



United
Women
in Faith

Trumpet Sound

July 2026

faith

action

sisterhood

Upcoming District Events/News...

Important Upcoming Dates

July 17-19, 2026	Mission U	Westin North Orlando, Lake Mary, FL
July 21, 23, 28 & 30	Mission U Virtual	Zoom
August 11, 2026	Reading Program Book Club	Zoom
September 8, 2026	Reading Program Book Club	Zoom
September 12, 2026	Creation Care Event	Warren Willis Camp Conf Ctr
October 3, 2026	District Annual Meeting	Community of Faith, Davenport FL

East Central District Book Club

August's book is by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray// Nurturing for Community

Please register at [ECD Calendar of Events](#)

Whether looking for suggestions or have a recommendation to be considered from the United Women in Faith book lists, please send and email to dottiemathias.umw@gmail.com. If making a recommendation, please include the titles.

Find our "easy to access" LINKS to the right of this page—

Whether you are looking for the East Central District website, Calendar of Events, United Women in Faith Florida Conference website or the Genesis Newsletter, you can find the "LINKS" there! Let us know if there are other LINKS you would like to be included. Send an email to Communications Coordinator, at dianeabresky.umw@gmail.com

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UWF East Central District:

[Florida East Central District United Methodist Women](#)

UWF East Central District

Calendar of Events: [ECD Calendar of Events](#)

Genesis Newsletter—[Genesis-newsletters](#)

UWF Florida Conference: [Florida Conference UWFaith](#)

Leadership Team

Janet Blume, President

Paula Foley, Vice-President

Linda Welander, Secretary

Maryann Mueller, Treasurer

Dorothy Mathias, Program Resources

Gillian Wolfe, Chair, Committee on Nominations

Yvonne Lorah, Committee on Nominations

Linda Parrish, Committee on Nominations

Evelyn Rose, Committee on Nominations

Diane Abresky, Communications



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President's Note

Time is just flying by! We are officially in the second half of the year. This weekend, the District Officers (that aren't on vacation in Europe) are attending Mission u in Lake Mary (she is posting lots of pictures on Facebook so I can imagine I am there, too)!! Mission u has always been one of my favorite events. I enjoy learning new things and find the time with my United Women in Faith family always enjoyable. I enjoy getting to spend time together in person with members of my District and the rest of the Florida Conference. This year the study is called "A Deep Knowing: Experiencing Emmanuel Through Every Part of Our Lives." The writer, Linda Louise Furtado, states, "Some of the stories may be familiar, yet in every reading, exploration, discussion, and reflection comes an opportunity to discover more than we can imagine on our own." I loved this! When we discuss the Bible in a group, our differences and experiences, allow us to bring more to the story than we can imagine ourselves. I hope that you consider taking our District mission study when it's offered in 2027.

There will be a Racial Justice Event on Sep 8th from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm on Zoom. It is called "Planting Seeds of Hope and Love: Reflecting Our Common Humanity in Creation. There is a flyer (pg 8) in this newsletter and I hope you plan on attending.

We have a Creation Care-What Can We Do Today coming up on September 12th at Warren-Willis Camp and Conference Center. We will discuss what we believe about Creation Care as a United Methodist and ways to put creation care into action, we will have a speaker from the University of Florida Extension Service talk about Florida Friendly Gardening, we will learn how to make wildflower seed bombs, and we will have craft time where you can make either a bee house, a ladybug house (Did you know you can buy live ladybugs from Amazon?), or a bee garden ornament, or a ladybug garden ornament. Check out the flyer (pg 9) in this newsletter and I'm really excited for this one!

On October 3rd, we have our District Annual Meeting (my last as your President) and our guest speaker will be our District Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Sharon Austin. I am very excited to hear her speak and I hope you will attend this meeting. We have a save the date flyer (pg 10) in this issue and more information will follow in our September issue.

Hot off the presses, this year's Conference Annual Meeting will be held at on Nov 7th, at St. Luke's UM Church, right here in the East Central District. Please plan on attending this event since it will be held right here in our District. The District will be the hosts for this meeting so volunteers will be needed.

Finally, it was sad to hear about the passing of Clara Ester on July 9, 2026. I sat next to her in the final session of Assembly this year and had a nice chat with her about how moving she was as a speaker at our event several years ago. She was an inspiration to me, a pillar in United Women in Faith and a leader in Racial Justice. Please keep her family and those who are grieving her loss in your prayers and remember to tell your family how much you love them!

Janet

-With our covenant to keep our hearts and minds open to one another, and the Scriptures to guide our time together, may we grow in faith and grace-filled love as we focus on deepening our experience of Emmanuel today and always. Amen



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Message from the Secretary...

Congratulations to all the units that participated in the Mission Today, and Racial Justice programs. Thank you for sending your information so promptly. The Information is being put into the Program booklet this summer so that it is ready when we celebrate at the Annual Meeting in October.

If there are any units that still have information to submit, please let me know as soon as possible.

Mission U is right around the corner, and I look forward to meeting many of you in person when we meet as a district on Saturday night.

Please note that I will be sending the 2026 reporting forms in August. There will be a new submission date, in December, for many of the reports. This will align our dates with those of the conference, and it should make it easier to keep events from 2026 separate from 2027 and aid the new secretary as she prepares for the year ahead. If you have any questions please contact me at: lindawelander.umw@gmail.com or call me at 712-468-2966. Have a great summer!

Linda Welander

ECD Secretary

Lindawelander.umw@gmail.com

(712-480-2966)



United
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Committee on Nominations

One of the blessings I received from the recent Annual Conference for the Florida UMC was to hear over and over again what a gift it is to be a member of the United Methodist Church. People are excited to be a part of a group of faithful believers who invite, include, welcome, learn, serve, and grow together in faith, love, and hope for the transformation of the world. We are all invited to be a part of the "Faith Rising" movement that God is nurturing all around us. And as an active and connected group within the church the United Women in Faith have important ways to contribute.

Our District Committee on Nominations has been busy calling, asking, and filling positions with women who are eager and ready to do the work that we are being called to do. As the chair of the committee, I want to thank these women - both those who are doing the work already, and those who are looking to help with that work in the future. It's not a one-person job; it takes all of us to participate in a meaningful way to make our United Women in Faith such an active and connected group of faithful women.

One position we are still looking to fill is for the Social Action leader. If you are someone who is passionate about serving, advocating, and making a difference for good in God's world, please give me a call! We would love to have a conversation about working together.

As one of the speakers said at the Annual Conference: "A broken and divided church does not have a message to a broken and divided world. The time of division is over!" Let's get to work together!

With peace and joy,

Gillian Wolfe

Committee on Nominations Chair

gillianwolfe@hotmail.com



Calendar of Events





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2026 Calendar of Events East Central District (updated April 2026)

May 15-17, 2026	Assembly 2026	Indianapolis, IN
June 4-6, 2026	Florida Annual Conference United Methodist Church	Florida Southern College Lakeland, FL
June 9, 2026	Book Club-“Red, White, and Whole” By Rajani Larocca, Spiritual Growth	Zoom
July 14, 2026	Book Club- “The Personal Librarian” By Marie Benedict & Victoria Christopher Murray	Zoom
July 17-19, 2026	Mission U	Westin North Orlando Lake Mary, FL
July 21, 23, 28 & 30	Mission U Virtual	Zoom
August 11, 2026	Book Club- “Freeing Jesus” Diana Butler Bass, Spiritual Growth	Zoom
September 8, 2026	Reading Program Book Club	Zoom
September 12, 2026	Creation Care, What Can We Do Today?”	Warren Willis Camp Cfr Ctr Fruitland Park, FL
October 3, 2026	District Annual Meeting	Community of Faith Davenport FL
October 13, 2026	Reading Program Book Club	Zoom
November 7, 2026	Conference Annual Meeting	St. Luke’s UM Church Orlando, FL
November 10, 2026	Reading Program Book Club	Zoom
Dec 8, 2026	Reading Program Book Club	Zoom

Hope to see you all there!

Mission u 2026



Lorraine Mayfield-Brown, Dean

Come join us at our transformative educational event this July! Over one hundred forty United Methodist Sister will attend the "Experiencing Emmanuel" where we explore and discuss how Emanuel calls us into action. In addition to the 8 hour study, Mission u planners are offering exciting electives to strengthen your spiritual growth.

Our planners are offering these fun sessions:

Line Dancing Movement, Reading Program Discussion, and Origami Ubuntu session. This year we offer, a One Conference, One Book offering from our 2026 National Reading Program. In particular, we'll have a discussion on the book, **Freeing Jesus** by Diana Butler Bass.

The plenaries will cover highlights from National Assemblé and spotlight the national social campaigns. Don't forget the Spirited Music, The Seek and Find Band who had us singing and dancing last year promise to return.

Save the Dates: July 17-19, 2026 at the Westin Lake Mary, Orlando North.

Virtual Mission u will be available Tuesdays, July 21, July 23, and Thursday, July 28, July 30th evenings.

Scholarships will be available for attendance. More information to come. I look forward to seeing you!



Mission u 2026:
Experiencing Emmanuel

FL CONFERENCE UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH MISSION U 2026
In Person: Friday, July 17 - Sunday, July 19, 2026
The Westin Lake Mary, Orlando North Hotel
2974 International Parkway, Lake Mary, FL 32746

Virtual: Tuesdays and Thursdays
July 21, July 23, July 28 and July 30, 2026
6:30 pm - 9:00 pm



Adult Curriculum: A Deep Knowing: Experiencing Emmanuel Through Every Part of Our Lives

This curriculum is designed to help participants take a step back and a closer look at the various ways we see Emmanuel within and around biblical stories. What can it look like to walk with God as people who face adversity, issues of justice, and a heritage of relational and spiritual connections? This curriculum encourages participants to seek out and name the experiences of Emmanuel from biblical times to our present day as we look toward our future in faith.



Youth Curriculum: God With Us: Experiencing God's Presence in Our Lives

This curriculum invites youth to wonder about where and how God is present in their lives and what that means. God With Us breaks down Biblical characters and stories to explore how God is present in extraordinary and ordinary lives. Throughout, youth will explore how they can encounter God in suffering and tough times, as well as in resistance and our spiritual lineage. By the end, youth will be affirmed and learn the importance of being their authentic, God-created selves.



Children's Curriculum: Experiencing Emmanuel

The Experiencing Emmanuel children's curriculum helps children give voice to the sacred. Faith is a lifelong journey of seeking and naming the presence of God in our lives. Scripture shows us how God's people came to know God and each other—and how those stories shaped their identity. As we interpret these stories, our sense of self and community is formed. This curriculum invites children into that journey and offers a path for children and their mentors to explore faith together, building vocabulary, confidence, and a deeper awareness of God's presence in their lives.

7



Join us for an enriching time of discussion, reflection, and worship as we gather to honor our commitment to racial justice. Your presence supports our desire to cultivate a world where we see the image of God in all people.

PLANTING SEEDS OF HOPE AND LOVE: REFLECTING OUR COMMON HUMANITY IN CREATION

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

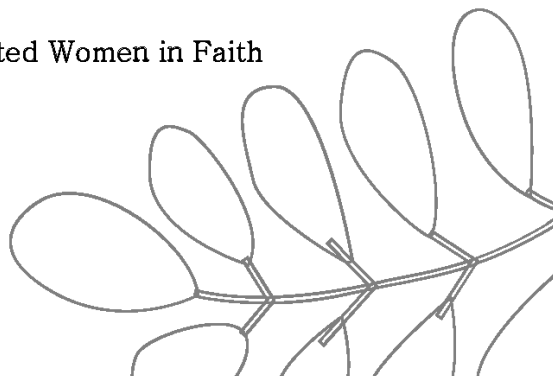
6:30 PM – 8:00 PM

VIA ZOOM:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83866455406?pwd=8YtgLHSPAeTGVRudz8448ULOTvMdWk.1>

Presented by the Florida Conference United Women in Faith





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CREATION CARE

What Can We Do Today?

Pack Your
own Lunch and
bring a cup

September 12, 2026

9:30 am-2:00 pm

\$10 per
person

- Hear a speaker from the UF Extension Service talk on Florida Friendly Gardening
- Learn how to make wildflower seed bombs
- Discuss what United Methodists believe about Creation Care
- Participate in a craft project (choose 1)- Make a bee house, a ladybug house, a bee garden ornament, or a ladybug garden ornament

Register on our website at www.flecduwfaith.org/events
or scan the QR code below

Warren Willis Camp & Conf Ctr
4991 Picciolo Road, Fruitland Park FL

Youth Camp
Lakefront Room





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SAVE THE DATE

EAST CENTRAL DISTRICT
ANNUAL MEETING

WITH

GUEST SPEAKER

REV. DR. SHARON AUSTIN

SATURDAY

OCTOBER

3

AT 10:00 AM

2026

COMMUNITY OF FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
DAVENPORT FLORIDA





United
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UMC Districts & UWFaith Conference Leaders

Love in action is
UNSTOPPABLE



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Do you know your District and Conference Leaders?

Our Florida Conference is made up of **SIX Districts** as shown in the map below. District Presidents include the following:

Janet Blume—East Central
Shirley Erwin—Gulf Central
Mary Negrón—North East
Dr. Gwendolyn Dixon—North West
H. Leigh Toney—South East
Beverly Emonds—South West

The Conference Leadership Team is made up of all District Presidents and 13 other leaders that include the following:

Dr. Nora Hernandez Hendrix—President
Veta Daley—Vice President
Janie McMillan—Secretary
Natacha Etienne Joseph—Treasurer
Mary Van Tol—Communications Coordinator
Deborah Jenkins- Bailey—Chair CON
Kerlyne Charles-Jeune—Haitian Outreach Coordinator
Christine Schneidman—Rising Women Liaison
Pam Davis—Legacy Liaison
Edith Zewadski-Bricker—Social Action Liaison
Lorraine Mayfield-Brown—Dean, Mission u
Jane Darling— Secretary SEJ
Mae Griner—Program Advisory Group (National)



Committee On Nominations

Class of 2027, Chair, Deborah C. Jenkins-Bailey - South East **Contact: dcjenkins@att.net**

Class of 2026 Paulette Monroe - East Central

Class of 2028 Marie Sharpe - South East

Class of 2028 Julie Ramga - Gulf Central

Class of 2029 Shari Gillis - Gulf Central

Class of 2029 Dreena Robinson - South East



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**FLORIDA CONFERENCE
UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH...
ARE YOU BEING CALLED TO SERVE?**

- To grow in your Spiritual Life (role and responsibilities are)
- To understand and communicate the connection between personal spiritual development and mission as expressed through social and global involvement.
- To regularly include spiritual growth resources and practices in groups experience.
- To use the Daily Prayer Guide regularly offering devotions and meditations at leadership meetings.
- Or... would like the opportunity to serve on the Conference Committee on Nominations...Classes of 2027, 2028 and 2030

**ALL THAT IS REQUIRED OF YOU IS
A WILLINGNESS TO SERVE AND SAYING, YES!**

**FILL OUT A TALENT BANK PROFILE FORM.
CONTACT ANY MEMBER OF THE CONFERENCE
COMMITTEE ON NOMINATION.**

*UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH HANDBOOK 2027-2028



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East Central District 2026-2027 Leadership Team

President

Janet Blume
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Janetblume.umw@gmail.com

Secretary

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Cell: 712-480-2966
lindawelander.umw@gmail.com

Treasurer

Maryann Mueller
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Maryann.mueller.umw@gmail.com

Communications Coordinator

Diane Abresky
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Committee On Nominations, Chair

Gillian Wolfe (2026)
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Davenport, FL 33896
Cell: 863-206-0637
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Vice-President

Paula Foley
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Program Resources

Dorothy Mathias
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Committee on Nominations (2026)

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Committee on Nominations (2027)

Linda Parrish
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Melbourne, FL 32935
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lindaparrish.uwfb@gmail.com

Committee on Nominations (2027)

Evelyn Rose
153 Balmy Coast Rd.
Groveland, FL 34746
Cell: 352-250-3246
Dcrose1168@aol.com

Vacant

E & I Coordinator

Social Action Coordinator

ECD Important Dates

Unit Officer List

Due by January 31st

Send to: ECD Secretary, Linda Welander

Email: lindawelander.umw@gmail.com

Mission Today Report

Due by March 31st

Send to: ECD Secretary, Linda Welander

Email: lindawelander.umw@gmail.com

Charter for Racial Justice Certification

Due by March 31st

Send to: ECD Secretary, Linda Welander

Email: lindawelander.umw@gmail.com

Deceased Members List Membership, Nurture & Outreach

Due by May 31

Send to: ECD Secretary, Linda Welander

Email: lindawelander.umw@gmail.com

Mission Study Recognition

Due by May 31

Send to: ECD Secretary, Linda Welander

Email: lindawelander.umw@gmail.com

Reading Program Participants Program Resources

Due by September 1

Send to: ECD Secretary of Program Resources, Dottie Mathias

Email: dottiemathias.umw@gmail.com

Education & Interpretation Mission Today Report

Due by September 15

Send to: ECD Secretary, Linda Welander

Email: lindawelander.umw@gmail.com

Money Matters

Due by DATE

Send to: ECD Treasurer, Maryann Mueller

Email: maryann.mueller.umw@gmail.com

Rainbow Givers & 5-Star Units

Due by DATE

Send to: WHOM

Trumpet Sound Local Unit News Articles

Due Date for article submissions: 4/15, 6/15, 8/15, 10/15, 12/15

Send to: dianeabresky.umw@gmail.com

Treasurer Date Reminders

1st quarter – Friday, April 5th

2nd quarter – Friday, July 5th

3rd quarter – Friday, October 4th

4th quarter – Friday, December 6th

East Central District Book Club

UWFaith 2025—2026

East Central Book Club by zoom on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7pm
Register at www.flecduwfaith.org and join the discussion

July's book is *The Personal Librarian* by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murra
The Personal Librarian is a Nurturing for Community book in the 2026 reading list and will count on your 2027 Reading Program form if you read the book this month. The 2026/2027 Reading program begins in July.

Named a Best Book of the Year by NPR and a Good Morning America, Book Club Pick, this historical novel explores the life of J.P. Morgan's personal librarian, Belle da Costa Greene, a black American forced to hide her true identity and pass as White. In her twenties, Belle was hired by J.P. Morgan to curate a collection of rare manuscripts, books, and artwork for his newly built Piermont Morgan Library. She became a fixture in New York City society and one of the most powerful people in the art and book world. But Belle has a secret-she is the daughter of Richard Greener, the first black graduate of Harvard and a well-known advocate for equality.

August's book is *Freeing Jesus* by Diana Butler Bass

Freeing Jesus is in the Spiritual Growth book in the 2026 reading list and will count on your 2027 Reading Program form.

The award-winning author of *Grateful goes beyond the culture wars to offer a refreshing take on the comprehensive, multi-faceted nature of Jesus, keeping his teachings relevant and alive in our daily lives.*

How can you still be a Christian?

This is the most common question Diana Butler Bass is asked today. It is a question that many believers ponder as they wrestle with disappointment and disillusionment in their church and its leadership. But while many Christians have left their churches, they cannot leave their faith behind.

In *Freeing Jesus*, Bass challenges the idea that Jesus can only be understood in static, one-dimensional ways and asks us to instead consider a life where Jesus grows with us and helps us through life's challenges in several capacities: as Friend, Teacher, Savior, Lord, Way, and Presence.

East Central District Program Resources

Mission u

Keystone Missiology: Glimpses into the History of Mission Study Texts 1901-2026: the Role of Methodist Women and Their Successors Organized for Missions by Glory E. Dharmaraj, Ph.D. is a bonus resource from United Women in Faith on the history of Mission education and theology that marks the 125th anniversary of the first Mission study text.

Are you attending Mission U this year? The adult study is *A Deep Knowing: Experiencing Emmanuel Through Every Part of our Lives* by Linda Louise Furtado. The youth study is *God With Us: Experiencing God's Presence in our Lives* by Emily Carle, and the children is *Experience Emmanuel* by Amy Beth. Participating in the study at Mission U in July, or later this year at the Mission study held by our district or your unit, gives you two credits for spiritual growth in the reading program. If you can't attend one of these events and read the book on your own counts as one credit for spiritual growth. To learn more about these studies listen to the April episode of *Faith Talks* to hear the authors of the adult and children's Mission u curriculum share about them.

Another opportunity this year at Mission u is to join a book discussion on *Freeing Jesus: Rediscovering Jesus as Friend, Teacher, Savior, Lord, Way and Presence* by Diana Butler Bass. Hope to see you at Mission u.

Keep Reading and learning,

Dottie Mathias

East Central District Secretary of Program Resources

dottiemathias.umw@gmail.com



UW Faith Unit News

Emmanuel UMC United Methodist Church

UWFAITH Unit News

Six women from the United Women of Faith from Emmanuel UMC Melbourne, visited the Harry T. & Harriette V. Moore Cultural Center & Museum in Mims, Florida. The cultural center promotes awareness of the unique contributions of Harry T. & Harriette V. Moore to the early civil rights movement. Although much of the contributions of the Moore's have been omitted from history books, they are finally getting the recognition they deserve. In 2007, the Florida Humanities Council recognized Harry T. Moore as one of the "Great Floridians."

The featured exhibit at The Harry T. & Harriette V. Moore Memorial Park & Museum is a historic timeline of the Civil Rights Movement proceeding from The Emancipation Proclamation of January 1, 1863, through The Civil Rights Act of July 2, 1964. Major contributions of Harry T. and Harriette V. Moore to the Civil Rights Movement are depicted parallel to other events of national renown in American history.

As concerned parents and educators, the Moore's became leading local and national civil rights activists who organized the first Brevard County Branch of the NAACP. They remained instrumental in the NAACP and the fight for equality and justice until their untimely deaths.

In addition to the museum, a replica of the Moore Family Home is on the property, as well as a gazebo, a Pavillion and Reflecting Pools & Fountain.

In addition, the group visited White Sands Buddhist Center, also in Mims. White Sands Buddhist Center was founded on the principles of compassion, wisdom, and the pursuit of inner peace. Inspired by their teacher and Abbott, Ven. Dr. Khai Thien, Thich Tam Thien, they sought to create a welcoming space where individuals could explore the transformative power of Buddhist teachings and practices.

From their beginning when a group of Buddhist practitioners acquired the property for their center, they have grown into a thriving community dedicated to sharing the Dharma (the teachings of the Buddha) and fostering a sense of connection and belonging. Their dedicated teachers, practitioners and volunteers work together to create a supportive environment for learning, meditation, and spiritual growth.

They believe that the path to happiness lies within and are committed to providing resources and guidance to help individuals cultivate inner peace, wisdom, and compassion in their lives.

Submitted By: Jackie Dammann



Sanlando United Methodist Church

UWFAITH Unit News

Sanlando UWF Volunteers in Action

On June 6, Sanlando UWF provided a volunteer crew of 14 workers to pack 263 food bags at Hearts, Hands, and Hope in Sanford. Each of the bags is filled with nutritious, non-perishable food items that will be distributed to children and families in need through Seminole County Public Schools. Hearts, Hands, and Hope works year-round to fight local food insecurity. Many thanks to all who volunteered to help in this good work. We are thankful for the opportunity to serve together!



Blessings Overflow at Sanlando

In April and May, Sanlando UWF led the churchwide "Seats and Feets" collection of socks and underwear for school-age children in need in Seminole County Public Schools. Thanks to the generosity of the many donors from SUMC and Sanlando Christian School, we delivered over 900 total pairs of socks and underwear to SCPS social workers. The donations were greatly appreciated. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!



Submitted by: Jill Mross

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 2026 so we can share it with others!

The Trumpet Sound will be published bimonthly with the following Due Dates:

- ◇ August 15, 2026 for September
- ◇ October 15, 2026 for November
- ◇ December 15, 2026 for January

Due date for upcoming articles for September Newsletter is August 15, 2026.

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 August 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://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