



Upcoming District Events/News...

Important Upcoming Dates

- 9/8 - Book Club - Cancelled due to UWFaith FL Conference Event (Noted below)
9/12 - Social Action/Conservation Event Warren Willis Camp, Leesburg, FL
10/3 - District Annual Meeting Community of Faith, Davenport FL

UWFaith FL Conference Upcoming Event:

- 9/8 - UWF FL Conference Event - Planting Seeds of Hope and Love: Reflecting
Our Common Humanity in Creation 6:30-8:00PM Zoom
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/838664554406?pwd=8YtgLHSPAeTGVVRudz8448ULOTvMdWk.1>

East Central District Book Club

October 13 - GOOD ENOUGH: 40ISH DEVOTIONALS FOR A LIFE OF IMPERFECTION by Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie.

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.

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Links

UWFaith East Central District:

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

UWFaith East Central District Calendar of Events: [ECD Calendar of Events](#)

Genesis Newsletter—[Genesis-newsletters](#)

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

Leadership Team

Janet Blume, President
Paula Foley, Vice-President
Linda Welander, Secretary
Maryann Mueller, Treasurer
Dorothy Mathias, Program Res.
Gillian Wolfe, Chair, CoN
Yvonne Lorah, CoN
Linda Parrish, CoN
Evelyn Rose, CoN
Diane Abresky, Communications



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President's Note

This summer has been tougher than usual in my house and maybe in yours, too! Our son found out on his Birthday that he had to have his other leg amputated below the knee. So we made a trip up north that we were not expecting, to take him one of my travel wheelchairs, so he could get around until he can get fitted for a new leg. We didn't mind taking it to him but some of you know I have a pretty complicated calendar and it just made things harder at my house. Then one of friends at Church, Joe, passed away. Joe is a Navy veteran and Bill's veteran friends really hit him hard these days. We have started to notice that more of our friends are in that season of life which if we're honest means we are too! Then Bill's Brother-in-law, Lanny, passed away shortly after we returned from our trip to Maryland. Lanny and Bill were great friends, they are also both veterans. Lanny was in the Coast Guard and Bill was in the Army! They not only loved each other, they respected each other! I have heard amazing stories of their antics over the years! It would be hard for some of you to believe these stories of my quiet, reserved husband that you know! I have gotten to know Lanny and Mary Edna, his wife, in the 30 years Bill and I have been married. We did not return to Maryland for the funeral because Lanny's wife, Mary Edna (is Bill's first wife Kay's sister), has told us she did not want us to rush up for their funerals. That she wanted us to visit while they were alive. We have tried to visit Lanny and Mary Edna every time we visit Maryland but we were sad we did not go! After the funeral, Mary Edna, while still grieving called to let Bill know how much she enjoyed seeing Bill and Kay's children and grandchildren at the funeral and that it brought her great joy!

Then, we lost Dolly Parton! We didn't personally know Dolly but we loved her! She was the kind of Christian we want to be. She dealt with adversity but didn't let it dull her light! She started the Imagination Library because her Father could not read and write and she saw how it affected him! She did not want any other children to not be able to read and write! So she gave away free books to children around the world hoping no other child starts school without being able to read and write.

We all try to move on and try to heal but remember, **your brokenness is part of your beauty.** God uses our brokenness in ways you never expect. It becomes part of who you are, a surprisingly beautiful part. He doesn't just restore; He transforms. Beauty from ashes—or brokenness.

Jesus, you were broken on a cross so that we could be made whole. You mysteriously use our hurts to bring comfort and healing to others. You take what we might see as pointless pain and turn it into eternal gain. This doesn't mean what we go through isn't hard, but it

does mean there is hope. Please take all of what we've been through and redeem it, restore it, make it beautiful for you. **Amen.**

--The Lord is near the brokenhearted;
He saves those crushed in spirit. –Psalm 34:18

There is a lot going on in the next few months and I expect to see many of you at these events:

September 8th - The Florida Conference is presenting, "Planting Seeds of Hope and Love: Reflecting Our Common Humanity in Creation", 6:30 pm-8:30 pm on Zoom! You do not need to register just click the zoom link to join.

NOTE: We have cancelled the September Book Club so that everyone can attend this event!

September 12th- The ECD will be sponsoring an event called, "Creation Care: What Can We Do Today. It will be held at Warren Willis Youth Camp from 9:30 am-2:00 pm. We will have a speaker from the UF-Lake County Extension Service talking about Florida Friendly gardening. We will learn to make seed bombs. We will discuss what the UM Church believes about Creation Care and we will have crafts. Check out the flyer later in this document for more info. [Click here to Register Now!](#)

October 3rd – The East Central District Annual Meeting will be held at Community of Faith UM-Davenport FL with Rev. Dr. Sharon Austin as our speaker. We will be ordering box lunches from Heavenly Ham (\$13.00) or you can always pack your own lunch! We will be voting on new District Officers! So come and enjoy time with your sisters in Christ and let your vote count! [Click here to register for the DAM!](#)

November 7th – The Conference Annual Meeting will be held at St. Luke's UM-Orlando. Come out and support the Conference at one of our East Central District Churches. ECD will be host this year's meeting and help will be needed. Check out the flyer in this document for more information. Registration will not open until next week!

See you soon!

Janet



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Message from the Secretary...

Thank you, everyone who sent in their annual reports. We are in the process of planning an exciting and fun Annual meeting in October. Your promptness has made my life so much easier. If there is a unit that forgot to send their reports, please send them as soon as possible to lindawelander.umw@gmail.com.

In September, I will be sending forms for 2026 reporting so that you can send them back in December. That should be less confusing, as the 2026 reporting ends in December as well.

One more request, we always honor our members who have passed in the program booklet and at the Annual meeting. If you would send their name, unit, date or year of birth and date of passing, I would appreciate it. If you have a picture, we will display that as well.

Thanks for all you do!!

Linda Welander
ECD Secretary
Lindawelander.umw@gmail.com
(712-480-2966)



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Committee on Nominations

**East Central District United Women in Faith
2026 Report of the Committee on Nominations**

The Committee on Nominations recommends the following Slate of Officers for 2027-2028

Elected Positions and Terms:

President (term 2027 – 2028) Dottie Mathias, Community of Faith UMC, Davenport

Vice- President (term 2027 – 2028) Paula Foley, FUMC Winter Garden

Secretary (term 2027 – 2028) Suzanne Brown, Community UMW Fruitland Park

The following appointed positions:

Communications – Diane Abresky (term 2027 – 2028)

Program Resource – Linda Cohen (term 2027 – 2028)

Committee on Nominations, class of 2027 – Yvonne Lorah

Committee on Nominations, class of 2028 – Linda Parrish

Committee on Nominations, class of 2028 – Evelyn Rose

Committee on Nominations, class of 2029 – Diane Wells

Committee on Nominations, class of 2029 – Michele Muskus

Social Action Coordinator remains unfilled

Respectfully submitted by:

Chair of Committee on Nominations: Gillian Wolfe (2027), gillianwolfe@hotmail.com

Committee on Nominations: Yvonne Lorah, Evelyn Rose, and Linda Parrish

August 10, 2026



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Calendar of Events



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

July 17-19, 2026	Mission U	Westin North Orlando, Lake Mary
July 21, 23, 28 & 30	Mission U Virtual	Zoom
August 11, 2026	Reading Program Book Club	Zoom
September 8, 2026	Reading Program Book Club - CANCELLED	Zoom
September 8, 2026	Planting Seeds of Hope & Love: Reflecting Our Common Humanity in Creation	Zoom https://us02web.zoom.us/j/838664554406?pwd=8YtgLHSPAeTGVRudz8448ULOTvMdWk.1
September 12, 2026	Creation Care: What Can We Do Today?	Warren Willis Camp, Leesburg
October 3, 2026	District Annual Meeting	Community of Faith, Davenport
October 13, 2026	Reading Program Book Club	Zoom
November 7, 2026	Conference Annual Meeting	St. Lukes UMC, Orlando
November 10, 2026	Reading Program Book Club	Zoom
Dec 8, 2026	Reading Program Book Club	Zoom



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



Link for this call: [Click HERE for ZOOM Meeting](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83866455406?pwd=8YtgLHSPAeTGVRudz8448ULOTvMdWk.1)



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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



Link to Register: www.flecduwfaith.org/events



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PLEASE JOIN US

AT THE
EAST CENTRAL DISTRICT

ANNUAL MEETING

WITH

GUEST SPEAKER

REV. DR. SHARON AUSTIN

DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT, EAST CENTRAL DISTRICT

SATURDAY

OCTOBER

3

AT 10:00 AM

2026

COMMUNITY OF FAITH UM CHURCH

9120 Teacher Lane

Davenport FL 33897

Click the QR Code



to register now!

You can pack your own lunch or
order a box lunch from Heavenly Ham for
\$13.00 when you register.

Drinks and dessert will be provided!

Don't forget to bring your own reusable cup!

Register on our website at www.flecduwfaith.org/events



Florida Conference United Women in Faith **53rd Annual Meeting**

Saturday, November 7, 2026
St. Luke's United Methodist Church
4851 S. Apopka Vineland Road
Orlando, FL 32819
9:45 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Theme: Faith Rising with United Women in Faith

Scripture: *So faith comes from hearing,
that is hearing the Good News about Christ.*
Romans 10:17 (NLT)

Speakers:

Rev. Dr. Sharon Austin
District Superintendent of the East Central District
and Director of Justice Ministries
for the Florida Conference United Methodist Church

Mr. Oscar Londoño
Attorney & Co-Executive Director of WeCount!
Advocate for immigrant workers and families in Florida

Registration: \$30 includes lunch
Registration link: <https://na.eventscloud.com/891688>
Deadline for registering: October 15, 2026

Note: Registration does not open until next week!



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East Central District 2026-2027

Leadership Team

President

Janet Blume
4414 Erie St.
Clermont, FL 34714
Cell: 443-253-7668
Janetblume.umw@gmail.com

Secretary

Linda Welander
498 W. Lakeshore Dr.
Clermont, FL 34711
Cell: 712-480-2966
lindawelander.umw@gmail.com

Treasurer

Maryann Mueller
3708 Fairfield Dr.
Clermont, FL 34711
Cell: 832-236-6976
Maryann.mueller.umw@gmail.com

Communications Coordinator

Diane Abresky
1720 Burnham Ct.
Clermont, FL 34714
Cell: 863-557-2593
Dianeabresky.umw@gmail.com

Committee On Nominations, Chair

Gillian Wolfe (2026)
267 Scrub Jay Way
Davenport, FL 33896
Cell: 863-206-0637
gillianwolfe@hotmail.com

Vice-President

Paula Foley
4225 Greenwich Ct.
Clermont, FL 34711
Cell: 774-766-2680
foleyps@msn.com

Program Resources

Dorothy Mathias
16447 Citrus Parkway
Clermont, FL 34714
Home: 352-708-3222
Cell: 717-449-0879
Dottiemathias.umw@gmail.com

Committee on Nominations (2026)

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Clermont, FL 34711
Cell: 407-484-4487
yglorah@earthlink.net

Committee on Nominations (2027)

Linda Parrish
2054 Cherrywood Dr.
Melbourne, FL 32935
Cell: 321-266-7737
lindaparrish.uwf@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



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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 December 31st

Send to: ECD Secretary, Linda Welander

Email: lindawelander.umw@gmail.com

Charter for Racial Justice Certification

Due by December 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 December 31st

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

Rainbow Givers & 5-Star Units

Due by March 31st

Send to: ECD Treasurer, Maryann Mueller

Email: maryann.mueller.umw@gmail.com

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

East Central District Book Club

UW Faith 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.

There will not be book club in September. Instead join the Florida Conference United Women in Faith program: Planting Seeds of Hope and Love: Reflecting our Common Humanity in Creation on September 8th from 6:30PM -8:00PM

October 13 we will be discussing GOOD ENOUGH: 40ISH DEVOTIONALS FOR A LIFE OF IMPERFECTION by Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie. Come and share the devotion you found most interesting, helpful and insightful.

These compassionate, intelligent, and wry Christian daily reflections help readers learn to live with imperfection in a culture of self-help that promotes endless progress. Intended as a companion for when you want to stop feeling guilty that you're not living your best life now, the short spiritual reflections share how we can make sense of life not as a pursuit of progress but as a chronic condition. Written gently and with humor, Good Enough is permission for all those who need to hear that there are some things you can fix—and some things you can't. And it's okay that life isn't always better.

November 10 we will look at the new reading program books for 2027. The books will be highlighted in the Nov/Dec issue of *Response* and the catalog can be found at www.uwfaith.org/read Join us for the discussion about what books you have read, heard, and are excited about and what books you want to read and discuss for the book club.

Reading Program

UWFaith 2025—2026

“I need to talk about this book.”

Have you ever read a book that you just had to talk about with someone?

The books for the United Women in Faith reading program are that kind of book. They are books that need to be shared. Books help us to connect with others when we talk about the book with a friend, share the book at a meeting, or join the book club. Your world view becomes bigger as you read about people, countries and issues that you have not personally experienced. The books help you understand the issues United Women in Faith advocate for, such as climate change, mass incarceration, immigration, and racism.

Encourage your membership to participate in the reading program:

- Highlight a book at your unit meetings.
- Track the members participation on the reading form or a chart
- Buy books from different categories and pass them around.
- Have a United Women in Faith library area in the church.
- Join the East Central District book club or start one with your unit.
- Join the Reading Enthusiasts Group on UWFaith Digital

Be excited about what you are reading and share it with others.



Reading is rewarding and connecting!

Keep Reading and learning,

Dottie Mathias

East Central District Secretary of Program Resources

dottiemathias.umw@gmail.com



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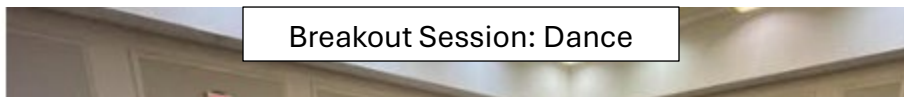
Mission u 2026



Plenary Meetings



ECD Team Members



Breakout Session: Dance

Celebration of 70 Years of Women's Ordination Presented by Shari Gillis during Plenary Meeting

Assembly 2026 was held in Indianapolis, Indiana from May 14-17. Several thousands of our sisters gathered from around the world to worship, fellowship, learn and celebrate together.

We were honored to have Rev. Stephanie York Arnold as our Resident Theologian for all our plenaries at Assembly. She is the new General Secretary for the denomination's Commission on the Status and Role of Women. She had served as Senior Pastor of First United Methodist Church of Birmingham, Alabama since 2018, prior to her election by the Board of Directors of the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women.

The General Commission on the Status and Role of Women was established in 1972 as an agency of The United Methodist Church. United Women in Faith is also an agency of The United Methodist Church. It was originally formed as a 4 year agency to address sexism and advocate for the full and equal participation of women in our denomination. It was formed because the Women's Division, our foremothers of United Women in Faith successfully petitioned the General Conference in 1968 to create a study commission to document the extent to which women are involved in all structural levels of the denomination. The Women's Society of Christian Service, our foremothers, had been petitioning the General Conference for full clergy rights for women in 1944, 1948, 1952 and had been rejected each time by the General Conference.

Our history as women leading, preaching, teaching and serving God is long. Since 1787 (shortly before the ratification of our Constitution) in the Methodist tradition, women have been preachers, without the benefits of full conference benefits: such as guaranteed appointment, no pension, no vote in her annual conference and no formal standing as a traveling preacher; rights which the men had. That changed in the 1956 General Conference.

Seventy years ago on May 4, 1956, the Methodist Church supported full conference membership for women in clergy. So we celebrate seventy years of full recognition by our church for the leading, preaching and teaching that we, as women have long been doing by the grace of God. The General Commission on the Status and Role of Women, as an agency of The United Methodist Church **continues** to advocate for full and equal participation of women in the denomination.

Our United Women in Faith representative to the General Commission is Christine Schneidman, our Rising Women Liason.

Shari closed with this liturgy from Rev. Stephanie York Arnold given at the **Celebration of 70 Years of Women's Ordination**.

We believe God, our Divine Creator, is mothering us, cradling us in infinite grace and love.

We believe, like Eve, we are partners with humanity and creation. We believe, like Deborah, we are gifted with Holy Wisdom as we seek God's guidance. We believe, like Tamar, we are much more than the worst things done to us. We believe, like Esther, we are called to step out in faith, taking risks for the good of others. We believe, like Ruth, we are meant to love others selflessly. We believe, like Mary, we can bring to life Divine Hope for the world. We believe, the woman caught in adultery, we are forgiven. We believe, like Martha and Mary, we are invited to be disciples of Jesus. We believe, like Mary Magdalene, we are called to proclaim the Good News of resurrection, no matter how unbelievable. We believe, like Lydia, we are gifted with resources meant to be generously shared. We see the Divine's goodness, , and resilience reflected in women throughout Scripture and in our world today. We believe we are called to follow their lead. Amen.



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A Note from Your Communications Coordinator...

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

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

Due date for upcoming articles for November Newsletter is October 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 few pictures with your article.

Email your articles to dianeabresky.umw@gmail.com by October 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