



# The Link

May 2026

## President - Karen McElfish



president@vauwf.org

### Purpose

We are a community of women whose purpose is to know God and 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.

### Mission

United Women in Faith seeks 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.

### Vision

Turning faith, hope, and love into action on behalf of women, children, and youth around the world.

Do you have a touchstone scripture, one you turn to for sustenance, or guidance? Mine is Micah 6:8; "and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" In many ways I see this as compelling me to action in United Women in Faith!

### **Do justice.**

My first leadership position in United Methodist Women was as social action coordinator, initially for my local unit, then for the district and eventually for the conference. I loved serving in that position! We are all about serving and advocating as United Women in Faith! In fact, I would say we regularly lead the United Methodist Church at large in action for our sisters and brothers in need. Our two current social justice areas focus on racial justice and creation justice, with our "Ending the School-to-Prison Pipeline" and "Just Energy for All" campaigns.

*How is your local unit participating in these campaigns?* Perhaps you have held educational events. Or sent members to United Methodist Day at General Assembly, to meet with legislators about bills in line with our Social Principles. Has your church held an event on the Charter for Racial Justice? Are you involved in the Green Church Initiative?

### **Love kindness.**

We are women organized for mission. We have so many opportunities to be in mission and ministry as United Women in Faith, through our time and talents, to local food banks, clothes closets, community gardens and more. We have put together school kits or health kits. We have gleaned food. We have collected children's books. *How has your local unit been in mission?*

Through our Mission Giving we can serve where we might otherwise not be able to go. Our mission dollars support the National Mission Institutions around the country, including Wesley Community Service Center in Portsmouth, VA. Our

money supports international missions and regional missionaries. *Is your unit meeting its pledge to mission?* Our giving allows us to do together what we could not individually!

### **Walk humbly with God.**

We are a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ. We study together, reading scripture and stories of faith, hope and love in action, deepening our faith, strengthening our discipleship. We support one another in prayer. *Does your unit use the Daily Prayer Guide? The Program Resource book? The Reading Program?*

### **Do Justice. Love kindness. Walk humbly with God.**

We are called to be the hands and feet of Jesus, strengthened by the power of the Holy Spirit, to be in hope-filled mission with local and global communities around us, love in action!

### **Join us.**

Join us for breakfast at Annual Conference, Friday June 19th, as we focus on creation care. Join us for Mission u, July 24-26, as we focus on "Experiencing Emmanuel". Join us for the Young Women's Retreat, September 18-19. Look for more details about each of these events in this newsletter, or on our website [vauwf.org](http://vauwf.org).

Thank you.

I give thanks for the tremendous Mission Team and all the efforts they put in to make our organization strong. Special thanks to Frances Ellis for organizing a wonderful Spiritual Life Retreat April 17-19, and for all the work of the team members to help make it happen!

Karen McElfish, Conference President

## Vice President—Julia Meade ( J.M.) Gallier



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Happy Spring! As I typed this note, the past week has been an up and down of cold and warm days. Typical for April in Virginia. My prayer is the bouncing weather has not impacted you adversely.

For those of you who were unable to participate in the April Spiritual Life Retreat, you missed something special! Leigh Anne Taylor's program around healing hurts was awesomely planned to provide the maximum benefit to a diverse group, each of whom brought her own unique past experiences with her and received information which could be personalized to her maximum benefit. I truly wish each of you had experienced this event. Complementing Leigh Anne's program was the music provided by Laura Douglass & Karen McElfish, the food coordinated by Angie Sokolowski, and the many other hands providing support across the entire weekend. Frances Ellis, the mastermind behind this wonderful event, deserves an additional round of applause and lots of rest. 😊

My next wish is that each and every one of you who will be in the Harrisonburg area on June 19th will come to the joint VA Conference United Women in Faith/United Methodist Men breakfast where Jeremy Harold, an arborist with the city of Harrisonburg, will share insights into Caring for God's Creation. You do NOT have to be an Annual Conference delegate to attend the breakfast. You simply need to be in the area and interested in coming. Registration is open for this event.

One may register on the VA United Women in Faith Website or with information on the flyer attached to this newsletter. Questions? Laura Douglass is the registrar, and her contact information is on the attached flyer. Or reach out to me! We are both here to help.

You will find information on our July 2026 Mission in an article from Maria Ward so I won't go into that.

The last date you want to be sure to save is October 24, 2026, which will be the 54th Annual Meeting of the VA Conference United Women in Faith. Jenna Jones, our United Women in Faith National President, will be the keynote speaker. The event will be held at Shady Grove UMC in Mechanicsville.

I'm going to go off topic here and into Linda Porter's (Program Resources Coordinator) area. Have any of you read Finding Me: A Memoir by Viola Davis? I listened to it as an audio book about two years ago. Viola Davis herself narrates the book. It is powerful and, at times, difficult listening. I urge everyone to either read or listen to this book.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at all these upcoming VA Conference United Women in Faith sponsored program.

Blessings,

J.M. (Julia Meade) Gallier  
 Jmcg5580@gmail.com  
 540-273-8934

# God is With Us! Mission u 2026 —Maria Ward, Dean



We are excited to invite you to join us in Chesapeake this July as we learn about how people have experienced **Emmanuel – God with us** – throughout the scriptures and in our lives today. All adults ages 18 and older are invited to be with us – don't have to be United Methodists, don't have to be women.



maria.ward@gmail.com

Our terrific in-person study leaders are Ann Klotz, Joe Klotz, Debbie McDaniels, Patti Ford, Lyle Minter, Mikang Kim and Paul Oh leading in Korean, and Angie Sokolowski leading the virtual class.

You will spend Friday afternoon, evening, and all day Saturday diving deeply into scripture with your study leaders, and you will also learn about mission work in Virginia and around the world. Plus, you can weave a sleeping mat from plastic grocery bags! We will visit the revitalized Wesley Community Service Center, our UWFaith National Mission Institution in Virginia, and hear about their programs to serve the community in Portsmouth.



Here are the details:

**July 24-25 at New Creation UMC**, Chesapeake, VA  
(We'll join New Creation on Sunday morning for worship!)

Registration fees:

- In-person - \$100
- Zoom - \$30

Hotel: Holiday Inn Express & Suites Chesapeake

- Share a room with a Mission u participant for two nights: \$125
- Share a room with a Mission u participant for Friday only: \$62.50
- Single room for two nights: \$250
- Single room for Friday night only: \$125

Multiple scholarships and financial aid opportunities are available. Please reach out to your District president or registrar Laura Douglass before the registration deadline.

Ready to register? Here's the link:

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

Note: For our friends traveling from the **Eastern Shore** in the Coastal Virginia District, we have a special offer for you this year. We will reimburse you \$25 to offset some of the cost the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel toll if you have at least two Mission u participants in your car.



## Education & Interpretation— Angela Sokolowski



[sokolowski.angela@gmail.com](mailto:sokolowski.angela@gmail.com)

Hello beautiful friends! There is so much gratitude for the way God weaves our lives together as United Women in Faith. Every day, the work being done for women, children, and youth adds a vital chapter to a story that is truly lifesaving. It is a blessing to be part of this journey together.

### Our Shared Story of Giving

The heartbeat of this ministry is the way we give. While our Conference goals are ambitious, our story is truly written in small, faithful moments. To see how much of a difference your unit makes, consider the impact of our collective pledge:

- One Day: \$655.00
- One Hour: \$28.00
- Five Minutes: \$2.50

This impact flows through our six giving channels—from **Candle Burning** to **Pledge to Mission**—each one a vital sentence in the story we tell together.

### The Heart Behind the Giving

Every story has a why. During our Soul Care Retreat in April, sisters recorded short videos sharing the personal reasons they choose to give. By moving past the spreadsheets to find the real heart of our mission, these stories remind us of our collective purpose. Keep a close eye on your inbox and our website for these "Why I Give" stories.

### Coffee Chats: Writing Our Story Together

We are eager to connect in smaller spaces. Please mark your calendars for our upcoming chats designed for us to sit together and talk:

- **May 19** (Tuesday, 7:00 PM)
- **June 27** (Saturday, 10:00 AM)
- **July 21** (Tuesday, 7:00 PM)

It has been such a wonderful time meeting so many of you lately, both in

person and on screen. I want to meet all of you, so please send your upcoming gatherings!

### Discovering New Chapters at Mission u

**GET READY!** Our **Mission u** is happening **Friday, July 25th – Sunday, July 27th**. We have a chance to gather as a community for Mission u, hosted at New Creation UMC in Chesapeake, Virginia. Mission u bridges our faith and action, moving us from reflection to real-world engagement as we journey together through our study, *A Deep Knowing: Experiencing Emmanuel through Every Part of Our Lives*. You can find your copy on Amazon to begin preparing for our time together.

We are working toward a 15% increase in registration. To spark interest, keep watch for our "Mission u Inspired Me" testimonials online. Registration is open at [www.vauwf.org/missionu](http://www.vauwf.org/missionu) Whether joining in person or through Zoom, I look forward to seeing you there!

### Staying Aligned

As we look at how those stories take shape locally, the LIOP: Mission Today form is a wonderful, simple way to track our progress and ensure we stay true to our PURPOSE. For questions or to chat about the unique work your unit is doing, please reach out to me at [sokolowski.angela@gmail.com](mailto:sokolowski.angela@gmail.com) — it would be a joy to hear from you!

God of heaven, we give all honor and glory to You for the missions You have placed before us. We ask that

our eyes be opened, our hearts filled with love, and our heads filled with hope. Amen.

### **Angela Sokolowski**

Mission Coordinator for Education & Interpretation  
Virginia Conference United Women of Faith  
[sokolowski.angela@gmail.com](mailto:sokolowski.angela@gmail.com)

## Treasurer — Marty Bickford

Greetings!

Let me begin by telling you how much I appreciate your patience while I have been transitioning into the treasurer's position. I was happy to meet and greet many of the District presidents and treasurers on a Zoom call in April, which helped to ensure we're all on the same page working in mission together. I'm planning to schedule another in the near future.

For 2025, I can report that four Districts exceeded their Pledge to Mission Giving: Living Waters, Mountain View, Northern Virginia and Shenandoah River. Congratulations! Additional information regarding last year's finances will be provided in the next issue of this newsletter.

Although I'm sure the District treasurers are aware, or have started the process, this is a reminder that the annual audit of their 2025 books should be scheduled with a person who has an accounting, audit, or finance-related background. Upon completion, they should send the year-end reconciliation to me as well as their District president and executive committee. Typically, the due date is July 1.

In March, the Finance Committee recommended and the Executive Committee approved \$58,750 in grants and scholarships from the Blanton Scholarship Fund and the Craig/Burr Mission Fund, plus the Carroll H. Palmer Estate Fund (approved during the Fall submission process). These monies were awarded to support a variety of mission projects around the world in places like Bangladesh, Guatemala, Tanzania, Ukraine, and here at home. Notes have been received from many of the recipients of these grants blessing and thanking us for our generosity – it's worth repeating that "love in action can change the world."

For your information, **Mission Giving for the first quarter of 2026** from our eight Districts totaled \$67,960.23, which will be applied to our pledge of \$225,000. Let me take this opportunity to give a big shout-out to everyone who attended the Spiritual Life Retreat during the weekend

of April 17th. The offering was \$1,478, and the proceeds from the silent auction and non-auction items totaled \$1,414.80 – all for Mission Giving! Thank you, thank you for your generous donations.

Donations to the **Legacy Fund** equaled \$3,115.14 this quarter. Because of our gifts, the Conference ranks fourth among 15 in the Southeastern Jurisdiction. When the Fund was created, UWFaith, National, set the goal at \$60,000,000 to ensure that the organization is financially secure for years to come. Currently, the Fund is reporting contributions of \$53,688,310. If you would like to make a donation, the [Legacy Fund form can be found on the Conference website.](#)

Beginning September 1, applications will be accepted for two grants: the Carroll H. Palmer Estate Fund and the Kyle/Moore Memorial Scholarship Fund. Fund descriptions and the application can be found on the Conference website ([www.vauwf.org](http://www.vauwf.org)). They can also be requested from me by e-mailing treasurer@vauwf.org. Completed applications must be submitted to me no later than **October 1, 2026**. Please spread the word to anyone who may be interested in applying for this grant money to be used for the purposes set forth in the criteria.

Finally, think about becoming a Rainbow Giver. For only \$60, you can contribute to the five channels of Mission Giving: Pledge to Mission, Special Mission Recognition (gift a pin to someone special), Gift to Mission, Gift in Memory, and World Thank Offering. This donation helps your District meet its annual pledge to the Conference.

Please don't hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or need any information.

Keep the faith,

Marty Bickford  
VA Conference UWFaith Treasurer  
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treasurer@vauwf.org



treasurer@vauwf.org

**Gift to Mission and Gift in Memory cards will not be available after June 30, 2026.**

Go to [www.missionresources.org](http://www.missionresources.org) to download an order form. Call Mission Resources at 888-409-8137 or e-mail [cs@um-faithresources.org](mailto:cs@um-faithresources.org) to place an order. Payment is not required, only shipping/handling will be charged. UWFaith reports that it may be awhile before cards are offered, so order a supply that will last.

## Spiritual Growth – Frances Ellis



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Check out our retreat photos on Facebook



Fifty women from around the Virginia conference gathered April 17-19 for the Conference Soul Care Retreat.

We heard from Leigh Anne Taylor about Healing in body, mind, and spirit.

We enjoyed Beautiful music from Laura Douglass on keyboard and Karen McElfish on cello.

We learned from Margie Hernandez about the plight of immigrants and how to work with and support them.

We learned about the art of Kintsugi from Karla Kincannon and how broken parts of pottery (and people) can be mended and made beautiful and stronger.

We made wearable peace flags and aromatherapy sugar scrubs.

We had two morning meditations on Taizé music and on Caring for the Earth.

We had a 36' labyrinth available for walking and a quiet room available for prayer, meditation, and reading.

We enjoyed delicious meals and homemade desserts.

We raised almost \$2,900 for Mission Giving – half from our Sunday morning offering and half from our silent auction. (BIG thanks to all who contributed to and participated in the auction.)

We sang and danced and hugged.

Comments from the evaluations of the weekend included:

- The material presented was excellent, relevant, meaningful, timely, inspiring, exceptionally good
- Things I learned about United Women in Faith
  - Cordial, warm and accepting, spiritual and devoted, committed to missions
- Other things I enjoyed
  - Being with like-minded women
  - Seeing old friends
  - Making new friends and connections
  - Singing
  - Harp concert
  - Quiet time to sit and think
  - Fellowship
  - Respite and Recharging
  - Restored hope and energy
- Amazing weekend, Can't wait to come back next year, Much needed

What would entice **you** to attend next year? Please send me your ideas.

Frances Ellis 703-967-3667  
vauwfsg@gmail.com

## Committee on Nominations – Mary Jane Rawley

The Committee on Nominations has held monthly meetings in 2026. Some years are busier than others and 2026 is one of those busy years. We all have been taught, the CON works year round as we attend to the needs of the current year and look toward leadership in the future. We are "working" when we attend all meetings and events as we look for talent for leadership positions in the Conference.

We are truly appreciative of all of you who continue to serve. While reality dictates that things and events change in people's lives and sometimes, we must step away for a while, with hopes of one day possibly returning. Our Virginia Conference is blessed with UWF members who are gifted in lots of ways and who want to serve. Sometimes the CON needs help to find these women. Don't hesitate to reach out to a CON member with suggestions of names for future leadership roles.

I quote, "God places opportunities to serve in our paths every day. We can ignore them, dwelling on the before, or embrace them, engaging in the now with faith, commitment and love."



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This is a quote from Cornelia Wieck, Global Missionary from the United States who served in China from the Daily Prayer Guide 2022. When circumstances happened and she was unable to return to her life's work in China, that didn't stop her from serving as a missionary and she started a new project here in the USA.

Take care, friends!

Blessings,  
Mary Jane Rawley, Chair  
Committee on Nominations

## Social Action — Phyllis Geoghegan

### Social Action Campaigns/ 2025-2028

**We, United Women in Faith, continue our commitment to critical issues of justice: to end mass incarceration and criminalization of communities of color; and to work for climate justice.**



[socialaction@vauwf.org](mailto:socialaction@vauwf.org)

- For **Mission u** this July, we are collecting composition notebooks (no spiral notebooks, just the black marbled bound notebooks) and greeting cards of all kinds for The Virginia Correctional Center for Women in Goochland County. They have 500 women housed there now so we want that many notebooks, if possible. Please collect these on your districts and bring them to Mission u.
- For our **Annual Meeting** in October, we want to display trifolds from all our districts showing our actions for Climate Justice. Take pictures of your unit members, children and youth taking part in activities to fight climate change. These could be in your homes, churches, communities, on vacation (at the beach) or anywhere that an action is needed.

Suggestions from Kids Fight Climate Change by Martin Dorey are:

1. Renewable energy sources- using wind, water, the sun, and geothermal sources
  2. Make small signs throughout your home reminding family members to turn off devices that are regularly left on standby, as well as lights
  3. Recycle, repair, refill, reuse and reduce
  4. Go without eating meat at least one day a week (pictures of meatless meals)
  5. Make a water saving device for your toilet cistern
  6. Fill the dishwasher, hang clothes to dry
  7. Give activities/experiences for gifts instead of things
  8. Feed the birds
  9. Plant bee-and insect friendly flowers
  10. Ban chemicals and pesticides
  11. Use public transportation, walk or bicycle
  12. Start your own car club for church or school, pick up friends
  13. Ditch the palm oil, read labels at the market (take pictures)
  14. Eat all your meal or ask for less or a box for leftovers, if eating out
  15. Plant trees
  16. Join a wildlife group or sponsor an animal at a nature reserve
  17. Attend rallies for Climate Justice
  18. Write letters to decision makers
  19. Let your voice be heard.
  20. Pray for inspiration as to how you and your unit can work for climate justice
- **These are inter-generational projects. Let's work together, then share and inspire others. We will influence others and have a lasting impact!**

Check Phyllis' social action recommendations on the VAUWF website:

<https://www.vauwf.org/social-action>

## Membership, Nurture and Outreach— Melissa White



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I greet you on yet another beautiful Spring day from my recovery room at the Regency Rehab Center in Yorktown, VA. And again, I am so very grateful to my United Women in Faith Sisterhood for reaching out with your prayers and good wishes for my rapid recovery as well as the lovely cards sent! I appreciate each of you and am happy to report I'll be released on Tuesday, April 18th! This femur break was the most disturbing! But, with a wonderful surgeon and great care, I pray this latest lesson in aging "gracefully" will stick with me – like glue and bubble wrap!

Here are some Data Updates for us to peruse based on the 2025 National Survey which closed on March 31, 2026. I received a Preliminary Report as of March 16, 2026 showing how many Virginia units had responded by that date, our results by District were as follows:

District	Membership range	New Members	Shady Grove UWF	Membership range	New Members	Emmanuel UWF	Membership range	New Members	Shenandoah River:	Membership range	New Members
<u>Coastal VA:</u> Community, VB	51+	1-2		1-10	0		1-10	1-2	Bluemont UWF	11-50	0
Haygood	51+	3-4					11-50	1-2	Mountain Valley	1-10	0
Norfolk	1-10	0	<u>Mission Rivers:</u> St. James UWF	11-50	5+	Redwood UWF	11-50	3-4	Harmony UWF	11-50	1-2
Thalia	11-50	1-2	Colonial Beach UWF	11-50	1-2	Rustburg UWF	11-50	1-2			
			Mathews Chapel	11-50	3-4	Fort Hill UWF	11-50	0	<u>Three Notch'd:</u>		
<u>Living Waters</u> Main Street UWF	11-50	5+	Woodland UWF	1-10	1-2	Bethany, Rustburg	11-50	0	Standardsville UWF	11-50	0
Farmville UWF	11-50	1-2	Fredericksburg	11-50	3-4	Halesworth UWF	1-10	0	Huguenot UWF	11-50	0
Carson UWF	1-10	1-2	Galilee, Sterling	11-50	0	Chestnut Hill UWF	1-10	3-4	Culpepper UWF	11-50	3-4
Highland, Col. Heights	11-50	1-2	Providence UWF, York	11-50	1-2	Heritage UWF	11-50	1-2	West Louisa UWF	1-10	1-2
Lawrenceville	11-50	1-2	Tabernacle, Fredericksburg	11-50	1-2	Highland, Callaway	11-50	3-4	Powhatan UWF	1-10	0
Newsoms UWF	11-50	0				Brosville UWF	11-50	5+	Providence, Quinton	11-50	1-2
Concord UWF	11-50	0	<u>Mountain View:</u> Bethlehem, Concord	1-10	0	Lane Memorial UWF	11-50	1-2	Gum Spring UWF	11-50	1-2
Trinity, Chesterfield	11-50	1-2	Red Valley UWF	11-50	1-2				Rodes UWF	1-10	0
Mt. Carmel, UWF	11-50	1-2	Rocky Mount UWF	11-50	1-2	<u>Northern VA:</u> Friendship UWF	11-50	3-4	Centenary UMC	11-50	1-2
						Sydenstricker UWF	11-50	1-2			

Having been working on this chart for several days, I realize it tells me a little something that I didn't realize until I compared this sample from all our districts:

- 38 of 52 units (69%) fall in the 11 - 50 - member range  
*While this seems to be a big range to me, I imagine many are mid point in that range, so I believe we have a lot of life in us yet!!!*
- 33 of our reporting units show that they are adding 1 - 4 new members per year, while 3 units reported 5+! Fifteen reported 0 new members this year.  
*This gives me hope that we aren't "stagnant", we are slowly and steadily growing!*

Let me close with a reminder about the NEW Local and District Membership Forms that were sent out in March. These forms will give us the Membership Data that will be helpful to us in our **#UNSTOPPABLE MEMBERSHIP GROWTH CAMPAIGN!** Especially if it's hard to get National Survey participation, this data will help us know where we ARE, and how are we DOING in meeting Our Purpose as United Women in Faith!

Local Membership Forms are due to your District Membership, Nurture, and Outreach coordinator or your District President on April 30th, or as soon as possible so they can send me the compiled District Forms by May 30th.

These forms are found under Conference M, N, and O page on vauwf.org.

Any questions? Call or text me at 757-218-7092; mail to Melissa White, 109 Dawson Crescent, Seaford, VA 23696; email: [mel49white@yahoo.com](mailto:mel49white@yahoo.com).

PS: Hope you are making plans to invite young women (18-year-old HS grad. through 40+) to the **Young Women's Retreat at Camp Overlook, Keezletown, VA on Sept. 18 - 19, 2026!** Registration PDF is here: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1W52cayp5x7U0a-FudLlowrBQx-\\_ktjZ5/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1W52cayp5x7U0a-FudLlowrBQx-_ktjZ5/view?usp=sharing)

## Program Resources – Linda Porter

Some insight into the Reading Program from UWFaith website:

United Women in Faith's Reading Program is designed to help women of faith to achieve five key goals: lean into our spiritual growth, strengthen our leadership skills, equip ourselves for local and global mission, take faithful action for the common good, and build community in ways large and small. The books are current and cover a wide variety of topics. Participating in one of the Reading Program plans at any of the four levels, or even reading just one or two books in this catalog, can help you grow. And anyone, anywhere, can participate—whether you are a member of United Women in Faith already or just getting to know us.

### Which years of the Reading Program are eligible for reporting credit?

For 2026, books from the 2021-2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, and 2026 Reading Program lists are all eligible for Reading Program credit.

### Are there other ways to receive Reading Program reporting credit?

Yes, you can also receive Reading Program reporting credit for:

- Listening to **Faith Talks** podcast: 1 credit in Spiritual Growth for 2+ episodes,
- Listening to **Voices from the Field** podcast: 1 credit in Education for Mission for 2+ episodes,
- Reading **response** magazine: 1 credit in Nurturing Community for reading one year (6 issues),

### • Being part of a **Mission u** or **Key-hole Missiology** study:

- 1 credit in Spiritual Growth for reading a Mission u study *on your own*
- 2 credits in Spiritual Growth for joining a Mission u study *together with others, as a leader or participant*



[LindaPorter1948@gmail.com](mailto:LindaPorter1948@gmail.com)

### • Movies and television programs based on current Reading Program books are also eligible for credit. In determining credit, identify the category of the original book and apply credit for the film to the same category.

You have several options to add credit to your Reading Program list. Take advantage of them.

Two book suggestions from the 2026 Reading Program:

1. [What We Remember Will Be Saved: A Story of Refugees and the Things They Carry](#) by Stephanie Saldaña
2. [Everyday Ubuntu: Living Better Together, the African Way](#) by Mungi Ngomane

Keep reading, learning, sharing and growing as you read books from the Reading Program Book list.

Don't forget that you can borrow books from the [Conference UWFaith Lending Library](#). Children and Young Adult books are included. You can borrow 5 books, one from each category for 6- weeks.

Complete details for using the Lending Library, Linda's contact information and the Reading Program catalog can be found on the Conference UW Faith website – [vauwf.org](http://vauwf.org).

VIRGINIA UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH &amp; UNITED METHODIST MEN

## Annual Conference Breakfast

6:30AM Friday, June 19, 2026

### Dayton UMC

 215 Ashby Street  
 Dayton, VA 22821-9555

### Breakfast Buffet

- \$18.00 collected at the door
- Make check payable to VA UWF
- Indicate Gluten-Free or Vegan on registration

### Speaker: Jeremy Harold, “Caring for God’s Creation”

Registration open March 11 - June 12:

<https://forms.gle/HLvjrWHY3yz1WFjV8>

 Event registrar Laura Douglass can be reached at  
[douglass.laura.b@gmail.com](mailto:douglass.laura.b@gmail.com), 540-273-8935

 United  
 Women  
 in Faith

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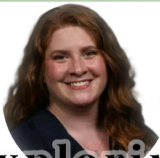
[vauwf.org](http://vauwf.org)

## YOUNG WOMEN'S EVENT

Sept. 18-19, 2026

 You are invited to spend from  
 6pm Friday to 4pm Saturday  
 finding fellowship & spiritual  
 refreshment at

### Blessings Lodge, Camp Overlook

 3014 Camp Overlook Lane,  
 Keezletown, VA 22832


### Speaker: Rev. Meredith Webb, “Uniting Women in Faith: Exploring Our History to Inspire Today!”



Registration open through Sept. 8:

<https://forms.gle/HLvjrWHY3yz1WFjV8>

 Event registrar Melissa White can be reached at  
[Mel49White@yahoo.com](mailto:Mel49White@yahoo.com), 757-218-7092

edited: May 2, 2026


 United  
 Women  
 in Faith

# Virginia Conference United Women in Faith 2026 Calendar

- May 15-17 ..... Assembly at Indianapolis, IN
- June 19 ..... UWF & UMM Annual Conference Breakfast  
6:30-8 AM, Dayton UMC**
- July 11..... Mission Team (ZOOM)
- July 24-26 ..... Mission u in Chesapeake (Coastal VA District)**
- September 18-19 ..... Young Women's Event,  
Camp Overlook in Keezletown**
- October 10 ..... Finance Committee (BUDGET) 9 AM (ZOOM)
- October 17 ..... Finance Committee (GRANTS) 9 AM (ZOOM)
- October 22 ..... Mission Team 1:30-4:30 PM (ZOOM)
- October 23..... Executive Committee 1-5 PM, Shady Grove UMC  
(Mechanicsville)
- October 24 ..... Annual Meeting 10 AM, Shady Grove UMC  
(Mechanicsville)**

<https://www.facebook.com/VAUWF>

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

## Between Us: The Story of Our Giving

**Q: I'm confused! I make an annual Pledge to Mission, but now I'm hearing about the Legacy Fund. Do I need to give to both?**

**A:** You aren't alone! Think of it as the difference between answering today's call and planting a seed for the future.

**Mission Giving (Our Current Chapter)** This is our present ministry. Through channels like your Pledge, the World Thank Offering, and Candle Burning, your gifts go to work immediately to support our missionaries and programs for women and children today.

**The Legacy Fund (Our Lasting Story)** This is our "forever" foundation. These gifts are set aside to grow, ensuring resources for our sisters decades from now. You can help write this future chapter in three ways:

- **Legacy Builder:** A monthly gift of \$18.69 (a nod to our founding year).
- **1869 Society:** Including our mission in your will or estate plan.
- **Friend of Legacy:** A one-time major gift.

**The Bottom Line** We rely on our Pledge and other mission channels to keep our daily work active. The Legacy Fund is a special, additional way to ensure our community stays strong for the next generation. Both are beautiful ways to serve—they simply work on different timelines!

*Have a question for this column? We want to hear what is on your mind! Send your thoughts to Angela Sokolowski at [sokolowski.angela@gmail.com](mailto:sokolowski.angela@gmail.com). Your question may be featured in a future edition as we learn and grow together.*

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### Calling all bold, spiritual women.

We are United Women in Faith, 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 invite you to join us, because love in action can change the world.

