

# THE REFLECTOR

Fulfilling the Purpose of North Georgia United Women in Faith

ngumw.org | uwfaith.org

1st Quarter 2023



*we believe*  
**LOVE IN**  
**ACTION**  
**Changes**  
**the World**

NORTH GEORGIA CONFERENCE  
UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH 2023



...let's not love with  
words or speech  
but with action  
and truth.

—1 John 3:18 CEB

## *Greetings, Sisters in Christ,*

A belated Happy New Year! We have a lot planned for 2023 and it is well underway. Our first Conference event this year will be a [Charter for Racial Justice Event](#) discussing the book "So You Want to Talk About Race" by Ijeoma Oluo. This book examines the complex system of racism in the United States, from police brutality to cultural appropriation to the school-to-prison pipeline. It offers clarity on ways we can approach conversations about race and act against structural injustice. Rev. Dr. Bernice Kirkland will be on hand to guide us through. Please plan on joining us virtually on Saturday, March 11 from 10:00 am-12:00. I had the opportunity to go through this book with the Southeastern Jurisdiction Racial Justice team this past year and we all learned quite a bit about ourselves and others.

In 2023, let's recommit ourselves to the work this organization does so well. Let's invite others who may have misconceptions about United Women in Faith or whose churches have disaffiliated. Let's invite others that we may not worship with but would like to be involved. We are an open organization and want all who are interested to have a chance to be in mission with and for women, youth, and children. There is much work to do, and it is ongoing. Let's build each other up and support one another.

Our theme this year is **We Believe Love in Action Changes the World** ...let's not love with words or speech but with action and truth. 1 John 3:18 CEB. I love this theme as it truly speaks to who we are and what we attempt to accomplish. Let's live into this in 2023.

Please read through this issue of the **Reflector** and see all that is happening in our Conference and Districts. Hopefully this will inspire you and your District and Units to try something new or to reach out to a group you weren't aware existed.



United  
Women  
in Faith

If at any time you need inspiration, a friendly voice to talk to or have questions, please feel free to reach out to any of us. We are here for you.



In His service,

**Stephanie Dressler, President**  
North Georgia Conference  
United Women in Faith  
770-337-8461  
[stephdressler@bellsouth.net](mailto:stephdressler@bellsouth.net)



United  
Women  
in Faith

We're a **sisterhood** acting in **faith** to tackle the **hard work** of the **world** without hesitation.



# The VP's Desk: What is Your Impact?

Dear sisters,

As we plan programs and events, let us stop for a moment and consider these questions. Which are true, which need improvement? What is your/our impact on uniting women in faith, community, fellowship, and love?

Do we...

- Find a place for everyone?
- Create and celebrate sisterhood?
- Create a doorway into UWF?
- Work together and not apart?
- Are our core values the same?
- Do we all want the same end result?

- Do we listen, value, honor, rejoice, and celebrate one another?
- Do we support flexibility?
- Do we make membership available?
- How do we tell the UWF story?
- How do we make people feel about the organization?
- How do we live, walk, talk, the brand?
- How do we inspire, influence, impact?
- Is our work inspiring and aspirational?
- Are we inclusive, collaborative?
- Are we inviting?
- Are we spiritual and genuine?
- Are we changemakers?

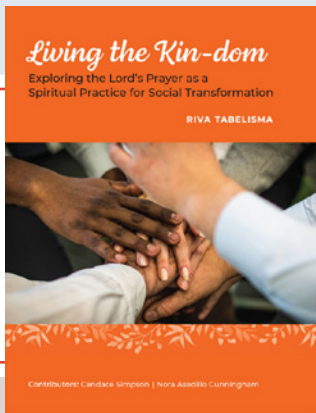
Remember that God expects us to have a role in His work. Change can be difficult, it takes courage. Sisters, listen for God's voice, can't you hear Him saying "my beloved daughter, I hear you, I got you, I will never let you go!"

Oh Lord, establish the work of our hands.  
Amen!



With God's love and mine,

**Jessica Godfrey**  
VP-NGC UWF  
[starksj@bellsouth.net](mailto:starksj@bellsouth.net)  
404-229-7214



Calling all children, youth, and adults!  
**Mission u Duluth First UMC**  
July 28, Friday - July 29, Saturday

## News from Membership Nurture and Outreach (MNO)

Greetings United Women in Faith!

We are one year into the name change from United Methodist Women to United Women in Faith. Many of us still struggle with the new name but it has opened a world of possibilities. We have new ways of connecting in addition to the traditional local unit. These new options include an all-access membership, with easy online availability to member resources nationwide. For further information visit <https://uwfaith.org/all-access-membership/>. If you have not visited the new United Women in Faith website, a wealth of resources is available. The link is <https://uwfaith.org/>.

The results of the **2021 Unit Survey** will be available by the end of February. As soon as it is available, the District MNOs will receive an email with the link to the survey. Carefully review your survey and identify churches that may not have reported. If a unit did not report reach out to them for further information and offer assistance for reporting in 2022.

During Assembly 2022, all conferences were challenged to invite women to join United Women in Faith. Currently, North Georgia stands at number four. If you have not replied to the email from

United Women in Faith Assembly 2022, you still have time. The deadline is March 1, 2023.

We are anticipating an April 2023 release for the **Membership Portal**. Along with Membership Portal, the **2022 Unit Survey** will be released.

**A Soul Care Manual** is set to be released in Spring 2023 as well we are in the process of making promo videos specifically to assist with promoting Soul Care.

If you would like me to visit your district, please contact me at [villacaceres@gmail.com](mailto:villacaceres@gmail.com).

Thank you for all the work that you do on behalf of United Women in Faith.



**Deaconess  
Debora Constable**  
Membership Nurture and Outreach  
North Georgia Conference UWF  
[villacaceres@gmail.com](mailto:villacaceres@gmail.com)

## SPIRITUAL GROWTH

# “This is the Day that the Lord has made...”

Sisters (and Brothers) in Christ, Psalm 118:24 reminds us of what we know already, but what we must try to remember every day: that God makes our days—all 24 hours—and that we should rejoice. Some days bring events to celebrate and to be happy about. Others may bring us sorrow for ourselves, for our close loved ones, or for others.

Verses from the Bible encourage us to go about our daily activities with joy. Even when we do not experience happiness, we know that joy will come (“Joy cometh in the morning.”—Psalm 30:5) This knowledge comforts us as we live in hope. Author Charles Albert Tindley penned these words: “We are often tossed and driven on the restless sea of time, somber skies and howling tempests oft succeed a bright sunshine....” Certainly there are happenings such as earthquakes and other natural phenomena that take many lives, sudden deaths within our families, tragic violence on the streets of our cities, and so on. We sometimes have difficulties comprehending such occurrences. We turn to God for comfort and consolation knowing that our strength and joy come from Him. My mother, the late Mrs. Esther P. Shopshire, often autographed bibles, hymnals and other gifts to others with these words: “Before us, even as behind, God is—and all is well.”

Addie P. Shopshire-Rolle, Ph.D.  
Spiritual Growth Coordinator  
North Georgia Conference UWF  
[rgamt@aol.com](mailto:rgamt@aol.com)



With this assurance, we enter the Lenten season remembering the final events of Jesus' life—days in the wilderness, temptation by Satan, a triumphal entry into Jerusalem, a painful crucifixion, and a joyful Resurrection. We find courage in knowing that our lives often follow a similar pattern with joy and with sorrow. Yet, we are reminded that we should “Be joyful always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will in Christ Jesus.” —1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

**Yes, my friends, “this is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it.” Thanks be to God! Amen.**

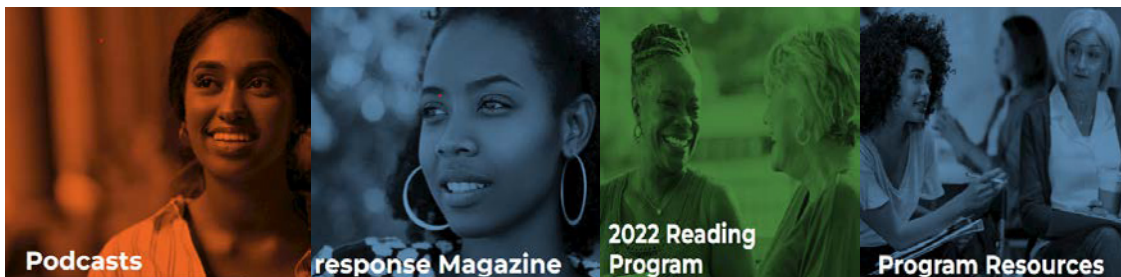
## SAVE THE DATE

*Spiritual Growth/Social Action Event*

**April 28–29, 2023**

**Camp Glisson • Dahlonega, Georgia**

*(more information and registration information to come)*



We offer many ways for you to enrich your life, live your faith and put love into action. Explore these resources to find one, or several, that interest you and remember they all lead to receiving a reading program certificate. Let's briefly explore or revisit our reading program.

**We Are All Part of God's Story!**

**Get your copy of the Program Resource 2022-2023 for \$14.99 and receive an offer to add-on the digital resource for \$5!**

The digital Program Resource is available on Mighty Networks and includes embedded video content, an online community of United Women in Faith members, and exclusive access to monthly Community Gatherings.

## Program Resources

*(Submitted by: Linda Brown)*

### READING PROGRAM

- \* 2023 Reading Program Catalog \*
- \* 2023 Reading Program 2018-2023 (Excel file) \*

[2021-2022 Reading Program Catalog](#)  
[2020 Reading program Catalog](#)  
[2020 Reading Program Catalog \(Spanish\)](#)  
[2020 Reading Program Catalog \(Korean\)](#)  
[2019 Reading Program Catalog](#)  
[2018 Reading Program Catalog](#)  
[2017 Reading Program Catalog](#)  
[2016 Reading Program Catalog](#)  
[2015 Reading Program Catalog](#)

Please visit United Women in Faith National Website at: <https://www.umwmissionresources.org/>

Our Reading Program is a cherished tradition that brings together members to explore, share and discuss books. There's something for everyone

- \*The Reading Program is available for Adults, Youth and Children.
- \*Enlightening subjects in diverse genres, including Education for Mission, Leadership Development, Nurturing for Community, Social Action and Spiritual Growth.
- \*RESPONSE Magazine and PODCASTS (Faith Talks) are also part of the Reading Program.

**Our Reading Program is Connecting.** The Reading Program is not meant to be completed alone or in a vacuum. You can enrich the experience by doing one or several of these things:

- Share the program with United Women in Faith members and members of the community.
- Help people attain books – distribute and share copies from the reading list guide.
- Connect with local and district groups. Start a book club, download books onto an e-reader or computer to pass around and share, prepare book reviews at group meetings.
- Display a progress chart in your church for all who wish to participate, and post displays to encourage book sales.
- Pray. Books often raises concerns about people, countries and issues. Bring these concerns to God during your prayer time at home and at group meetings.
- Advocate for tangible changes. Many Reading Program books address issues including climate change, mass incarceration and racism. Organize a task force to address these issues in your community.

**Our Reading Program is Rewarding.** As you read, you can track your progress using our easy-to-use Reporting Form. Once you submit the Report of Completion Requirements, you will be recognized with a Certificate of Recognition.

## NOMINATIONS

# It takes a village to craft a great slate of officers!

To all United Women in Faith in the North Georgia Conference:

### WE NEED YOUR HELP!

As the Committee on Nominations of the conference begins its work for the year, we are asking you to please help us in this process. We do want a slate of officers that is reflective of the diversity in the conference – varying ages, different ethnicities, women from throughout the geographic boundaries of the conference, and representation from both large- and small-membership units.

There are seven of us on the committee but there is no way we can know about all the leadership potential throughout our eight districts.

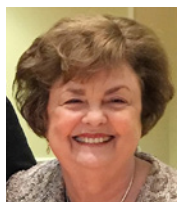
That's why we are calling on each of you:

- Be always on the lookout for women serving on the district or local church level who would be a wonderful addition to the conference team.
- Let us know about those women you see as potential officers by passing along their contact information to me or to one of our team members. Or ask them to fill out a Talent Bank form, which is included in this newsletter, and send it to one of us.
- There also might be an individual reading this article who is thinking, "I would like to serve on the team." We are so anxious to hear from you, too. Please fill out the Talent Form and email

it to [waltalicesmith@aol.com](mailto:waltalicesmith@aol.com) or mail it to 1324 Nickel Oak Bend, McDonough, GA 30252. Let us hear from you, and let us know what position meshes with your skills and talents.

This year we have three offices to fill for 2024 – treasurer (a biggie!) and two members of the CON Committee. But as we look toward next year we have a whopping number of offices – eight – that will be open and will need to have new leadership. We must start preparing now by becoming aware of women willing to serve to avoid being overwhelmed by the task in front of us in 2024.

Members of our team include  
Alice Smith ([waltalicesmith@aol.com](mailto:waltalicesmith@aol.com));  
Janice Gallagher ([jmgall@juno.com](mailto:jmgall@juno.com));  
Tamara Askew ([tla.umw@gmail.com](mailto:tla.umw@gmail.com));  
Gloria Dixon ([gcdixon@alt.net](mailto:gcdixon@alt.net));  
Dianne McDonald ([mcdonaldldianne45@gmail.com](mailto:mcdonaldldianne45@gmail.com));  
Debra McCullum ([bolife@bellsouth.net](mailto:bolife@bellsouth.net)); and  
Bernadette Hartfield ([bhartfieeld@bellsouth.net](mailto:bhartfieeld@bellsouth.net)).



Please let one of us hear from you!

**Alice Smith, Chair**  
**Committee on Nominations**  
[waltalicesmith@aol.com](mailto:waltalicesmith@aol.com)



United  
Women  
in Faith

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR TREASURER: Clarifying Our UWF Funded Projects

### I am often asked how our pledge money is spent.

The United Methodist Church has a policy of fiscal transparency. United Women in Faith adhere to this policy and report in detail each year where our financial support has gone. It is amazing to see all the different projects we support and how much we gave to each one. Included in the report are the annual grants made to our National and International Missions, supplemental (designated) giving to each mission, and special funds that are distributed through a grant process. Reports back to 2019 are located at <https://uwfaith.org/who-we-are/financials/>.

So you would think with this level of transparency that there would be no inaccurate information floating around. Sadly, that is not the case. I will be clear, United Women in Faith does not give financial support to Black Lives Matter and Planned Parenthood.

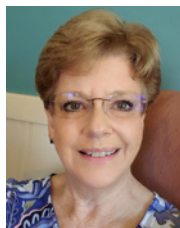
UWF supports programs in the United States and around the world that improve life for women, children and youth and their

communities. As the trusted steward of generous donations, we give to partner church, ecumenical and grassroots projects through a granting process overseen by a member-chosen, 25-member Board of Directors composed of United Women in Faith members.

United Women in Faith does not fund projects and programs that:

- Don't benefit women, children, or youth
- Don't comply with our UMC Social Principles
- Are administered by discriminatory organizations

If you have any questions regarding how our money is spent, please reach out to me. If I don't know the answer, I know those who do know the answers.



**L. Susan Stroup, Deaconess**  
**North Georgia Conference UWF Treasurer**  
[treasurerngcumw@gmail.com](mailto:treasurerngcumw@gmail.com)  
770-546-0799

# North Georgia Conference United Women in Faith Talent Search Form



**United Methodist Women in Faith of the North Georgia Conference, the Committee on Nominations needs your help to ensure that we always have a slate of officers who truly represents the diversity of membership, talents, ages and geographic regions of our conference. If you know of such an individual, or are yourself interested in serving on the conference team, please fill out the information below and email it to [waltalicesmith@aol.com](mailto:waltalicesmith@aol.com).**

**We do covet everyone's help in this matter and we thank you for your support of and commitment to United Methodist Women in Faith.**

Where would you like to serve?

President \_\_\_\_\_

Vice President \_\_\_\_\_

Secretary \_\_\_\_\_

Treasurer \_\_\_\_\_

Spiritual Growth Coordinator \_\_\_\_\_

Education and Interpretation Coordinator \_\_\_\_\_

Social Action Coordinator \_\_\_\_\_

Membership, Nurture, Outreach Coordinator \_\_\_\_\_

Secretary, Program Resources \_\_\_\_\_

Communications/Newsletter \_\_\_\_\_

Communications/Website, Social Media \_\_\_\_\_

Committee on Nominations \_\_\_\_\_

Please fill out fully the information below so we will know how to contact you. Please print!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Church \_\_\_\_\_ District \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Contact Method: \_\_\_\_\_

When would you be able to serve \_\_\_\_\_

# Because We Believe



**Saturday, March 11 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**



Book Review on **"So You Want to Talk About Race"**, by Oluo Ijeoma  
led by Rev. Dr. Bernice Kirkland,  
NGC Director of Community  
Discipleship and Development

**This is a virtual event and all  
are welcome to attend.**

Click here to learn more about  
[Charter for Racial Justice](https://na.eventscloud.com/739440)

Register today at  
<https://na.eventscloud.com/739440>

*Follow up discussion to be held in  
April during our Spiritual  
Growth/Social Action Event  
at Camp Glisson*

*we believe*  
**LOVE IN  
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NORTH GEORGIA CONFERENCE  
UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH 2023



...let's not love with  
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—1 John 3:18 CEB



*This is a Social Action Bonus Book  
on the UWF Reading List*

THE NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

**So you  
want  
to talk  
about  
race**

"Fascinating, real,  
and necessary."  
—THE ROOT

**Ijeoma Oluo**


# House Bill 356 Eliminates For Profit Prisons

Our two main focuses for this quadrennial are Climate Justice and Mass Incarceration and Criminalization of Communities of Color. Right now we have an excellent opportunity to affect change relating to Mass Incarceration. House Bill 376 has been introduced in the Georgia House of Representatives that would eliminate For Profit Prisons in our state.

For Profit Prisons make a lot of money for the corporations that build and run them, but most of their inmates receive inadequate nourishment and little to no medical care. The 3 largest of these corporations have spent more than \$45 million on campaign donations and lobbying to keep politicians voting for their private money makers. Two of these corporations have built and filled 9 prisons or detention centers across our state.


- The US has 5% of the world population, but 25% of all the inmates in the world
- Georgia has more people in prison and on probation than any other state
- States sign agreements with these corporations to guarantee to fill a certain percentage of prison beds. The most common rate is 90%, but some agreements are for 100% filled
- Private facilities often use prison labor to generate revenue and provide little to no wages. The Georgia correctional system does not guarantee any compensation for prison labor. The minimum wage for prison labor is zero.

United Women in Faith is uniquely organized for such a task as this. We have units all over our state and if we make our voices heard to those who represent us, they will be compelled to listen to us. Please call or email your state representative. Also, forward this information to people you know: your circles, your friends and through Facebook and Twitter. If you are not sure who represents your district, click this link: <https://www.commoncause.org/find-your-representative/addr/> Just click the X on "We Need Your Voice" and enter your address to find all your representatives.



[TAKE ACTION >](#)
[DONATE >](#)

## Find Your Representatives



### WE NEED YOUR VOICE

We are a nonpartisan movement more than 1.5 million strong. Our unifying passion? Democracy. Join us for breaking news and updates.

Here you can find your representatives, how to contact them, bills they've introduced, committees they serve on, and political contributions they've received. Enter your full address below to get started.

This tool is made possible with data from the [Google Civic API](#), [Open States](#), [ProPublica](#), [Center for Responsive Politics](#), and the [U.S. Vote Foundation](#).



Let's spend just a few minutes of our time to try to make Georgia laws more humane. Please ask your representative in the Georgia House to support HB 376.

**Cindy Hall,**  
**Social Action Coordinator**  
 North Georgia Conference UWF  
[harvecin@charter.net](mailto:harvecin@charter.net)

# Sisters of the United Women of Faith...

*Pat yourselves on the back and give one another a High Five!  
Congratulations are in order!*

The United Women of Faith of the North Georgia Conference was honored with the **2023 Community Partners Award** from the **New Bethlehem Community Center (NBCC)** in Augusta at its annual "Souper Bowl" fund raiser recently. NBCC is one of the four National Mission Institutions we have in North Georgia. Thanks to your / our generous financial support, the board of directors of NBCC chose us as this year's winner.

Stephanie Dressler, NGUWF president, Jessica Godfrey, NGUWF vice-president and Diane Davies, South East District president were present to accept the award from Ms Sheridan Glaze, Executive Director of NBCC. Diane also serves on the organization's board of directors.

When Ms Glaze announced that we had been chosen as the "winner," our response was a humble, surprised and excited "thank you!" But in reality, it is the women, children, youth (and men) who come to the NBCC for the myriad of programs, classes, social opportunities, social skills and leadership training, and the food pantry who, day in and day out, are The True Winners. Because of your gifts and donations, the non-profit ministry is able to work and serve in the community. We on the executive leadership team thank you but the true gratitude is from the staff and beneficiaries of New Bethlehem Community Center. More about this National Mission institution can be found at <https://www.nbccaugustaga1.com/>

As mentioned earlier, NBCC is one of four National Mission Institutions we have within the North Georgia Conference. Also in Augusta is Paine College, a liberal arts, coeducational, Methodist church-related school. [www.paine.edu](http://www.paine.edu).

In the Wesleyan tradition of valuing education for all, another Methodist Church-related college and NMI is Clark-Atlanta University in Atlanta. CAU is a "culturally diverse, research-intensive, liberal arts institution that prepares and transforms the lives of students." [www.cau.edu](http://www.cau.edu).

The fourth National Mission Institution we are blessed to have in our area is Murphy-Harpst Children's Center in Cedartown. It is a non-profit, residential treatment center where children and youth who have been abused can find an "emotional, spiritual, and physical safe haven." [www.murphyharpst.org](http://www.murphyharpst.org).

Our gifts benefit the spectrum of God's children, from the young and vulnerable through young adults seeking a quality higher education to families, at risk youth and senior citizens.



Each quarter of the year we designate a special offering, Supplemental Giving aka "Quarterly Giving," to one of the NMIs. The first quarter of the **2023 Supplemental Giving**, made in your circles and units and sent to your District Treasurer, is designated to New Bethlehem Community Center. Likewise, throughout the year supplemental gifts are designated as follows:

**Second Quarter** (April 1 – June 30) Paine College

**Third Quarter** (July 1 – September 30), Clark-Atlanta University

**Fourth Quarter** (October 1 – December 31) Murphy-Harpst Children's Centers

Because 2023 is still fairly "young," it is not too late to hold a Pledge to Missions program, using the wonderful program in our 2023 Program Book, in case your unit has not yet had a service.

We will soon enter into the season of Lent which is the perfect time to hold a quiet day service, aka the "Call to Prayer." The program highlights unique services and ministries our UWF support; funds from the offering go directly to fulfill grant requests and services provided by our NMIs nation-wide.

Other avenues of giving are under the umbrella of "The Five Channels of Giving." Besides the Pledge to Mission, they are Special Mission Recognition Pins, Gift to Mission Cards, Memorial Gift Cards, and the World Thank Offering.

If you are considering a service project, retreat, or a field trip, consider visiting one of our North Georgia National Mission Institutions! Contact the NMI liaison at the organization to schedule a visit / tour and inquire about volunteering for a day or ask what donations you could bring. The time you spend meeting the staff and seeing "where our money goes" will be time well spent.

Have a reflective and renewing Lenten Season and include one of Five Channels of Giving and a gift to our quarterly NMI in your unit program. Peace & joy.



**Emily Grossman, Coordinator  
Education and Interpretation**  
North Georgia Conference UWF  
[megsmile@earthlink.net](mailto:megsmile@earthlink.net)



# Southeastern Jurisdiction Quadrennial Meeting

WHERE: Chattanooga, Tennessee  
WHEN: April 19-21, 2024

Registration opens September 2023

Early Registration: \$210 (thru December 2023)  
Late Registration: \$240 (after December 2023)

THE TABLE IS OPEN TO EVERYONE - NO NEED TO BELONG TO  
UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH, SO BRING A FRIEND!

.....

## MISSION GIVING

SAVE YOUR DOLLAR BILLS.....

with a "J" on them for "Jesus" and "Jurisdiction"  
AND "G" for "God".

.....



For additional information, go to our website at: [www.sejuwf.org](http://www.sejuwf.org)

# The Legacy Endowment Fund

## The Future Is Now



United  
Women  
in Faith

**Day of Giving, March 23, 2023**

[uwfaith.org/dayofgiving](http://uwfaith.org/dayofgiving)

Step forward with faith, hope, and love in action by giving to The Legacy Endowment Fund on Day of Giving, March 23.



### WAYS TO GIVE

- **Online at:**  
[uwfaith.org/dayofgiving](http://uwfaith.org/dayofgiving)
- **By phone:** 800-278-7771  
(8 am-5 pm EST, Mon.-Fri.)
- **Text:** "ACTION" to 20503
- **By check to:**  
United Women in Faith, Attn: Legacy  
475 Riverside Drive, Ste 1500  
New York, NY 10115  
Write "Day of Giving" in the  
memo section.



Let us honor our foremothers by giving to The Legacy Endowment Fund to ensure United Women in Faith can continue serving women, children and youth around the world for the next 150 years. Join us at the Virtual Facebook event on March 23rd. For more information, visit [uwfaith.org/dayofgiving](http://uwfaith.org/dayofgiving).

## Together, we are building our legacy!

Scranton Women's Leadership Center will generously match \$100,000 of gifts received on Day of Giving 2023.

*Elaine Sykes*  
Legacy Liaison



The Legacy Endowment Fund is a permanent endowment to support the work of future generations of United Women in Faith.

## DISTRICT NEWS

# Greetings from a Busy North East District

The last few months of 2022 were busy for the North East District.

In September we held our Annual Spiritual Growth Retreat at Hinton Rural Life Center. October we held our Annual meeting with Stephanie Dressler as our speaker. She talked on the Mission trip to Red Bird. November was our Social Action Project – Yard sale for Havyn's Hope. Although the day was cold and rainy, it was a success, \$1000.00 was raised.

January 2023, we held a Presidents and Treasurers training, along with our executive meeting.

Plans are being made for our Lenten Day Apart on March 25.

April 29th will be our District Mission u.

Peace in Christ

**Sue Cook, President  
North East District**  
[umwnedistrict@gmail.com](mailto:umwnedistrict@gmail.com)



*Stephanie Dressler presenting Suzanne Crossan the Doris Paul award.*

PRESIDENT AND TREASURER TRAINING  
JANUARY 28, 2023  
DAHLONEGA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



*Sue Cook, Stephanie Dressler at  
North East District Annual Meeting 2022*

## DISTRICT NEWS

# Central North Overflowing with Donations

Greetings Sisters,

Our annual meeting was a resounding success! We are grateful to East Point First Mallalieu for hosting this event. It was an especially meaningful occasion in that this was the first time we gathered in-person in three years.

The meeting began with a continental breakfast in the fellowship hall where more than 160 sisters gathered to "chat and chew". The registration line stretched outside of the building where members eagerly and patiently waited to bring their donations of new wash cloths, towels, and twin bed sheets for the Murphy-Harst Children Center, one of our mission focus.

What a beautiful sight to behold! The donations were stacked at least three feet high on two eight-foot tables and on the floor all around and underneath the tables. The donations were so numerous that one large pick-up truck and two large SUVs were needed to transport the donations to Murphy-Harst Children's Center.

After breakfast, the group moved to the Sanctuary for the Worship service and business meeting. The worship service included participants from across the district who gave prayers, scripture, Holy Communion, and beautiful music from a violinist, pianist, and soloist. A special candle lighting and bell ringing part of the service included a "Time To Remember" to acknowledge and remember our sisters who passed during this reporting period.

The worship service was immediately followed by the business meeting where the 2023 budget was presented and approved. The 2023 nominations were also presented and approved, followed by the installation of the new officers. Local districts were recognized for their accomplishments during this reporting period.

Central North District United Women in Faith began the new year with our annual Leadership Development Training for our local unit officers. The training was facilitated by our executive committee members and Cindy Hall, conference Social Action Coordinator. 105 members registered for the event with 88 attending.

Now we are gearing up for our Lenten Day Apart Service which is scheduled for Sunday, April 2, 2023 at Central United Methodist Church. More details will be given later. We welcome all our sisters throughout the North Georgia Conference to join us in this Holy. Event



Rejoicing in Hope!

**Mary Stamper-Murray, President**  
**Central North District**  
[msmbb@bellsouth.net](mailto:msmbb@bellsouth.net)



United  
Women  
in Faith

## SAVE THE DATE

*Central North District*  
*United Women in Faith*

**Lenten**

**Day Apart Service**

**Sunday, April 2, 2023 – 1:15 PM**

**Central United Methodist Church**

**503 Mitchell Street, SW**

**Atlanta, GA 30314**



## DISTRICT NEWS

# Central East Starts 2023 with Exciting Diversity

We are thankful to God for another year, as we can continue to love and serve those in our communities and globally. We are encouraging each unit in ways they can invite younger women into the Beloved Community of Sisterhood. As we completed the year 2022, we were able to bless six organizations serving women children and youth with a monetary donation.

Central East District started the New Year off with a bang. Our President's Breakfast and Officers' Training event was well attended. Our gracious host, the ladies of W.R. Cannon UMC, provided a very delicious breakfast. This was followed by an uplifting worship service, Heather Shin and the group of ladies from Korean Church of Atlanta, playing the Ocarina, blessing us with two beautiful spiritual songs.

The Purpose was read in Spanish and Korean. We were pleased to have Deaconess Choong-Hee Lee, Korean Language Coordinator for NGCUWF, and Ariel DeSousa, a college student, who read the purpose in their native languages. After the service we had the

training of our unit officers. Our next event will be Time Apart Lenten Service, on April 1st, our host Mountain Park UMC.

Heather Shin and her group of ladies playing the Ocarina.

Blessings

**Iris Green, President  
Central East District**  
[greenirisumw@gmail.com](mailto:greenirisumw@gmail.com)



# Central South is Grateful for Commitment

I greet you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

HAPPY Belated VALENTINE'S DAY TO EVERYONE!!! Romans 13:8 "Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law."

First, I would like to thank each of you that attended our annual meeting. Following our annual meeting, I was guest speaker at Richards Chapel UMC in Covington, GA. I would like to thank Rev. Sandra Pennington, Precious Atkins and the Committee for allowing my presence there. I thank God for the gift of communication (gab).

I sincerely thank each of you for your support of United Women in Faith of the Central South District. Thank you, Rev. Dr. Lavell Sanders, Mary Lu Mumy and Stockbridge First for hosting us for our annual meeting. I would also like to thank Dr. Byron Thomas for his

support and being THE BEST SUPER IN THE CONFERENCE!! To the Executive Team, THANK YOU for your contributions, hard work, and commitment to the United Women in Faith.

I pray that 2023 has gotten off to a SUPER START!! There are several events for our district in the planning stage, please check the calendar (in this newsletter) and please, please ATTEND. The next event is our Training Session. The training will take place at Oak Grove UMC on February 25, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. I'm looking forward to meeting each of you.

I encourage all officers to attend. This is an opportunity for you to learn the requirements and responsibilities of your roles/duties of your positions. We will have a special guest from WellRoot Family Services speaking to us. We will be participating in some mission work with WellRoot.

I will be the Guest Speaker on March 12, 2023, at Bentley Hills UMC's Women's Day Program, which begins at 11:00 a.m. Please come out and support our District. I have included the address of our President's Breakfast/Training Session and Bentley Hills UMC.

Oak Grove  
1722 Oak Grove Road  
Decatur, GA 30033

Bentley Hills UMC  
584 Bentley Hills Rd.  
Stockbridge, GA 30281

Elections should be over by now. Have you installed your new officers, yet? If not, please call, email, or text me 678-773-3235 or email [valenciastroud@bellsouth.net](mailto:valenciastroud@bellsouth.net)



# DISTRICT NEWS

## Central South continued

I am grateful beyond words for your commitment to United Women in Faith of the Central South District. I pray your commitment never waivers. Please allow me to share a scripture that is on my heart, I think of you when I read this scripture. "Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance." 1 Corinthians 13:7 NLT

Blessings and Love,

**V. Ricki Stroud, President  
Central South**

[valenciastroud@bellsouth.net](mailto:valenciastroud@bellsouth.net)

## Central West is Moving Forward

The Central West District is happy to announce that we started 2023 with Officers that will help us to keep moving forward! We have some officers who accepted new positions after their appointments were finished, some who are returning to the District level to lend a hand, and some who have started brand new!

Nadine Lacy has returned from Conference MNO to help us with our Faith, Fun, and Everyone event scheduled for September 23, 2023. Louise Young has returned to us as our Parliamentarian. Sandra Crowe has joined us as our Treasurer with years of experience as Treasurer of Bethany UWF, and you will be hearing from Koreen Lail, our brand new Communications Coordinator! Anita, Doris, and I, along with the helping hands of Carolyn Wilson and Diane Ford are sure to continue our mission of Love in Action! We are truly blessed!

The Central West District is sponsoring a Lenten Day Apart Service hosted by the ladies of Powder Springs UWF. This will be held at Powder Springs First United Methodist Church, 4329 Marietta Street, Powder Springs, GA 30127 on March 26th, at 2:30pm. Our Save the Date has been sent out. An Invitation is forthcoming.

We are excited to share with you the happenings at our first District Cluster Meeting! In attendance were ladies from Bethany,

Hollydale, Powder Springs, and hosted by Austell First UWF. Our speaker was Pamela Brems, President of the Board of Directors from "The Gift of Music". They are a non-profit that is new to our District but who have been helping children



*Left to Right Back Row - Ada Bretti, Ruby Lewis, Joanna Chitwood, Sandra Crowe, Darlene Dukes, Pamela Brems, Margaret Harkness, Dr. Rev. Dorcas Rodriguez. Middle Row - Barbara Whitehead, Carole Carreker, Sara Worden, Carolyn Wilson, Crystal Harkness. Front Row - Bernice Cartrett.*

and youth learn about the joy of music by providing instruments, lessons, assistance, and support for many years in the Atlanta area.

When asked if we had ever played an instrument, I was surprised that we all raised our hands! When asked if we still had instruments at home gathering dust? Yes, of course our hands stayed up! Let's dust them off and donate them to a great cause!

For more information contact The Gift of Music Foundation, 2030 Powers Ferry Rd SE, Suite 390, Atlanta, GA 30339, [www.thegiftofmusic.org](http://www.thegiftofmusic.org),

Part of the Agenda for the Austell First UWF Unit has always been "Where are we going for lunch?" It is time set aside for fellowship and fun! The above picture was taken at The South Cobb Diner with most of our attendees.

Our goal this year is to encourage our Units to reach out to each other, to reach out to our communities, and gather together again to support the mission projects of United Women in Faith by putting Faith, Hope, and Love into Action!

Hoping to see you all soon!

Blessings to all,

**Ada Bretti, President  
Central West**

[ada.umw@gmail.com](mailto:ada.umw@gmail.com)

# Save The Date!

The Central West District  
United Women in Faith  
Invites you to attend:

## LENTEN DAY APART

**When:** Sunday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
**Time:** 2:30 pm  
**Location:** Powder Springs First United Methodist Church  
4329 Marietta Street, Powder Springs, GA 30127

# See You There!



United  
Women  
in Faith

Check out the different podcasts available from [uwfaith.org/resources/podcasts](http://uwfaith.org/resources/podcasts). Remember, Faith Talks also count towards your Reading Program!



Faith Talks



response Podcast



Voices from the Field Podcast

## 2023 NGC UWF Calendar



United  
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### The PURPOSE of United Women in Faith

The Purpose is adopted by the General Conference of The United Methodist Church as the official mission statement of United Women in Faith.

United Women in Faith shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

Out of the Purpose are four mission foci that relate to the mission initiatives and priorities of United Women in Faith.

- To be a community of women
- To know God
- To develop a creative and supportive fellowship
- To expand concepts of mission

Event	2023	Location
Program/CON Executive Overnight	Jan 6-7	Camp Collinswood Cancelled for low attendance
Treasurers and E&I Meeting	Feb 4 9:30AM-12:00PM	Susan Stroup will look for space
Program/CON Executive	* Feb 11	Virtual
Faith, Fun, Everyone & Conference Ubuntu	NA	NA
Charter for Racial Justice Program	March 11	Virtual
Program/CON Executive and Walk thru for Annual Meeting	Apr 15	Smyrna First UMC
Spiritual Growth/ Social Action Event	*Apr 28-29	Camp Glisson
NGC Annual Conference	*Jun 1 – Jun 3	Classic Center
UWF Breakfast	Jun 2	Classic Center
Program/CON Executive	*Jul 8	One of the Augusta NMIs
Mission u	Jul 27 - 29	Duluth First
District Reports Due	Aug 1	Aug 1
Annual Meeting	Oct 7	Smyrna First UMC
Program Committee	Oct 14	Virtual
Leadership Development Days (LDD) Executive Meeting	Nov 4	Decatur First
District Ubuntu Day of Service	Districts Determine	Districts Determine

**NEW DATES! - SEJ Convention** "Let's Get Together" at the Chattanooga Convention Center, Chattanooga, TN - April 19, 20, & 21, 2024 ([www.sejuwf.org](http://www.sejuwf.org))

Indicates date change

Revised 02/11/2023

### Future Reflector Deadlines

The Reflector is designed to highlight District-wide events in the North Georgia Conference that happened in the past quarter OR are coming up in the future. Let us know your news in words and

photos so we can celebrate with you! Send to [kellie@kfdp.com](mailto:kellie@kfdp.com)

1st Quarter 2023 articles due Feb 28  
2nd Quarter 2023 articles due May 28  
3rd Quarter 2023 articles due Aug 28  
4th Quarter 2023 issue articles due Nov 22