



United Women in Faith

Trumpet Sound

East Central District

President's Note...

Table of Contents

- Page 1** President's Notes
- Page 2** Retreat Memories
- Page 3** Secretary Message
- Page 4** Upcoming Events
- Page 8** Christmas Traditions
- Page 10** Committee on Nom
- Page 13** Social Justice
- Page 14** Unit News
- Page 17** Reading Program
- Page 18** Communications Notes

As we head into the season of advent, I am hopeful for new beginnings as this year comes to an end (phew!) and a new year begins. There will still be more change and I'm hopeful for that change to bring excitement and joy as we love as Jesus taught us. Since my husband and I were members of a disaffiliating United Methodist Church and we chose to remain United Methodists, we have been hanging out on the Conference roles, so that we could take our time to find a new Church home. Well tomorrow, December 3rd, with great joy and hope in our hearts we will be joining Community of Faith United Methodist Church in Davenport. Honestly, we feel at home there and it just fits us! We are excited to explore some of their new ideas and we definitely feel an energy that makes us want to grow there.

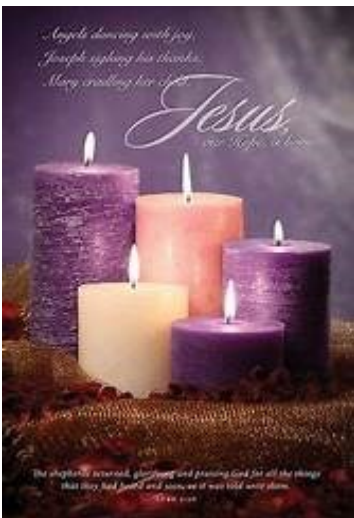
I know that we are smaller but I believe that we can do great things as a sisterhood working together to make change in this World. We can stand by and watch or we can be the leaders of change. If you think you might want to be part of the new changes in United Women in Faith. Plan to join us on Zoom for some Leadership Training on February 3, 2024, bring your ideas.

There is still time to register at the early bird rate (by Dec 31, 2023) for the United Women in Faith, Southeast Jurisdiction Get Together on April 19-21, 2024 in Chattanooga, TN. If you've never been to a Jurisdiction Meeting (this will be my first time) it's kind of like a regional conference of United Women in Faith members like you and me. I have heard the guest speaker (Janet Wolf) before and I am really looking forward to hearing her speak again. If you would like to get more information, check out their website at www.sejuwf.org

Faith-Action-Sisterhood

Janet

**God is Faithful:
you were called by Him into fellowship
with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
I Corinthians 1:9**



East Central District Annual Meeting & Retreat Warren Willis United Methodist Camp & Conference Center, Leesburg



Message from the Secretary...

It's that time again. We are currently updating our directory information for 2024. As soon as you have elected your new officers, please email the information to lindawelander.umw@gmail.com. I would appreciate the information by Dec. 15, but if your elections are held after that date, just let me know.

We would like the following information:

- ◇ Church name
- ◇ Office
- ◇ Name
- ◇ Address
- ◇ Preferred phone number
- ◇ Email address

If your new president, secretary, or treasurer does not use email, let us know the best way to reach her.

Thank you for helping us stay connected by keeping your information up to date.

Would you like to know more about United Women in Faith digital opportunities? There will be two Open House events in the coming months.

December 12, and January 9, at 8:00 ET via zoom. I believe the zoom link is: <https://uwfaith-org.zoom.us/j/82335797952> I hope to see you there!

Upcoming UWF ECD Events

February 3, 2024 Leadership Training for Unit Officers

9:30 am-Noon

Virtual on Zoom

March 16, 2024 Haitian Convocation

El Shadai UMC-Fort Myers FL

March 24-29, 2024 Child Advocacy Week

State House Tallahassee FL

April 7, 2024 Women's Soul Care Retreat

9:00 am-3:00 pm

Mission Study

Location TBD

April 19-21, 2024 Southeastern Jurisdiction

Quadrennial Event

Chattanooga TN

May 4, 2024 Social Action Event TBD

June 6-8, 2024 Florida Annual Conference

Florida Southern College

Lakeland FL

July 19-21, 2024 Mission U TBD

Lake Mary, FL

Virtual on Zoom

October 5, 2024 District Annual Meeting

9:00 am- 1:00 pm

Location TBD

November 9, 2024 Conference Annual Meeting TBD

Lakeland, FL

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

Upcoming UWF Florida Conference Events

2024 Florida Children's Week

New Dates—February 25—March 1, 2024 You can find more details [here](#).

Children's Week Florida is the only annual event held that celebrates and honors its commitment to children, youth and advocates.

An opportunity at the local level to decorate hands with colorful artwork, inspiration words to be on display during the week. Artwork must be postmarked by Monday, **February 12, 2024** to be included in the large display at the Capitol Rotunda. Click [here](#) for the instructions and details.

2024 SEJ Quadrennial Meeting

April 19-21, 2024—Chattanooga, TN. You can find more details [here](#).

GET TOGETHER to feel the joy of faith-filled women, uniting.

GET TOGETHER too nurture your soul.

GET TOGETHER to deepen your relationship with God.

GET TOGETHER to explore the power of love to make a difference.

Upcoming UWF National Events

Voices From the Field: Love, Justice, Service – Home Missioners in Ministry

Join us on Tuesday, December 5 at 7:30 pm ET for our virtual Voices From the Field event. Register [here](#).

Hear how three home missioners live out their lifetime calls to love, justice, and service.

Faith Talks

Join us on Thursday, December 7 at 2:00 pm ET. You can find the links [here](#).

Faith Talks are monthly conversations with United Women in Faith hosted by Jennifer R. Farmer, Spotlight PR. Each conversation explores themes and resources that empower us to put faith, hope and love into action.

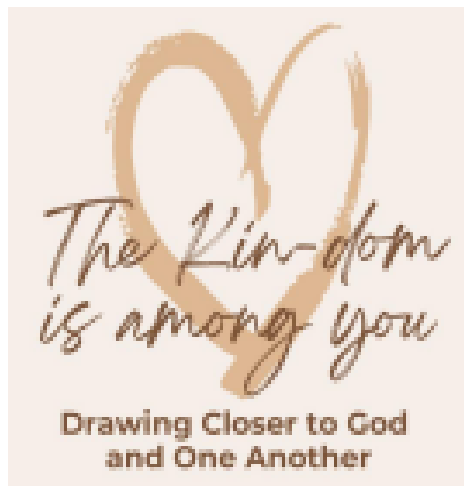


Save the Dates for Mission u 2024: Friday, July 19 – Sunday, July 21

The Westin Lake Mary, Orlando North
2974 International Parkway
Lake Mary, FL 32746

Virtual Mission u 2024 will take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays, July 23, 25, 30, & August 1

Join us at Mission u 2024 as we explore what it means to draw closer to God and one another.



Mission u 2024 offers three exciting curricula on this theme. Order your copy here: uwfaithresources.org

Adult: Welcome Home by Neomi Fletcher

The adult curriculum uses the image of home to explore how living in close proximity to the kin-dom is like making a home with God. Participants are invited to develop practices for building healthy, welcoming communities as a result of being anchored in the abiding love of God.

Youth: Cultivating Symbiosis - The Nature of God's Kin-dom by Nica Sy

In Creation, we see the power of symbiosis, or interdependent relationship. The youth curriculum explores the idea of symbiosis between our relationships with one another and our relationship with God. By drawing closer to one another and our world, we draw closer to the kin-dom.

Children: Me in the Kin-dom by Kathy Cook

The children's curriculum uses the Lord's Prayer as a lens to help us see that we are all members of the family of God. Children will begin to understand that the kin-dom is living with Christ and one another on earth as in heaven.

More Information Coming Soon!

Get Together!



United
Women
in Faith

SOUTHEASTERN JURISDICTION
QUADRENNIAL EVENT

SEJUWF.ORG

Come to Chattanooga, Tennessee on April 19-21, 2024

GET TOGETHER to feel the joy of faith-filled women, uniting.

GET TOGETHER to nurture your soul.

GET TOGETHER to deepen your relationship with God.

GET TOGETHER to explore the power of love to make a difference.

WHY YOU SHOULD REGISTER

What does it mean to answer the call to "love one another" (John 13:34) in 2024? Come GET TOGETHER to explore the possibilities through

- Inspiring worships
- Engaging workshops
- Riveting and motivating speakers
- Renewing soul care

PRICE

The Southeastern Jurisdiction Quadrennial Event is a great value at the early registration fee of \$210. Few other faith-based conferences offer so much for such a low fee.

FEATURING

Rev. Janet Wolf as our Keynote Speaker.
Linda Furtado as our Music Director

**TOGETHER we can do more. TOGETHER we can be more
TOGETHER the power of love in action can change the world.**

Season of Advent

"Be still and know that I am God."
Psalm 46:10

We turn the calendar to December 1st today, and the first thing I thought about was all the things I need to get done before Christmas: Shopping, baking, wrapping, visiting, cleaning, planning, and mailing cards and gifts. Not to mention special concerts and church services, parades and Disney visits. It's a busy month!

And then I read a devotion by Henri Nouwen that says: if we could just be, for a few minutes each day, fully where we are, we would indeed discover that we are not alone and that the One who is with us wants only one thing: to give us love. Be still and know God's love. Take a peaceful, intentional time each day to sit in the lap of God and know his love for you. It is a wonderful place to be.

Enjoy this Christmas season one day at a time without stress or worry because you are loved whether you get your cards out on time, or not. God loves your period. That is why Jesus came.

Many blessings of love, peace, and joy to you as you enjoy your preparations and remember who loves you!



Christmas Eve Traditions

There are many different Christmas Eve traditions that people celebrate around the world.

Nativity Scenes: Nativity scenes are a common sight in many Christian homes and churches. They depict the birth of Jesus Christ and are usually set up on Christmas Eve.

Midnight Mass: Midnight Mass is a religious service that takes place on Christmas Eve. It is usually held at midnight and is a celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ.

Advent Wreaths: Advent wreaths are a popular Christmas decoration that is used in many Christian homes. They are made up of four candles, each of which represents one of the four Sundays of Advent.

Christmas Carols: Christmas carols are a popular way to celebrate the holiday season. They are usually sung in churches and other public places.

Candlelight Services: Candlelight services are a popular way to celebrate Christmas Eve. They are usually held in churches and involve lighting candles to symbolize the light of Christ.

Feasting: Many Christian families celebrate Christmas Eve with a feast. The feast usually includes traditional dishes and desserts.

Gift Giving: Gift giving is a popular Christmas tradition that is practiced by many Christians around the world. It is a way to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ and to show love and appreciation to family and friends.

These are just a few of the many religious Christmas Eve traditions that are celebrated around the world. Each tradition has its own unique meaning and significance.



Committee on Nominations

What are your talents?

In the book Signs and Wonders by Philip Gulley the church bulletin board read “*To dream of the person you wish to become is to waste the person you are.*” Psalms 139:13 says you were fearfully and wonderfully made by God

No two people are exactly alike. Each person possesses their own strengths, abilities, and personalities. God loves you just the way you are!

Everyone is valuable and shouldn't waste their life trying to be something or someone they're not. We sometimes wish we could be more like someone else, someone who can sing better, or is a talented painter, or is a great public speaker. It may not be your talent but you have other strengths. You may be good at working with technology, or mathematics, or languages, or planning an event or advocating for others.

In the parable of the Talents in Matthew 25: 14-30; it tell about how we should use the gifts we have been given and not to bury them. Jesus' disciples are to use their God given gifts in the service of God, and to take risks for the sake of the Kingdom of God. It does not please God if you bury your talent because you are afraid. A quote by Donald Miller is “Fear is a manipulative emotion that can trick us into living a boring life.”

Think about your talents, special interest and concerns. Here are a few: talking to people, encouraging others, decorating, planning, organization of details, writing, translating, creativity, teaching, speaking, computers, technology, music, social issues, spiritual growth, secretarial, finances, publicity. How can you use this talent in the service of God? Sometimes others know your talent because they see you using them, but some of your interests may not be known. Let others know.

Filling out the Potential Leader's Information form helps the Committee on Nomination learn about your talents and when to contact you to keep United Women in Faith growing strong. You can give the completed form to your unit president, so when a member from the East Central District Committee on Nomination calls she will know who to recommend they contact. You can also send it directly to me:

Dottie Mathias, chair of East Central District Committee on Nomination
dottiemathias.umw@gmail.com
16447 Citrus Parkway Clermont FL 34714

You are such a talented person! I'm praying you see Him working in you as you go.



United
Women
in Faith

POTENTIAL LEADER'S INFORMATION FORM
(To be completed by the potential leader)

Type or Print (attach additional sheets as necessary) Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Mobile Phone: _____

Email: _____

Local Unit/City: _____

Age: 20's___ 30's___ 40's___ 50's___ 60's___ 70's___ 80's___

Race/Ethnicity: _____ Employed Yes___ No___

Languages Spoken: _____

Professional Skills, job experiences : _____

List Office(s) held within United Women in Faith:

Local: _____

District: _____

Conference: _____

Jurisdiction: _____

Additional service other than United Women in Faith in the community and on the local, district, conference, jurisdiction or general church level:

Please return to: Dottie Mathias—Chair, Committee on Nominations
16447 Citrus Parkway, Clermont, FL 34714
Email: Dottiemathias.umw@gmail.com
Phone: 352-708-3222 or Mobile: 717-449-0879



POTENTIAL LEADER'S INFORMATION FORM (Cont'd)
(To be completed by the potential leader)

Name: _____ Date: _____

Areas of Special Interest or Concern:

- ___ Secretarial ___ Program Planning ___ Public Policy
___ Communication ___ Administration ___ Community Building
___ Workshops ___ Translator ___ Inclusiveness/Pluralism
___ Computer ___ Recruiting Members ___ Publicity
___ Newsletters ___ Social Issues ___ Retreats
___ Accounting/Bookkeeping ___ Creativity ___ Music
___ Organizing/Detail Oriented ___ Recording Minutes ___ Youth
___ Nominations ___ Signing ___ Children
___ Other (specify) _____

Which office(s) on the District United Women in Faith team would you most like to hold given the opportunity to serve?

- ___ President ___ Membership Nurture & Outreach
___ Vice President ___ Social Action
___ Secretary ___ Spiritual Growth
___ Treasurer ___ Program Resources
___ Education & Interpretation ___ Communications
___ Chair of Nominations

Why are you interested in this position(s) and what qualifications do you feel you have for your office(s) of choice?

Would you be able to use your fits and talents to uphold and strengthen United Women in Faith through the PURPOSE of this organization? _____

Is it possible for you to be away from your home or employment for: (circle)
Full Day Yes or No Weekend Yes or No Extended Time Yes or No

___ I am sorry but I am unable to accept an office this year. Please keep my name on file and contact me in _____ (month/year).

Please feel free to provide other information you feel is pertinent: _____



Have you ever taken a quiz to see what your carbon footprint is? I took one the other day and was surprised, and a little embarrassed, when I was told that I was a "climate villain." Apparently, I have a lot of work to do in first identifying the problem areas, and then working to amend them. It's important work for the future of our grandchildren, and because God has given us the responsibility of taking care of his creation in the best way possible.

During this Christmas season there are many ways to begin that process. Buy sustainable gifts or experiences for friends and family, re-use wrapping paper, reduce plastic, and recycle the cardboard boxes. Make New Year's resolutions to live with zero waste one step at a time, learning how to be intentional, responsible and accountable for the things we use and throw out.

What are some ways that you are taking action as a woman of faith? I know that the Community of Faith women are having a women's retreat in March with a theme of Creation Care. Are you aware of other such events that would encourage and teach us better ways to live healthy and whole? In May we will host a Social Action Event that you are all invited to attend and participate. Details for that will appear in the next Trumpet Sound, but in the meantime, I send you sustainable and healthy blessings for the Christmas season and for the upcoming new year.

Peace and Joy
Gillian Wolfe

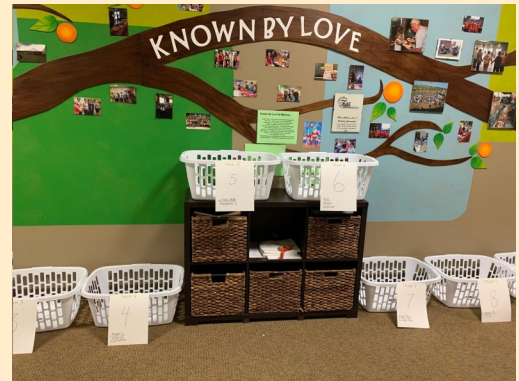
The background is a vibrant red with a pattern of small, white, five-pointed stars scattered across it. In the foreground, there are two lit candles. One is a bright yellow candle, and the other is a red candle. The candles are placed on a surface that appears to be a decorative plate or tray with a pattern of white stars and a crescent moon. The overall scene is warm and festive, likely representing a religious or cultural celebration.

United Women In Faith Unit News

Community of Faith UWF Unit News

The United Women in Faith of Community of Faith voted on making a donation to local women's shelter (battered women and children) for new security lighting.

Challenged the UWF and congregation to assist in providing non-perishable items to help make 10 Thanksgiving blessing baskets, for a traditional Thanksgiving Day dinner.



Then at the November meeting, the baskets and food items were filled by each of the teams! Each decorated uniquely for the Thanksgiving holiday!

10 Baskets filled with and a gift card to buy the perishable items!



Submitted by Lori Moffett, Vice President

New Horizon UWF Unit News

New Horizon United Women in Faith continue to show love in action by participating in the following events: The Gifts for Kids Program, and our upcoming Emmanuel's Feast.



House Bless Food Mission, held the 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month allow us opportunities to serve with two of our partners, Mary Downing and Shari Gillette in supervisory roles along with other men and women, including our thanks to our sisters and brothers at Community of Faith UMC Davenport providing non-perishables, storing, unloading, bagging and handing out to those who are in need.

We continue to support thru our time and talents at Palm Krest Assisted Living Facility offering "The Store", along with providing, crafts and other needs of the residents thru prayers, and general conversation. We remember our young people in college, as well as those serving in the Military. In addition, our card mission for those in the hospitals and rehab facilities, along with the blankets and hats for newborns and cancer patients. Other women in our Unit provide support, that we are often not aware of, but know that God sees their every good deed.

We recently recognized and honored two of our members Karen Hatfield and Shari Gillette with special recognition pins during our Sunday, Oct. 12th Service for their commitment to United Women in Faith and the work they provide in support of our Programs. Our most recent meeting Monday, Oct. 13th was led by our Treasurer, Georgia Vogel. We reviewed the Florida Conference UWF Proposed Budget for 2023, as well as the ECD Financial Report year to date Oct. 7, 2023. In addition, Georgia presented a Call to Prayer and Self Denial Program using memory Scriptures and what were some of our transformations in life?



Reading Program

UWF 2023—2024

The ECD United Woman In Faith Book Club's reading list for 2023 to 2024. Please consider participating on a monthly basis.

You must register on our website at <https://www.flecdumw.org/reading-program> in order to receive the zoom link.

We meet the second Tuesday of every month at 7 pm. Hope to meet you online for the next session!

Thank you so much!

Submitted by Wendy Hamlett

December 2023 - BEING SHEELA: THE LIFE JOURNEY OF AN IMMIGRATION LAWYER ADITHI RAO

A young mother separated from her children for eight long years; a man facing deportation after being mistaken for a terrorist; a woman forced to endure domestic violence so she can retain her right to remain in her adopted country—these are just a few of the thousands immigration lawyer Sheela Murthy has helped in her long career as a philanthropist. From her birth in India through law school at Harvard and starting one of the world's most successful immigration law firms, Adithi Rao explores the journey of a woman driven to help others overcome injustice, dispossession, and legal tangles so they may live a life of dignity in an increasingly challenging world.

A Note From Your Communications Coordinator...

Wishes for a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

2024 what is your units focus?

We would like to hear from you.

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

What is your unit doing to show LOVE IN ACTION?

The Trumpet Sound will be published bimonthly (February, April, June, August, October, December). ***Due date for all articles are the 15th of the previous month.***

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 UWF 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 UWF 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 January 15th. 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://flecumw.org> under publications.

We invite you to view the website: <https://flecumw.org> or visit us on Facebook (5)