



Coastal Virginia District United Women in Faith
April 2026



PRESIDENT – JULIE KISSELL

In the cold winter months, your district team warmed up with the Response Magazine Bible study via Zoom. If you have not attended one yet, April 16 is your next opportunity! We always have great discussions. Our first District Event of 2026 was a Zoom meeting featuring our Va Conference UWF Education and Interpretation Coordinator, Angie Sokolowski. She gave us insight into the Living into Our Purpose form and how it coordinates with our Mission. She challenged us to each send a Gift to Mission card this year. What a deal: donate \$5 to UWF Mission, and you receive a card to send to someone, letting them know a donation was made in their honor. Talk to your treasurer to find out how.

Spring is here, and things are getting hotter. Units are holding United Women in Faith Sunday Services, and our June District Event is June 13. We are still looking for a host church, so give me a call if you are interested! We would like to meet in person and have a special event in the works.

The women of Haygood UMC invited me to their book talk. They choose a book from the Reading Program and everyone reads, including their pastor. He led a discussion of *The Women*, and light refreshments were served at the end. It was a very nice event with about 20 ladies present. Don't forget to share about what is happening in your unit; your activities can inspire us all!

Happy Easter, Sisters in Christ!



TREASURER - MICHELE KANADY

Greeting to my Sisters in Christ!

Coastal VA District Remittance deadlines for 2026 are:

Q1 - March 31st

Q2 - June 30th

Q3 - **September 30th

Q4 - December 31 st

If your remittance is received after the due date, don't be discouraged. Your donations will be included in the next quarter remittance to the Conference.

The new 2026 Remittance and Rainbow Giver forms have been attached. Do not send your remittances to the name and address on the bottom of the form. Please complete your remittance as follows:

Make Checks Payable to: Coastal VA UWF

Mail To:

Michele I. Kanady (District Treasurer), 1808 Candy Lane, Chesapeake, VA 23321

Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions (text/call 757-645-7929) or (email coastalvatreasurer@gmail.com)

Thank you - Michele I. Kanady (Treasurer, Coastal VA)



2026 Remittance
Form.pdf



2026 Rainbow
Giver.pdf



EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION - MARY ARNOLD



2025 Oct
LIOP_Mission Today

“Invite the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed because they cannot repay you.” Luke 14:12-14

Happy Spring Coastal Virginia District UWF members! I know all of you are looking forward to the warm, long days.

I hope many of you were able to join us for our District meeting on Saturday, March 14, where Angie Sokolowski, our Virginia Conference Mission Coordinator for Education and Interpretation, spoke. Her topics included our revised Living Into Our Purpose Report (copy attached to this newsletter) and she covered the Six Channels of Mission Giving. Angie also presented a “Mission Giving Coffee Chat” on Tuesday, March 24th, where she discussed the March 23rd Day of Giving, a time to honor the legacy started on a rainy night in Boston on March 23, 1969, where six bold women gathered to turn their pennies and prayers into a movement.

Six Channels of Mission Giving:

Pledge to Mission (Our Promise)

Special Mission Recognition (The Gold Standard)
Gift to Mission (Our Love Language – cards available from your Unit Treasurer)
Gift in Memory (A Living Tribute)
World Thank Offering (Daily Gratitude)
Candle Burning (A Virginia Special)

She also discussed how to become a Rainbow Giver, a way to support our whole story. A gift of \$60 personally supports all the channels mentioned above. The Rainbow Giver form is available from your Unit Treasurer.

Angie will continue to present these “Mission Giving Coffee Chats” via ZOOM, and I encourage all Unit Education and Interpretation reps to join her to gain important insight into the Living Into Our Purpose report, and other important facts. And I hope you can join Angie for her next “Coffee Chat.” Watch for the date from Angie and our UWF Communications Director as registration is required. You can find the registration link at VAUWF.org.

Your completed reports are due to me by August 16, 2026, so start today documenting what your Unit is doing, such as participating in the Reading Program (the 2026 Reading Program catalog is now available and there are so many great books available), present a program from the 2026 Program Resources book, take part in the periodic *Faith Talks*, *Author Talks*, or Marta’s *Response* magazine discussions via ZOOM. There are many ways your Unit can qualify for GOLD next year so let’s get busy! If you have any questions about your report, please email, call, or text me.

Several dates to remember: April 17-19, Soul Care Retreat (attend via ZOOM), July 24-26, Mission U, New Creation UMC, Chesapeake. Hope to see all of you at our June Coastal Virginia District Meeting Date, time and location will be provided in the near future.

“If you find it in your heart to care for somebody else, you will have succeeded” Maya Angelou

Program Resources – Open
Check your public library for availability

2026 UWF Reading Program books available in Virginia Beach Public Library:

Education For Mission:

Legacy: A Black Physician Reckons With Racism in Medicine by Uche Blackstone.

The Happiest Man on Earth: The Beautiful Life of an Auschwitz Survivor by Eddie Jaku.

Don't Look Back: A Memoir of War, Survival, and my Journey from Sudan to America by Achut Deng & Keely Hutton. (Youth Book)

The Little House of Hope by Terry Catusus Jennings. (Children's Book)

These Olive Trees: A Palestinian Family's Story by Aya Ghanameh. (Children's Book)

Leadership Development:

The Deepest Place: Suffering and the Formation of Hope by Curt Thompson. (e-book)

Heart of Fire: An Immigrant Daughter's Story by Mazie K. Hirono.

Leading Well: A Black Woman's Guide to Wholistic, Barrier-Breaking Leadership by Jeanne Porter King. (e-book)

The Book of Hope: A Survival Guide for Trying Times by Jan Goodall & Douglas Abrams with Gail Hudson. (e-book)

See No Stranger: A memoir and Manifesto of Revolutionary Love by Valarie Kaur.

From the Desk of Zoe Washington by Janae Marks. (Youth Book)

Michi Challenges History: From Farm Girl to Costume Designer to Relentless Seeker of the Truth: The Life of Michi Nishiura Weglyn by Ken Mochizuki. (Streaming)

Something, Someday by Amanda Gorman. (Children's book)

Stand As Tall As the Trees: How an Amazonian Community Protected the Rain Forest by Patricia Gualinga & Laura Resau. (Children's book)

The Light She Feels Inside by Gwendolyn Wallace. (Children's book)

Nurturing For Community:

Finding Me by Viola Davis.

Don't Follow Your Heart: Boldly Braking the Ten Commandments of Self-Worship by Thaddeus J. Williams (e-book)

The Personal Librarian by Marie Benedict & Victoria Christopher Murray.

Sisterhood Heals: The Transformative Power of Healing in Community by Joy Harden Bradford.

The Talk by Darrin Bell.

The Women by Kristin Hannah.

The In-Between by Katie Van Heidrich. (Youth book)

Nell Plants a Tree by Anne Wynter. (Children's book)

Social Action:

Everyday Ubuntu: Living Better Together, the African Way by Mungi Ngomane.

Highway of Tears: A True Story of Racism, Indifference, and the Pursuit of Justice for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls by Jessica Mc Diarmid.

The Intersectional Environmentalist: How to Dismantle Systems of Oppression to Protect People + Planet by Leah Thomas.

#SAYHERNAME: Black Women's Stories of Police Violence and Public Silence by Kimberle Crenshaw & The African American Policy Forum.

Seventy Times Seven: A True Story of Murder and Mercy by Alex Mar.

From a Whisper to a Rallying Cry: The Killing of Vincent Chin and the Trial that Galvanized the Asian American Movement. (Youth book/Bonus book)

How to Fight Racism: A guide to Standing Up for Racial Justice by Jemar Tisby. (Youth book)

Still Dreaming /Seguimos Sonando by Claudia Guadalupe Martinez. (Children's book)

We Are Still Here! Native American Truths Everyone Should Know by Traci Sorell. (Children's book)

Spiritual Growth:

Good Enough: 40ish Devotionals for a Life of Imperfection by Kate Bowler & Jessica Richie.

The Matter of Little Losses: Finding Grace to Grieve the Big (And Small) Things by Rachel Marie Kang. (download)

Our Unforming: De-Westernizing Spiritual Formation by Cindy S. Lee. (e-book)

Womanish Theology: Discovering God Through the Lens of Black Girlhood by Khristi Lauren Adams.

Red, White, and Whole by Rajani Larocca. (Youth book)

A Prayer For Our Country: Words to Unite and Inspire Hope by Barry Black. (Children's book)

Spiritual Growth – Open

Join us this Women's History Month with United Women Faith CEO and General Secretary, Sally Vonner, and Deaconess Megan Hale, executive for the Office of Deaconess and Home Missioner, for a powerful conversation on leadership and impact.

[Watch the latest episode here.](#)

Thank you for watching this episode of Faith Talks! For more episodes and other podcasts from United Women in Faith, check out: uwfaith.org/resources/podcasts.
Let's turn our faith into action on behalf of women, children, and youth!
With love and gratitude,
United Women in Faith



Social Action – Open

Special Election: Proposed Constitutional Amendment

A statewide special election will be held for voters to determine if a constitutional amendment, proposed by the General Assembly, shall be enacted. The referendum question will appear on the ballot as:

“Should the Constitution of Virginia be amended to allow the General Assembly to temporarily adopt new congressional districts to restore fairness in the upcoming elections, while ensuring Virginia's standard redistricting process resumes for all future redistricting after the 2030 census?”

Don't Forget Your ID

When casting a ballot, be sure to bring an [accepted form of identification](#). Any voter who does not present an acceptable identification must sign a statement, subject to felony penalties, that they are the named registered voter for their ballot to be counted.

Voters who do not sign the statement or present an accepted form of identification must vote with a provisional ballot.

Important Dates and Deadlines

- April 10: Last day to request a vote-by-mail ballot for the proposed constitutional amendment special election.
 - April 14: Last day to register to vote or update an existing registration for the proposed constitutional amendment special election.
 - April 18: Last day to vote early for the proposed constitutional amendment special election.
 - April 21: Election Day for the proposed constitutional amendment. Vote-by-mail ballots returned in person for the proposed constitutional amendment special election must be received by the Voter Registrar's Office by 7 p.m.
 - April 24: Vote-by-mail ballots returned by mail must be postmarked on or before April 24 and received by the Voter Registrar's Office by noon.
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MEMBERSHIP, NURTURE AND OUTREACH – DIANNA FOGEL

2026 is all about working together to grow our numbers.

Some ideas are to invite people you chat with out and about to your church. Get them to church and from there you can invite them to women events when you have them. Introduce them to women that are active in UWF. Making new friends helps them want to participate.

Another idea is to share big events you are holding that are open to the public with Debi so she can put it out to all UWF groups/churches so we can support you.

Report any new members and programs that fit MNO to the Social Action representatives in your UWF group to add to the Living into Purpose. This helps with not trying to remember everything at the last minute.

Consider serving on the district board: Vice President; Social Action; Spiritual Growth; Program Resources and Nominating Committee are still available.



COMMUNICATIONS – DEBI LUPTON

Please share this newsletter with your UWF ladies/units and new pastors.

Share your stories, activities and pictures with the newsletter and Coastal Virginia District United Women in Faith [Facebook Page](#). We can inspire each other with the things that are happening in our units. Contact me to add your news. UWFCommunicationsDirector@gmail.com

Please send any updates to your unit board member list when you have them.

If you would like a copy of our current 2026 UWF Handbook, please email UWFCommunicationsDirector@gmail.com for an electronic copy.

Dream it. Believe it. Do it - Assembly 2026 Registration is Now Open for Assembly 2026, happening May 15–17, 2026, in Indianapolis, Indiana.

<https://assembly.uwfaith.org/website/82390/>

The United Methodist Church new vision states: “The United Methodist Church forms disciples of

Jesus Christ who, empowered by the Holy Spirit, love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously in local communities and worldwide connections.”

UWF 2026 District Calendar (will be updated as needed)

Feb 12.....UM Day at General Assembly (Richmond)
Feb 19..... Response Magazine Bible Study – Zoom Thursday
March 14.....Quarterly UWF District Meeting - Zoom
April 16..... Response Magazine Bible Study – Zoom Thursday
April 17-19... Spiritual Life Retreat - Holiday Inn Express & Suites Charlottesville/Ruckersville, VA
June 13..... Quarterly UWF District Meeting
June ?..... Pre-Conference Gathering TBD
June 17-20.. Virginia Annual Conference (Roanoke)
June 18..... Response Magazine Bible Study – Zoom Thursday
July 24-26....Mission u TBD
Aug 15..... Reports Due – Living Into Our Purpose, Reading, Membership
Aug 20..... Response Magazine Bible Study – Zoom Thursday
Sept 12..... Quarterly UWF District Meeting
Sept 18-19... Young Women’s Retreat Camp Overlook, Keezletown
Oct 15..... Response Magazine Bible Study – Zoom Thursday
Oct 24.....Annual Meeting TBD
Dec 12..... Quarterly UWF District Meeting & Installation of Officers
Dec 17..... Response Magazine Bible Study – Zoom Thursday

Topic: Response Magazine Bible Study via zoom
Meeting ID: 876 844 4496
Passcode: 9tUH8A

FYI

VA Conference Spiritual Life / Soul Care Retreat registration closes April 3

<https://www.vauwf.org/SLR>



Update on Wesley Center:

The Wesley Community Service Center, Inc. is gradually coming back to life! Tabernacle Church holds services three times a week, Miracle of Faith Evangelism Team serves hot meals every other Saturday, we have a clothes closet and a beautiful little library, and Hampton Roads Urban Agriculture is prepping for a community garden on our lot across the street. We hope to have food distribution once a week starting in July. Foodbank has proposed that Wesley Center become a hub in Portsmouth and is partnering with us to help it happen!

Monetary donations and prayers for the Center are always appreciated. We are accepting items for our clothes closet and non-perishable food donations to stock our pantry. Volunteers will be needed once more services are started. Email wesleyservicecenter@gmail.com to let us know how you want to help! Thanks for all of the support in the past year. It is helping us recover and restore services to our surrounding community.

Learn more about kits for Annual Conference session

Similar to last year, Kits for Conference will be collected at the district level prior to the June Annual Conference session. More information is forthcoming, but sites for most district collection are [now available](#). What kind of kits we Are collecting:

- [Cleaning Kits](#) (formerly known as Flood Buckets)
- [Hygiene Kits](#)
- [Feminine Hygiene Kits](#)

Memorial UMC drop of date is June 6, 11am- 2pm.

Fresh Food Wednesdays at The Gathering at Scott Memorial UMC

409 First Colonial Rd, Virginia Beach, VA, 757-428-3720

This is one of the largest food pantries in Virginia Beach.

If you would like someone from Fresh Food Wednesdays to talk to your group, contact Anne Douglas at sadoug@aol.com

For information or to sign up as a volunteer - check out -

<https://www.thegatheringatscottmemorialumc.com/fresh-food-wednesdays/>

WesleyODU, an integral part of the Old Dominion University community, is reaching out to invite you to join us in making a difference in the lives of our students. This semester we are continuing an initiative to provide a free weekly meal to students. This is one of hopefully many ways we are seeking to address food insecurity on our campus. To do that we need your help.

We are seeking partners who can either:

1. Provide a Free Weekly Meal: Your organization can choose which Tuesday to sponsor a meal for our students. This could be a wonderful opportunity to directly engage with the WesleyODU students support student well-being. Meals are offered between 12:30-2 and you are invited to spend time with the students or to drop the meal off. 2026 link will be provided soon.

2. Donate \$200: If providing a meal is not feasible, a donation of \$200 would be greatly appreciated. Your generous contribution will help us cover the costs of providing meals and ensure that no student goes hungry. Donations can be made online at wesleyodu.org or by mailing a check to 1338 49th Street Norfolk VA 23508.

There are many other ways to support the ministry. You can support through financial donations or by visiting our Amazon wish list. If you have any question or want to get connected please reach out to Director and Campus Minister Joshua McCauley at thewesleyodu@gmail.com.

Thank you for considering supporting WesleyODU and our students.



PROVIDE A LUNCH AT WESLEYODU

This semester we are continuing an initiative to provide a free weekly meal to students. This is one of hopefully many ways we are seeking to address food insecurity on our campus. To do this we need your help.

Your organization can choose which Tuesday to sponsor a meal for our students. This could be a wonderful opportunity to directly engage with the WesleyODU students and support student well-being. Meals are offered between 12:30-2 and you are invited to spend time with the students or to drop the meal off.

If providing a meal is not feasible, a donation of \$200 can be made to cover the cost of one of the meals. Donations can be made online at wesleyodu.org or by mailing a check to 1338 49th Street Norfolk Va 23508.

**EMAIL THEWESLEYODU@GMAIL.COM TO LEARN MORE
OR SCAN THE QR CODE TO SIGN UP**

Sign up here!



www.wesleyodu.org



wesleyodu.org

Wesley at ODU - Old Dominion University
Meet Tuesdays at 7:30 pm for small group
1338 West 49th Street, Norfolk, VA 23508
Pastor Joshua McCauley

thewesleyodu@gmail.com
<https://www.wesleyodu.org/>
<https://www.facebook.com/TheWesleyODU/>

Virginia Wesleyan University
5817 Wesleyan Drive
Virginia Beach, Virginia 23455
Marie Porter - Director of Campus Ministries
Phone (757) 455-3400 Cell (757)513-7716
mporter@vwu.edu
<https://www.vwu.edu/>
[Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#)

Campus Ministries is very involved in kingdom building on campus and in the community. You can follow us on Instagram at [vwucampusministries](#).

Wesley-Westminster House - Norfolk State University
2412 Corprew Ave., Norfolk, VA 23504
Rev. Dr. Joy Carrinton
Phone 757-353-5944
njoymin@aol.com
Wesleywestminsternsu@gmail.com

We meet Wednesdays at 7pm for Bible Study; twice a month we gather for Cereal Saturdays and volunteer at 3 Food distribution sites during the month. We distributed food for hundreds of families during the holidays and provided thousands of toys for children in need. We are committed to character development, spiritual growth and community service. We have more than 30 active members who participate each week.

COASTAL VIRGINIA UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH BOARD

President – Julie Kissell, 5621 Beaumont Dr., Virginia Beach, VA 23464,
757-404-1783, coastalvadistrictuwf@gmail.com

Vice-President – Open

Secretary – Open

Treasurer – Michele Kanady, 1808 Candy Lane, Chesapeake, VA 23321, 757-645-7929,
coastalvatreasurer@gmail.com

Nominations Chair – Open – we all need to help find ladies to serve for UWF

Program Resources – Open

Communications – Debi Lupton, 1661 Hawks Bill Dr, Virginia Beach, VA
23464, UWFCommunicationsDirector@gmail.com, 757-474-1328, 757-641-2221

Missions – Open

Education and Interpretation – Mary Arnold, 729 Little Neck Road, Virginia Beach, VA 23452, marnold757@verizon.net, 757-463-4713

Membership, Nurture & Outreach – Dianna Fogel, 4005 Foxwood Dr, Virginia Beach, VA 23462, 757-469-3325, diannasdecor@gmail.com

Social Action – Open

Spiritual Growth – Open

United Women in Faith National UWF website is <https://uwfaith.org/>

The Link – <https://buttondown.com/vauwf/archive/the-link-august-2025/>

Link to Reading Program - <https://uwfaith.org/resources/reading-program/>

Coastal Virginia District UMC Website: <https://coastalvadistrict.com/>

Coastal Virginia District United Women in Faith [Facebook Page](#)

View New Coastal Connection Newsletters [here](#).

To subscribe to the weekly E-Advocate Conference News (or see past issues) go to: <https://vaumc.org/e-advocate/>

Virginia Conference UWF – <https://vauwf.org>

Virginia Conference - <https://vaumc.org/>

Virginia Conference Events - <https://vaumc.org/events/>

To sign up for Virginia Conference newsletters -<https://vaumc.org/subscriptions/>

To see the conference calendar of events/classes or add an event - <https://www.umc.org/en/umc-calendar>

Coastal Virginia District Office of The United Methodist Church

Email address for Rev. F. Elizabeth Givens, District Superintendent: coastalvads@vaumc.org

Email address for Kristin Fogle, District Lay Leader: Kristin.fogle@gmail.com

Email address for Jeri Burtchell, District Administrative Manager: coastalvadistrict@vaumc.org

Email address for Rev. Victor Drummond, District Church Revitalization Coordinator - Eastern Shore: victordrummond@vaumc.org

Email address for Rev. Stephanie K. Parker, District Church Revitalization Coordinator: stephaniekimecParker@vaumc.org

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