

Valley Ridge District
United Women in Faith
402 Second Street, SW
Roanoke, VA 24011

Return Service Requested

Our Mission

We seek to connect and nurture women through Christian spiritual formation, leadership development, creative fellowship and education so that they can inspire, influence and impact local and global communities.

Our Action

Bold action, like faith, takes courage. Our bravery is inspired by God's love and our powerful commitment to improve the lives of women, children and youth. United Women in Faith works for justice through compassionate service and advocacy to change unfair policies and systems that harm women, children and youth—from racial and gender injustice to economic inequality, climate issues and more.

Our Vision

We are a powerful, fearless force driven by God's love and united in sisterhood. With a focus on women, children and youth, we act for justice and transform communities. We face the realities we see in the world, even when they are not the ones we would like to see. However, our goal is not to bear witness simply to harms but also to God's love by acting boldly to change those harms.

This newsletter is a publication of the Valley Ridge District United Women in Faith, Betty Hairfield and Cindy Martin, editors.

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Valley Ridge District United Women in Faith Newsletter August 2023

District UWF President, Betty Brossy



Hi everyone! I hope that your summer has been refreshing, despite the heat. Our garden's corn is now grown up over the 6-foot fence, but the tomatoes are struggling. I think there is a sermon in that!

Mission Encounter

I recently returned from Mission Encounter that was held in late July in the Richmond area. And what a joy to finally see and talk with so many people in person after two years online. We met at Good Shepherd UMC for meals, worship, and fellowship, and the Virginia United Methodist Center for classes.

There were three different classes offered: Climate Justice, Living the Kin-dom—Exploring the Lords Prayer, and the Spirituality of Relationship. I took the class on the Living the Kin-dom, exploring the Lord's Prayer. We used many different translations, including my favorite, the Aramaic to English translation. This translation used the most beautiful words and phrases, and it helped to put a different light on our traditional way of reciting this well-known prayer. We explored the difference between Kingdom (as in a king ruling with power and hierarchy) and Kin-dom (as in welcoming people like they are part of your family).

If you have never attended Mission Encounter, I highly recommend it. It is a time for intense study of scriptures and relevant issues. We sang together, ate together, did a mission project, and worshipped together. If you passed on this opportunity because of the cost, our District has a line item for scholarships to Mission Encounter.

Mission Team Meeting

Our District held our Mission Team meeting on August 12 at Fairfield UMC in Fairfield. Pray for us as we continue to make plans for next year. If your church would like to volunteer to host a meeting or special program or breakfast, please let us know. We are looking for churches big and small for our gatherings.

The next year holds many opportunities and my hope and prayer is that you prayerfully consider your part in our District, whether through your local unit, a merged unit, a District member, serving as a District officer, or hosting a meeting. Remember – we are all part of the Kin-dom!

As I've said before, I enjoy meeting you and if you would like to have me or any of our officers to talk and meet with your unit, we are here for you. Have information, will travel!

Valley Ridge District UWF Annual Meeting

All are invited to the Valley Ridge District UWF Annual Meeting on **Saturday, October 14, 2023 at 10 AM at St. Mark's UMC (Family Life Center), 19 Cedar Ridge Drive, Daleville**. Light refreshments will be served as we celebrate the work of our units, vote on the 2024 budget, affirm our 2024 District Mission team, remember our members who have passed, recognize our UWF readers, and enjoy fellowship.

A message to Unit Treasurers

Make out your remittance checks payable to **Valley Ridge District United Women in Faith**. Our District President, Betty Brossy, will take care of these matters until such time as a new Treasurer is elected. Send her your unit's collections to 199 Brookwood Road, Staunton, VA 24401.

Reading Program, Mona Tolley

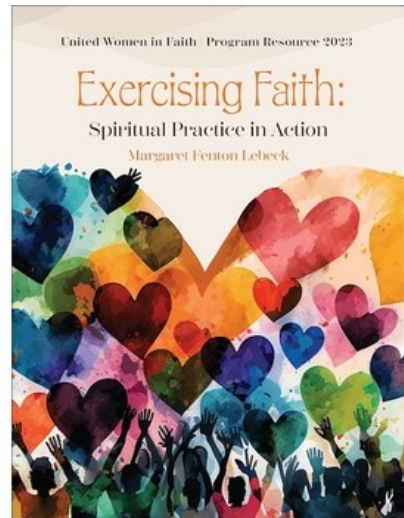
Our summer is quickly speeding by -- except for the extremely hot weather ! While you have been spending time inside, I hope your spirits have been lifted as you finish up some wonderful books on our Reading Program.

Our current Reading Program year began September 1, 2022 and concludes on August 31, 2023 -- less than a month away ! August 31 is also the final day for reading books from the 2018 book list.

The 2024 list of books can be found at: <https://uwfaith.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/ReadingProgramCatalog2024.pdf>

** Please send your individual Reading Reports to your unit's Program Resource person. I ask that Person to please compile and send me your unit's Reading Program Summary Report -- no later than September 15. ** The form is attached to the email or included in this mailing. The Summary Report is attached to this email or included in the mailed packet.

Questions -- give me a call or email. Hope you have enjoyed reading this year and look forward to more inspiration as you continue participating in our UWF Reading Program !



A new Program Resource book *Faith: Spiritual Practice in Action* for September 2023—December 2023 is now available online for \$5.00 at <https://uwfaithresources.org/prodDetail.cfm?productID=10821&catid=2177>

Valley Ridge District UWF Leadership Team

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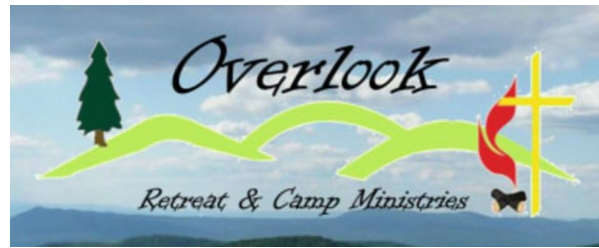
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Camp Ministry Updates



<https://www.campoverlook.org/>

This summer has been amazing to say the least. Our summer camp has ended. Everything that we do at summer camp is so fun and exciting but it is our worship that reminds us why we do what we do.

I would love for you to get to see our camp and talk about the impact this summer has had on children. I understand that it is a long way to travel for some, but we welcome your visit and know you will be blessed by this experience, and I would love for each of you to see what's happening here.

A camper from Keezletown UMC reported to his congregation that it was at camp this summer that he received the call to the ministry.

Thank you,

Christina, Overlook Camp Director



<https://www.altamons.org/>

All churches in the Valley Ridge District are invited to Alta Mons Family Fun Date on Saturday, August 26 beginning at 11 AM. Come and be a part of worship followed by food, fun and fellowship. Enjoy the many blessings of our 850 acre camp and its facilities.

Find the agenda to Family Fun Day at: <https://valleyridgeumc.org/docs/District%20Cookout%20Cover%20Letter%202023.pdf>

Watch your local PBS stations for the Buzz4Good video promotion featuring Alta Mons being release in September 2023.

Social Justice, Luz de Tablan

As Social Action Coordinator of our district, I think I have a responsibility to let every member of our United Women of Faith to know about some of our District Social Action focus. Although we have organized ourselves into units and districts, but still, we have not really able to discuss how these certain Social Action issues affect each one of us individually or as a group. It was not only the COVID-19 that had caused a tremendous harm to all of us, but also what had happened to our church, the United Methodist Church. Instead of coming together as one, we were told to keep our distance from each other, because we don't want to get sick of COVID and also "not to be with those sinners" who have no place to participate in the life of our church!

Until now we were still hesitant to do a face-to-face meeting for fear of COVID, and for fear to be identified with those "people who were not like us" and sinners! Now that we could not really do any action to help our women, youth and children regarding these issues, I would like to share some of the information I have read and searched about CHILDREN'S SABBATH, CLIMATE JUSTICE AND RACIAL JUSTICE. I hope these information will really give us something to ponder how we can make a difference in the life of others by knowing about these issues. Through this information which I have gathered I am hopeful that when read at least we will have some ideas how we can be of help to other women, to our youth and children within our Valley Ridge District United Women of Faith.

CHILDREN SABBATH-is a day set aside by churches all over the world for the purpose of highlighting and affirming the gift and gifts of children in our midst. It is a day to celebrate children as active participants in the life of the church. It is a Worship services, prayers of faith community gathering with a focus on children, justice, morals and spiritual. Children Sabbath look deeply at the midst of children locally and worldwide and pray for them. It is an ecumenically celebrated, committed to educating the congregation about the state of today's children and families in America. It is always designated for the third weekend in October and sponsored and resourced by the Children's Defense Fund. It is a time for people of all faith to unite in shared worship service. It is also a day where the congregation commit to highlighting such connections and investing together to support our children. It is also a community service to showcase children and their ministry. The children will help them understand that God is faithful and will be with them always. Children Sabbath is also a day they voted to raising up the issues and conserves facing children across the world.

RACIAL JUSTICE is a vision and transformation of society to eliminate racial hierarchies and advance collective liberation where Black, Indigenous, Latinos, and people of color are equal. There is harmony and inclusion and equity or equality in the midst of diversity. It is also the equal and fair treatment of everyone regardless of ethnicity or race. The vision of Racial Justice is to foster an active and engaged participation to help advance conservation about social and racial justice, health justice, climate justice, education, equity in the workplace. It also abolishes and dismantle white supremacy and all system of oppressions. Racial Justice means having policies, beliefs, practices, attitudes and actions that promote equal opportunities and outcomes for all combatting bias, discrimination and hate.

CLIMATE JUSTICE-is a concept that addresses the just division, fair sharing, and equitable distribution of the burdens of climate change and its mitigation and responsibilities to deal with climate change. This is according to the research done by Wikipedia. Example is the carbon tax that makes it expensive to emit greenhouse gases is in part of many climate proposal; climate justice with additionally demand that these taxes be structured in a way that protects low-income people who are already struggling to pay for gasoline, home heating and cooling and other basic needs. We envision a world in which fairness, equity and ecological notedness are core values. In climate justice we link human rights, with development and climate action having people centered approach. Climate justice is a term and more than a movement that acknowledges climate change and can have differing social and economic status. Climate justice has emerged from the idea that historical responsibility for climate change lies with wealthy and powerful people. Climate justice is a testimony that climate change is already significantly affecting our world.

2023 Valley Ridge District UWF Mission Partners

In addition to the two camps, the Valley Ridge District UWF has identified nine mission partners. As units look for programs or way to be in mission with our community consider reaching out to one of these organizations.

- Agape Center in Christiansburg
- Casa de Amistad in Waynesboro
- Days for Girls, Northview UMC in Roanoke and Trinity UMC in Lexington
- Embrace in Waynesboro
- Henry Fork in Rocky Mount (Mountain View District)
- Kids Soar in Roanoke
- H.E.L. P. (Health Equipment Loan Program) in Churchville
- GO Pantry, Central UMC in Staunton
- Kingsway Prison and Family Outreach in Harrisonburg (Shenandoah River District)

Education and Interpretation Carolyn Manspile and Karen Dinkins

The Living Into Our Purpose (LIOP) form gives each unit a “blueprint” for keeping on track to accomplishing our goals as United Women in Faith. The period for this year’s reports is from September 1, 2022 to August 31, 2023. Please submit these form by email or mail before **September 15** as follows:

- Units from the former Roanoke District send to Karen Dinkins
- Units from the former Staunton District send to Carolyn Manspile

The form is attached to the email or included in this mailing and can also be found at: <https://www.vauwf.org/education-and-interpretation>

Membership Nurture and Outreach, Betsy Daughtrey

When we gather at our Annual Meeting in October we will hold a candle burning remembrance for those in our units who has passed away since our last September meetings. Please send a list of members in your unit to me before **September 15** so we can include their names in our program and remember them during our litany. Thank you.

Local Unit News



Betsy Daughtrey, with Millie Brown and Connie Davis UWF at Central UMC, Staunton Korean Dinner Night



UWF at St. Johns, Buena Vista prepare UMCOR kits

Save the Date: October 17 from 2:00—3:30 PM

The UWF at St. James UMC 3337 Churchville Ave, in Churchville invites you to a presentation about Alta Mons, the UM camp in the Valley Ridge District. Guests will include Ronda Wimmer, Camp Director, and Jim Pearman, Chair Camp Board. Come learn about this camp ministry and its many facilities that are available for your unit or church group to use while enjoying refreshments and fellowship. RSVP to Linda White at kwiltnut@live.com or 910-546-3391.

Valley Ridge District UWF 2023 Calendar

October 14: District Annual Meeting at 10 AM at St. Mark’s UMC in Daleville

December 2: Advent Gathering at 10 AM at Christ UMC in Staunton

Virginia Conference UWF 2023 Calendar

September 15-16: Young Women's at Retreat Camp Overlook, Keezletown

October 28: 51st Annual Meeting at Discovery UMC, Richmond and Online

Virginia Conference
United Women in Faith

Young Women's Event

Meet God on the Mountain
SEPTEMBER 15-16

You are invited to spend from
6 pm Friday to 4pm on Saturday
finding spiritual refreshment at
Camp Overlook between Winchester & Harrisonburg.

Retreat Leader: Rev. Heather Wray

Blessings Lodge, Camp Overlook
3014 Camp Overlook Lane
Keezletown, VA 22832

Find all the information about the Young Women’s Event at https://drive.google.com/file/d/1CQCnEW0qKX64HOJ781aLy9tfdi0oj4_z/view

or contact Janice Webb at 703-777-3116 or webbjshw@verizon.net

Share this opportunity with and encourage a young women in your church to attend. Consider ways you and your unit can support their participation by providing transportation, financial assistance with registration, childcare...

Valley Ridge District Proposed 2024 Budget

The Valley Ridge District UWF Mission Team is working on the 2024 Proposed Budget. Watch for it in a future mailing. Adoption of the 2024 will be part of the agenda for the Annual Meeting on October 14

Valley Ridge District 2024 Slate of Officers

We anticipate a few changes in our current leadership. A new slate of Offices will be presented for election at the Annual Meeting on October 14. Consider serving on the District Leadership Team. Contact one of the Nominations Committee members for more information about vacancies and job responsibilities.