



United  
Women  
in Faith

# Valley Ridge District United Women in Faith

Newsletter—November 2024

## Valley Ridge District UWF Advent Program



The Valley Ridge District United Women in Faith will have their Advent Program at Fairfield UMC, 5622 N Lee Hwy in Fairfield on Saturday, **December 7** at 10:00 AM.

Come spend time in fellowship as we prepare our hearts to celebrate the season of Advent. All are welcome.

## Joy and FUN - Betty Brossy, District UWF President

I hope you had a fun and relaxing summer and fall. Some of our District members traveled as part of a mission group to Cuba. Some attended Mission Encounter in July. Some have stayed close to home. Wherever you have been (or not), we all have a common mission – to help women, children, and youth in our world, nation, state, and district.

The question is, how do we do this in a new, creative, and fun way? I don't want to be in any group that has tired, sour-faced folks participating because they feel duty-bound or "have to", doing the "same ol' things." I am not saying that we shouldn't address serious issues, but we need to do it with a sense of joy, meaning, determination, and fun.

Our Mission Team met in August to work on our plans for the coming year. We realized that participation in some planned programs this past year has been small, with some total attendance as little as six people. This has been difficult since much time and effort has been put into planning programs that are meaningful, thought-provoking, and fun.

So, I'm asking you for feedback to help make our Valley Ridge District unique, fulfilling, and thriving. And yes, FUN. (Did I mention FUN?) We want to get information from you. So, fill out the answers, and please be specific. You can mail, email, or call me or any officer listed. My contact information is: Betty Brossy, 199 Brookwood Road, Staunton, VA 24401. Email: [Bbrossy@verizon.net](mailto:Bbrossy@verizon.net). Phone: 540-414-8518.

## Joy and FUN - continued

- Have you attended any Valley Ridge District programs, events, or meetings this year? If not, why not? What kept you from attending? How can we help?
- Will you make it a priority to participate in UWF, either through a local unit, district events, online, or nationally?
- Were programs/meetings meaningful to you? Did the speakers or presenters hold your attention? Did they present an interesting topic?
- Have you invited any friends or family to programs or meetings?
- Have you invited any District officers to attend local unit meetings?
- Have you received communications about Valley Ridge District events? Are you on the internet? Do you receive our District newsletters/emails?
- What are some ideas you have about programs, events, or speakers for the future? Should we drop some events, add new events, change events or locations, etc.?
- What is a fun or meaningful event or program that would interest you enough to attend?
- Are you willing to be a District officer, program coordinator, or co-officer? Do you know of a woman who would be willing to serve as an officer or coordinator?
- Has your local unit done a project or event that could be advertised district-wide? Do you have an upcoming project or event that you want advertised district-wide?

Thanks for your time answering these questions. It helps us plan events in the future and to make our District more responsive and...FUN!

## Valley Ridge District UWF Mission Trip: 2025

The Valley Ridge District United Women in Faith is moving forward to organized a Mission Trip to the Wesley Community Service Center in Portsmouth, Virginia during the Lenten season in 2025. They invite **YOU** to be a part of the team. There are was for everyone to contribute and you don't have to have a special skill to participate—just a servant heart.

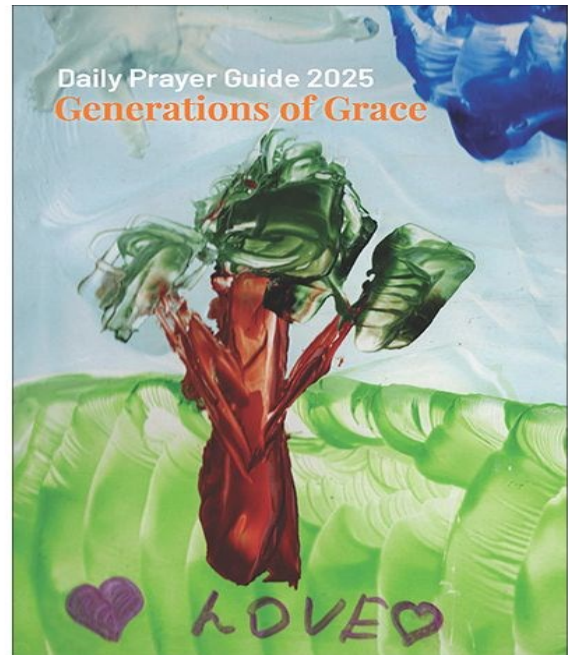
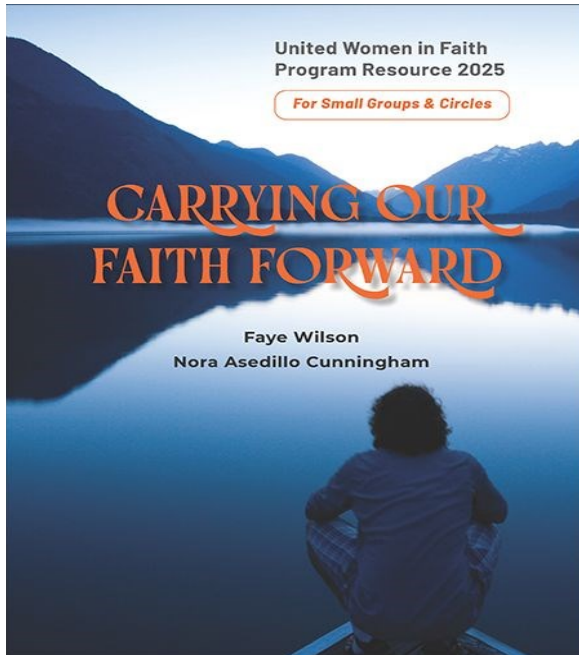
The Valley Ridge District UWF is providing some financial support for the mission trip for expenses. Nancy Sasser, and Ann Klotz are heading the team. Renyatta Banks, Director of the Center, is excited to hear about our plans.

If you are interested in learning more or participating in the project, please contact Nancy Sasser at [jwsnts@pemt.net](mailto:jwsnts@pemt.net) or Ann Klotz at: [jasnc5@gmail.com](mailto:jasnc5@gmail.com)



More information coming soon. Share this opportunity with your UWF members and congregation!

## UWF Program Resources



Order your 2024-2025 Program Books and 2025 Daily Prayer Guide and subscribe to *Response* magazine at: <https://uwfaith.org/resources/>

## UWF Day at General Assembly: January 30, 2025



In the Virginia Conference, we have been change makers in our great Commonwealth for over 30 years. We are excited to be in Richmond for United Methodist Day at the General Assembly on January 30, 2025. When we gather together, we will have arranged visits with our Senators to discuss issues that are relevant to our faith, with direction from our friends and partners at Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy (VICPP). One of the ways we put our faith in action is by advocating for the least, the last, and the lost at the General Assembly. We hope that you will come and join us in Richmond as we continue our legacy as change makers here in our Commonwealth.

**LOCATION:** Pace Center, 700 Franklin Street, Richmond

**TIME:** 7:30am - 3:00pm

**\$25** Early Bird Registrations ends **December 20, 2024**

**\$35** Regular Registration ends **January 17, 2025**

**\$10** Student Registration

If you have any questions about this event, please contact Heather Wray at [heatherwray@vaumc.org](mailto:heatherwray@vaumc.org)

Register at: <https://na.eventscloud.com/ereg/index.php?eventid=815503&>

# UWF Giving

## Administration and Member Development (A&MD)

It is suggested that each unit send \$3 annually for each member of their unit to support the work of the Valley Ridge District UWF. The 2024 Valley Ridge District UWF budget is \$4,300.

### Pledge to Mission

Pledge to Mission giving is the foundation for mission work through United Women in Faith. An individual Pledge to Mission is the amount each member decides is her share of the local unit's total budget. These funds are used locally, nationally, and internationally to support priorities of the UWF. The Valley Ridge District UWF total Pledge to Mission for 2025 is \$40,000.

### Rainbow Givers

The Virginia Conference started the Rainbow Giver program to provide an opportunity for individuals to personally give to five of the six channels of Mission Giving. Anyone can become a Rainbow Giver—church members, spouses, friends—all are welcome to participate in UWF Mission Giving. See attached Rainbow Givers form for more information.

### The Legacy Endowment Fund Campaign

In 2014, the Legacy Endowment Fund Campaign was created and set a bold goal of raising \$60 million for the endowment. With every gift received in 2022 and beyond, UWF will secure the financial resources needed to deepen and expand our mission.

### Additional Giving Opportunities

**Special Mission Recognition** is an undesignated gift for mission work that honors the recipient. Special Mission Recognitions may be given by any individual, or circle, or unit, in honor of any person. There are several categories of Special Mission Recognitions, each representing a different amount of money for mission. The basic \$40 Special Mission Recognition is a small gold oval lapel pin with a cross and a white certificate. The other categories are \$60 (set with small sapphire), \$100 (pearl), \$200 (emerald), \$500 (ruby), \$1,000 (diamond), and \$2,000 (double diamond).

**Gift to Mission** is a way to honor someone with a gift of at least \$5. There are eight different Gift to Mission cards: Thank You, Congratulations, Thinking of You, A Special Day, A Baby, Happy Birthday, Peace, and In the Service of Christ. Also special Christmas card designs. Each card has a message indicating that a gift to mission through UWF has been made in the recipient's honor.

**Gift in Memory** honors the memory of a loved one by making possible additional mission work. Gift in Memory cards represent a gift of a minimum of \$5.00. The cards can be obtained for free, so that they are readily available when needed. The person making the gift sends the card to the family of the deceased person, and then sends their gift money to the local UWF treasurer along with the tear-off stub indicating the name of the deceased person.

**World Thank Offering** is an opportunity for individuals to respond to God's abundance and grace with spontaneous gifts of gratitude. Individuals or families collect such gifts in special boxes or labeled containers. Gifts are usually brought together in the unit once a year.

**Planning Giving opportunities**, including IRA distributions, gifts of stock, and wills and bequests can be found at: <https://umwgift.org/>

Contact your District UWF Acting Treasurer, Betty Brossy, for more information on these paths to giving.

# Your Valley Ridge District UWF Team 2025

## President and Acting Treasurer

Betty Brossy  
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## Vice President

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## Secretary

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## Program Resources/Reading Program

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## Education & Interpretation

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## Spiritual Growth

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## Social Action

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## Communications and Camp Representatives

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## Nominations

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**We believe  
love in action  
can change  
the world.**

## Valley Ridge District UWF Mission Priorities 2025

**Embrace, A Center for Community:** The people of Embrace believe that everyone has a place at God's table, that grace is best shared face to face, and that love is a verb demanding our action. To that end, they view the church building from which we serve as a tool box, one provided in order to equip ourselves and our community to love well. Located on a grassy city block in the heart of Waynesboro their site is a place where hope takes root. The people of Embrace are committed to wise use of all of our resources so that the message of grace and peace is spread throughout our area. [embracewaynesboro.org](http://embracewaynesboro.org)

**Kids Soar:** As a faith-based organization they focus is on empowering children and families in the Roanoke Valley to end the cycle of poverty in their families through literacy education. "Children whose parents have low literacy levels have a 72% chance of being at the lowest reading levels themselves. These children are more likely to get poor grades, display behavioral problems, have high absentee rates, repeat school years, or drop out." – Proliteracy One of the foundational keys to a child's successful future is the ability to read. At Kids Soar, they believe that every child should be able to read. [kidsoar.org](http://kidsoar.org)

**Henry Fork Center:** They are a not-for-profit mission of the United Methodist Church, operating in the Mountain View District. Their primary focus is to make God's Love visible in their community. [henryforkcenter.org](http://henryforkcenter.org)

## Valley Ridge District UWF Calendar 2025

**January 11:** Executive Team Meeting at 10 AM by Zoom

**March ?:** Mission Trip to Wesley Community Service Center

**April 26:** Spiritual Life Retreat at Alta Mons Camp and Retreat Center at 10 AM

**August 9:** Executive Team/Officer Meeting at 10 AM (location and platform TBD)

**October 4:** Annual Meeting at 10 AM at Calvary UMC, Stuarts Draft

**December 6:** Advent Program 10:00 AM (subject to change depending on participation in 2024)

