the item donated. Our group, the Knit Wits, also donated crocheted potholders. At that meeting we also filled out Christmas Cards which will be sent to our troops. Our group also collected enough money, \$200.00, to help this school purchase school uniforms for those children who may soil their uniform, mostly bathroom accidents, to be able to have a clean uniform to return to their classroom with dignity. We decorated a Christmas Tree in the Historic area of Davenport for our annual Tree Lighting ceremony to make sure United Women In Faith would have a presence in that area of town. Due to the giving generosity of our members, we were able to give the over flow of costume jewelry to the women in the Palm Crest Nursing Home in Haines City and purchase golf shirts for 28 of their male residents to be given out at their Christmas party this year. Our ongoing vegetable garden produced about 30 bags of vegetables every two weeks to be distributed at House Blest in Haines City at the New Horizon UMC . It has been a great month!!

Submitted by:

Lori Moffett

UWF Vice President



Edge UMC

UWFAITH Unit News

On December 1st we sponsored a soup, sandwich, and sweet luncheon after church services where everyone could also do a craft for the holiday season. All enjoyed soups and sandwiches and craft fun!

On December 14 we will be making our cookie boxes for our shut ins who cannot make it to church. We make homemade cookies, box them with holiday cheer and then deliver them around our community.

Our new directories are being printed and will be handed out at our first meeting on January the 11th.

Submitted by:

Sarah Lenigan

UWF President

A Note From Your Communications Coordinator...

What is your unit doing to show LOVE IN ACTION?

Send in your article telling us how you are showing your Love in Action in 2024 so we can share it with others!

The Trumpet Sound will be published bimonthly (January, March, May, July, September, November)

Due date for upcoming articles for March Newsletter is February 10th.

Here are some ideas for articles:

- ◇ What is your unit doing to show Love in Action for women, children and youth?
- ◇ How is your unit serving in missions?
- ◇ Have you used the UWFaith Program Book for a unit event?
- ◇ Have you done a program on Call to Prayer and Self-Denial?
- ◇ How have you used the Daily Prayer Guide?
- ◇ What are your upcoming UWFaith events?

Please make sure the article is no more than three paragraphs. Also, send a couple pictures with your article.

Email your articles to dianeabresky.umw@gmail.com by February 10th. In the subject line add Trumpet Sound.

If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at the above email.

Past Trumpet Sound Publications can be found on the website by following this link:

<https://flecduwfaith.org> under publications.

We invite you to view the website: <https://flecduwfaith.org> or visit us on Facebook Florida East Central District United Methodist Women | Facebook