



United
Women
in Faith

Valley Ridge District United Women in Faith

Newsletter—March 2024

District UWF Lenten Program

The Valley Ridge District UWF will hold their annual Lenten Program on **Saturday, March 9 at 10 AM** at Calvary UMC, 2179 Stuarts Draft Hwy, Stuarts Draft. All are invited.

Prior to the start of the program, the host church invites you to their free community pancake breakfast from 8 AM—10 AM. A goodwill offering will be collected.



District UWF Spiritual Life Retreat



Join United Women in Faith from around the Valley Ridge District at Alta Mons Camp and Retreat Center in Shawsville on **April 27** for a morning of fellowship, worship, and reflection followed by lunch.

Overnight accommodations in the climate-controlled, hotel-style retreat center are available for Friday night prior to the event. Double and single rooms available. See all the details in the attached flyer.

Nominations, Debbie Finney

The District team is still in need of a Secretary and Treasurer for our UWF as well as additional members of the Nominations Committee. If you feel called to serve in a leadership role or have questions about being a District UWF leader, please contact me. Consider how your gifts and graces can be a part of shaping the mission and ministry of the Valley Ridge District UWF.

Valley Ridge District UWF Mission Trip: March 20-23

The Valley Ridge District United Women in Faith is organizing a Mission Trip to the Wesley Community Service Center in Portsmouth, Virginia on **March 20-23, 2024**. They invite **YOU** to be a part of the team.

They will be traveling on Wednesday and Saturday and work at the center on Thursday and Friday. 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 and making many of the arrangements. Renyatta Banks, Director of the Center, is excited to hear about our plans and is considering four possible projects for the team:

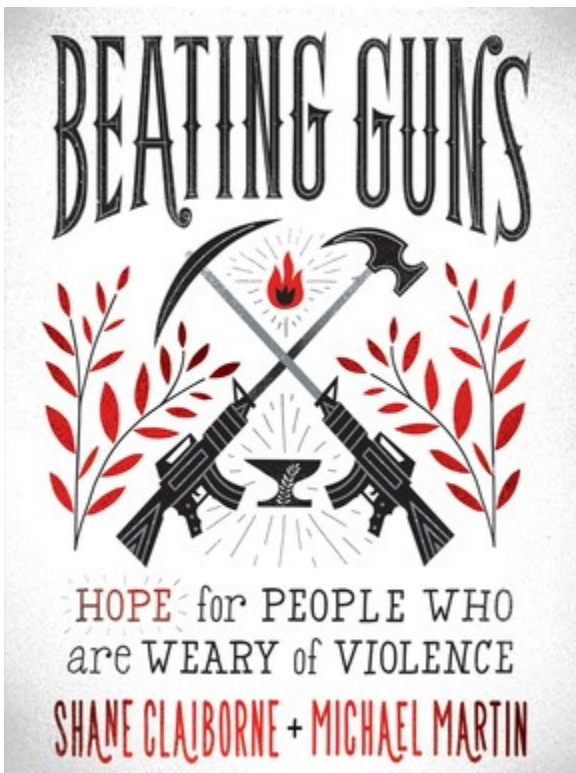
- Painting their Library and organizing all the new books they have received;
- Painting a piano that will be used for the children;
- Painting the bookshelves for the Library;
- Creating flower beds and small gardens.

She may have more ideas that include cleaning and organizing. No special skills are required; you just need enthusiasm and willing hands.

If you are interested in learning more or participating in the project, please contact Nancy Sasser at jwsnts@pemtel.net or Ann Klotz at: jasnc5@gmail.com



Valley Ridge District UWF Virtual Book Club, April 15



The Valley Ridge District UWF will hold their inaugural meeting of their UWF Book Club by Zoom on **April 15 at 7 PM**, and they invite you, and members of your congregation and community to participate as we keep learning and growing together.

Ann Klotz will lead the first discussion of *Beating Guns: Hope for People Who are Weary of Violence* by Shane Claiborne from the 2024 UWF Reading List. We hope to meet at 4-5 times per year and at each meeting, discuss a selected book from the UWF Reading list. **Input on book choices and future discussion leaders are welcome!**

Each person will need their own book: from their unit library, local library, Amazon . . . We will chose books for the year from the current list (this would include books from 2019 -2024 lists). We will send the list to all those interested.

Each participant is encouraged to include the books in their Reading Program Report submitted to their unit (and on to Mona Tolley, the District UWF Reading Program Coordinator) every year by the date set.

Sign up for more information and to be included in the Book Club Zoom communications by emailing

Acting Social Action Coordinator, Betsy Daughtrey

Criminalization
of
Communities
of
Color & Mass
Incarceration

The United Women in Faith encourage you to engage actively in two priority justice issues: Climate Justice and Criminalization of Communities of Color and Mass Incarceration. If we are not hungry for justice, maybe it is because we are too full of privilege. The Bible has many scriptures about justice; one of my favorites is found in Zechariah 7: 9-10: *“Execute true justice, show mercy and compassion everyone to his brother. Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, the alien or the poor. Let none of you plan evil in his heart against his brother.”*

Climate
Justice

Luz de Tablan had to resign due to her husband’s health issues. She has done a wonderful job for her service in our organization, serving in many offices over the years. Let us keep her and her husband in our prayers.

UWF dates for 2024

Valley Ridge District

March 9: Lenten Program at 10 AM at Calvary UMC, Stuarts Draft (no registration required)

March 20-23: Mission Trip to Wesley Community Service Center in Portsmouth, VA

April 15: UWF Book Club at 7 PM by Zoom

April 27: Spiritual Life Retreat at 10 AM at Alta Mons, Shawsville (registration required)

August 10: Open Team/Offices Meeting at 10 AM – Trinity UMC, Lexington (Zoom option available)

October 5: Annual Meeting at 10 AM—St. Mark’s UMC, Daleville (Live-Streamed option available)

August 31: Deadline for Living Into Our Purpose forms to Karen Dinkins and Carolyn Manspile

September 15: Deadline for Reading Program reports to Mona Tolley

Deceased Member list to Betsy Daughtrey

Year-End Finance reports to Betty Brossy

December 7: Advent Program at 10 AM– Fairfield UMC, Fairfield

Virginia Conference

May 11: Conference UWF Virtual Spiritual Life Retreat on May 11, 2024

June 1: Ferrum Day (In Person-On Campus) on June 1, 2024

July 26-28: Mission Encounter in Glen Allen, VA

September 20-21: Young Women’s Retreat at Camp Overlook

October 26: Virtual Annual Meeting

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 \$4,155.

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 2024 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 2024

President and Acting Treasurer

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Nominations

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We believe
love in action
can change
the world.

Valley Ridge District UWF Mission Priorities 2024

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/

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. www.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/

Mission Encounter July 26-28, 2024



Mission Encounter is a joint effort between VAUMC United Women in Faith and VAUMC Serving Ministries, inviting members to be involved in the mission of God.

This year the gathering will have in-person (VAUMC Conference Center in Glen Allen) and virtual options.

Welcome Home is the theme that explores how we can know God as an intimate friend who welcomes us. Abiding in God's safety and dwelling in God's provision, allows us to open our hearts to a fuller embrace of the power and presence of God so that we may find our home in God. Participants are invited to dig deeper into what it means to live in the kin-dom of God and how this helps us to develop practices for building and existing in healthier communities.

Author Neomi Fletcher leads participants through a journey in eight one-hour explorations that start with examining home and redefining what it means in light of Scripture's repeated invitations to dwell with God as individuals, community members, and persons of faith.

Registration information will be available soon at: <https://vaumc.org/ME/>

