

Pass It On With Purpose Newsletter

**Shenandoah River District
United Women in Faith**



"More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of." (Author unknown)

Love and prayers,
Mary

Mary Preston, District President

Landline: 540-338-4152

Email: K4LJH@comcast.net



September 2023

Upcoming Events

September

1st – Reading Reports Due

8th - **Third Quarter Remittance due** to District Treasurer

15th – 16th – Young Women's Retreat at Camp Overlook

16th - Prayer Breakfast at Luray UMC at 9 AM

October 28th – 51st Annual Mtg. VA Conference UMF

at 10 AM at Good Shepherd UMC Henrico, VA

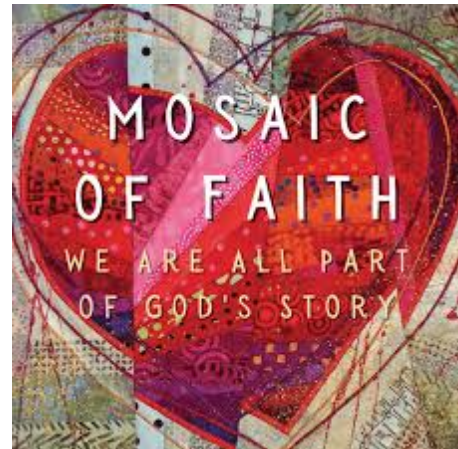
In-person or On-line

****Reservations due for Cuba Trip**

From Your District President

The units in our district come in all sizes -- large and small and everything in between. They are also engaged in various levels of activity -- from super busy all the way down to barely treading water. One thing I've noticed is that the size of a unit doesn't necessarily indicate the level of activity. Many small units are doing mighty things, and they are to be commended. If your unit, however, feels like it's not "doing enough," take a closer look around you. There's a world of hurt out there; and if you can do nothing else, you can always PRAY!

Mark your calendars for the VA Conference UMF Annual Meeting on Saturday, Oct. 28th
at 10 AM at Good Shepherd UMC Henrico, VA
Can attend either in-person or on-line
Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson will be the guest speaker. Link for more information
<https://www.vauwf.org/annual-meeting>



Coming up...

Southeastern Jurisdiction Quadrennial Event

April 19-21, 2024 Chattanooga, TN

Bus Trip

Joyce Winston is working to get a bus to travel across Virginia and on to Chattanooga, seeing the sights along the way. If you are interested and want to be kept informed please email Joyce, buckrowbeach@gmail.com to be put on a list for information.



Love. Grow. Serve.

Snippets from your Co-Vice President

I recently was in invited to an event. It was in an unfamiliar area and I was somewhat uneasy about the trip. I did miss one of the roads and had to turn around. I entered a narrow highway with many curves and side roads. Many areas along the way were very wooded and somewhat shadowed. Was I lost? Then as I came to a stop sign, there before me, stood a beautiful large church. I would be able to continue on my way! A sense of sunshine on my journey! I topped the hill behind the church, to evidence more of God's creation, a stream, a meadow surrounded by massive trees! I share this experience, because it reminded me of our journey, this past year, as Shenandoah River District UWF. At times, we have felt much was unfamiliar and caused us to feel uneasy about our goals/our destinations.

We have faced challenges that were new and unexpected. We have been on a new road! No, we are not lost! God's presence is evident! Units are doing remarkable works of mission! We are forming new relationships, through our time together. In the midst, of this broken world, we offer our love, by offering our faith in action. Like that church, that stood at the edge of a wooded and dark path, we are the "pillars" that offer God's love to others! Do others see us as God's sunshine on their path!

This past year has been a learning experience for all of us. We can work together! We can appreciate each other and the gifts that we offer! We can listen! We can be the supportive women to those who feel unloved, unwanted, unwelcomed! We will move forward, having learned much and embracing our strengths, together.

From a prayer by Bruna Farat:" Thank you, Lord, for your immense love, for your call, for your fidelity while many dedicate their lives to the service of your kin-dom on earth. We exalt you, owner and consummate judge of our faith and work. We confess to you our weaknesses and implore you to help us overcome them and use us in a life full of your love, kindness, and compassion. We worship in your name. Amen."

Blessings to all,

Barbara Phillips, Co-VP-SRUWF

Education and Interpretation

Greetings,

It's hard to believe that we are at the end of the summer. That time of the year where the farmers in my area are gathering in their crops and preparing for the fall and winter to come. As United Women of Faith we are also preparing for the end of the year. This is a time to compile all of our reports, remember our accomplishments and our lost loved ones, and then celebrate the work that has been done during the past year.

I appreciate all of you who have sent me their "Living into our Purpose" forms so far. I have enjoyed reading all of your activities and the many ways you have served during the past year. **Good job** in living out the purpose of the United Women in Faith!! For those of you who have not sent your form yet, I can still accept them until about mid-September before I will need to turn in my report to VA Conference UWF. We would like to hear from everyone regardless of how many goals your unit has been able to achieve.

In July, I attended the in-person Mission Encounter. It was so nice to be able to be together again in-person. The importance of being together in relationships was very evident in the class I took taught by Denise Honeycutt's, "God's Mission and the Spirituality of Relationships." In our class we talked about the importance of relationships in the mission work we do. Not just going and handing out a sandwich but establishing a relationship in the way we serve. Also, knowing the connection that we all have with creation and all living things. We breathe the oxygen that trees provide and the trees and plants use the carbon dioxide that we provide. God has provided us with this wonderful world that is connected to work in harmony. We are commanded to take care of all His people and the earth that He has provided, to achieve this harmony.

I hope you and your units have continued to support and establish relationships with our mission personal and institutions by using the

UWF Daily Prayer Guide. Orders are now being taken for the 2024 Prayer Guide at uwfaith.org/resources. A bundle is now available which includes: 2024 Prayer Calendar, 2024 Program Resources and the adult curriculum for Mission U (Encounter). A 20% discount is available for a limited time with the Prayer Guide being shipped the first of December.

Another opportunity in relationships is available for April of 2024. Rev. Mary Dadisman will lead a mission trip to Cuba again next year to attend a camp with the Methodist women of Cuba. An informational form is included with this newsletter. I had the opportunity to travel to Cuba with Rev. Dadisman and 4 other UWF district women this past April. We were able to take needed medical supplies and clothing and start to form a relationship with the women at Camp Canaan in Santa Clara, Cuba. It was truly a life changing experience and I hope you might consider making the trip next year.

"God saw everything that He had made and indeed it was good"

Genesis 1:31

Your Sister in Christ,
Sharon Harold

sharold714@aol.com

540-879-2270



DISTRICT TREASURER

Greetings All! It's our 3rd quarter newsletter and time for our "money matters" news and reminders.

District Pledge to Mission: At the 3rd quarter start, we're at 50% of our \$50,000 Pledge. 23 units, half of our district, have pledged \$34,494 (69%). We're praying for a healthy bump in remittances towards our district pledge before the quarter ends.

Shenandoah River District Checks: Attention!

Attention! Checks should be payable to: Shenandoah River District UWF. Several checks did not have "River" in the name. **Do Not** make out checks to your former District name or that check will be returned to you.

3rd Quarter Remittance: Please mail your 3rd quarter remittance to arrive no later than Sept 8th so the District remittance can get to the conference treasurer by Sept 20th. We hope most of the remaining remittances can get recorded in the 3rd quarter.

Please get your Administrative and Membership Development (A&MD) fee (\$3.50 per member) paid this quarter.

Forms: If any Treasurer needs the Remittance, Rainbow Giver, or SMR forms, please let me know!

We had 18 Rainbow Givers for 2023! Thanks to all who contributed. Cards will be forthcoming soon.

Angela Lane, District UWF Treasurer, 1110 Huntmaster
Terr. NE, Apt 301, Leesburg, VA 20176
cell: 703-298-4068; email: angln46@comcast.net

"Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, ,not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

2 Corinthians 9:7



United
Women
in Faith

**Shenandoah River District South
United Women in Faith
Prayer Breakfast**

You are invited to attend a Prayer Breakfast on **Sat. Sept. 16 @ 9:00 AM at Luray UMC
1 West Main St. Luray.** A program will be presented by **Choices**, a women's shelter for victims of domestic and sexual violence located in Luray. A Freewill Offering will be taken to benefit Choices. Household items will also be collected to be given to the women in the shelter such as: cleaning supplies, kitchen towels, dish and laundry detergent, laundry baskets, tools, hand soap, diapers and wipes, brooms, mops and flashlights.

Parking instructions:

*Limited parking on Broad St beside the church.

*Or continue up Broad St and take the 1st left on Campbell and then left into the Town Pkg. lot

*Or continue on Campbell St. through the intersection and turn right into the Chamber of Commerce/Visitor Center Parking Lot (before railroad tracks)

Mark your calendar; every one is welcome to attend!!

Please return the form below to Sharon Harold, by **Sat. Sept. 9**

NAME _____ CHURCH _____

ADDRESS _____ EMAIL _____

PHONE # _____

ANY SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS? _____

GLUTEN FREE? _____

PLEASE RETURN TO:

SHARON HAROLD, SRUWF Zone Leader South
BY SAT. SEPT. 9TH

AT: sharold714@aol.com call 540-879-2270 or

Mail to 4580 Ottobine Rd. Dayton, VA 22821



Social Action - Climate Justice

End of Summer Newsletter Focus: UWF Social Action Quadrennial Priority – CLIMATE JUSTICE

Follow-up on the Earth Day Retreat with Dr. Karen McElfish – Individual and Local Church Responses

How has your local unit followed up with The Green Church Initiative? Have you downloaded the document and begun fulfilling the pre-requisites toward certification? Or just chosen a few items from the list for your local church? Here's the link: https://doc.vaumc.org/ChurchSociety/GreenChurchInitiative3_1_2022.pdf

This is a do-able initiative, and it occurs one step at a time!

Just Energy for All Individual Actions available on the UWF website:

Learn details of three specific initiatives

- Clean Air
- Funding of international climate initiatives
- Climate justice legislation

Take action in one or all of these areas from your computer at this link:

<https://uwfaith.org/what-we-do/serve-and-advocate/just-energy-4-all/>

Follow the prompts to send a note to your legislators (Congressional Representative and two Virginia Senators) who are identified when you enter your mailing address. If you prefer to speak to their offices by phone, there are instructions and prompts available for that option as well.

Educate yourself

Links to numerous informative webinars appear under the “Action” picture on the same page.

Click *Watch the Webinars* for the entire listing.

Read a Book (or check your local library/Audible/Kindle for other formats) from the UWF

THE GREEN NEW DEAL JEREMY RIFKIN ST. MARTIN'S PRESS (2019) With 25 years of experience at the forefront of enacting green transitions for both the European Union and the People's Republic of China, New York Times bestselling author and renowned economic and social theorist Jeremy Rifkin offers his indispensable wisdom in a blueprint for how to transform the global economy and save life on earth. This book offers an urgent, workable plan to confront climate change and transform America's economy for a post-fossil fuel world.

WHAT CAN I DO?: MY PATH FROM CLIMATE DESPAIR TO ACTION JANE FONDA PENGUIN BOOKS (2021) In 2019, daunted by the looming disaster of climate change and inspired by Greta Thunberg, Naomi Klein, and student climate strikers, activist Jane Fonda asked herself one question: What can I do? She moved to Washington, D.C., and teamed up with Greenpeace, leading climate scientists, and community organizers not only to understand what's at stake, but also to equip all of us with the education and tools we need to join her in protest. What Can I Do? Isn't a wish list but a to-do list, urging us to wake up and take action.

Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson – excerpt from statement on climate care:

<https://vaumc.org/blog/2023/04/14/united-methodist-can-invest-in-the-planet/>

Recruiting Social Action Team Members for the Shenandoah River District – Please contact me as local church representatives connect and encourage each other throughout our large district!

Laura Douglass, UWF Social Action Coordinator, Shenandoah River District

lauradouglass@vaumc.org; 540-271-1558



Spiritual Growth

As one of the Conference Officers involved in this year's **Young Women's Retreat**, I thought I would share its history. That has not been very successful so far. Here is what I know. It was an established event noted in the minutes of the Conference 1985 Annual Report. That year the leaders were Sandra and Eugene Baker. Until the sale of The UMC Assembly Center at Blackstone the event was held there. For many years it has been at Camp Overlook, as it will again this year. **Rev. Heather Wray** will be the leader as we gather **Friday, Sept 15th**. If you, your granddaughter, neighbor or housekeeper is 40 years or younger, please come and join us.

The flyer with registration form is online and one can pay online. Also there is a link. Prayers are appreciated.

Blessings, Janice Webb 703-777-3116 webbjshw@verizon.net.

Link for registration flyer:

https://drive.google.com/file//1CQCnEW0qKX64HOJ781aLy9tfdi0oj4_z/view



Reading Program

Another amazing year of reading books regarding Spiritual Growth, Leadership, Education, Nurturing and Social Action. Each book in the categories provided so much information and knowledge. Women keep reading and gaining knowledge, as we grow closer to God on this spiritual journey.

Attached is the reading form for reporting books read over the past year.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Patti Brown
Secretary of Program Resources

Due: September 1, 2023

Please list below the names of the adults who completed a program plan. Use separate page if needed.

PLEASE PRINT

Name of Read <u>Adult Reader</u>	Number of <u>Books Read</u>	Plan Completed <u>(I,II,III, or IV)</u>	Response <u>Yes/No</u>
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[illegible]

On the back of this sheet please make 2 more lists:

1. Names of adults who read one or more reading program books but did NOT completed a plan and the number of books read.
2. Names of children who read one or more reading books and the number of books read

Did every member of your unit participate in the reading program?

How many subscriptions of Response Magazine do your members and/or units have?

Please return by email or regular mail no later than September 1st, 2023

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

Patti Brown Email: pbrown8291@gmail.com Address 213 Josephine St. Berryville, VA 22611 Phone 315-415-4803



Travel to Cuba - April 2024

Women Sharing in Faith Together

You are invited on a relationship-building mission to Cuba! Travel to Cuba to attend a large Women's Conference with women from all over Cuba at Camp Canaan near Santa Clara, see the Methodist Center and tour Havana, the capital city.

Details:

- Inspirational trip! God is in this place.**
- Fly from Richmond to Miami to Havana**
- Stay at the United Methodist Center in Havana & Camp Canaan**
- Attend a large UM Women's conference with women from all over Cuba!**
- Attend Sunday worship at local churches in Cuba**
- Tour Havana**
- Translator and guides provided**
- Learn about the UM Church in Cuba**
- Passport required.**

Team training and preparation provided! There will be team meetings early in 2024 (to be arranged). You do not need to know Spanish to go.

We pack light! Your gear **must** fit in carry-on luggage. Packing list provided. We will also take larger suitcases with supplies (medical & other) for the local women and churches.

Possible Challenges: Cuba is a tropical island. It is beautiful and HOT. Prepare for physical activity as we walk at the camp and tour Havana. Some water & food challenges being outside your home country.

****Reservations needed by October 2023****

Approximate cost: \$1350

Sponsored by Asbury UMC

Team Leader Mary K. Dadisman (Bridgewater UMC)

If you are interested, please contact:

Yosvany Pereria, Associate Pastor, Asbury UMC yosvanypereria@vaumc.org or 540-434-2836

OR

Mary Dadisman, Pastor, Bridgewater UMC, marydadisman@vaumc.org or 757-912-2233.

Pass It On

Shenandoah River District
United Women in Faith
Newsletter
78 Brook Creek Road
Toms Brook, VA 22660

Upcoming Events – Don't Miss Out!

Please share this newsletter with your local UMF units.

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