



**First-Centenary
United Women in Faith
July 2025**



President's Message

WOW! We're halfway through the year, and finally the dust is settling around all the change within the United Methodist Church. We now know that most of the Hiwassee District Churches will become part of the Scenic South District. There will be new faces and new UWF sisters who will bring fresh ideas and opportunities to do the work of United Women in Faith here and wherever we are needed as we get to know each other.

I don't know how aware you are, but from my perspective I see First-Centenary as a shining example of what UWF should be. We seek to grow in spirit, in service and in advocacy for marginalized women, children and youth. Some of us are called to actively engage in service and advocacy; others are called to engage through prayer and financial support. I see the wisdom of age and the idealism of youth come together for God's work. I hope we will take all our best into this new opportunity and challenge.

On a personal note I want to thank our Leadership Team for taking care of business while I was recently ill. A special thanks to Denise Bell for organizing and leading our July meeting.

And finally, I want to ask for your help. Our District did not lose many churches to disaffiliation, but the losses we experienced have impacted our total giving. I can assure you that our First-Centenary unit will meet our pledge (\$6000), but it may be that the District will not meet its pledge to mission this year unless members dig a little deeper to give. If you feel led to increase your giving you can give through your Circle or directly to our Treasurer, Sally Richardson, and designate your gift for the District Pledge. To be reminded how our pledges are used check out this link:

<https://uwfaith.org/members-and-leaders/financial-stewardship/>

With love and faith,
Donna

Save the Date!



Dear Holston Clergy and Laity,

We invite you to *Save the Date* for your upcoming District Day with Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett.

This year's theme is: ***Together in New Beginnings***

Bishop Wallace-Padgett will be casting vision and leading conversations about what it means for our local churches, districts, and Holston Conference as a whole to look to the future, explore new ways to minister to our communities, and continue our shared mission of developing Passionate Spiritual Disciples and Passionate Spiritual Leaders.

In addition to hearing from and spending time with our Bishop, Holston Conference staff will share tools, resources, and practical ideas to help your church live into these new beginnings.

But most importantly, we want to hear from you.

During our time together, we'll break into small groups to discuss:

- *What are you most excited about in and for your church?*
- *What are you dreaming for your church, and what resources could your district and conference staff provide to help?*
- *What deep needs exist in your community, and what new beginnings could you explore to meet those needs?*

District Day Dates

- August 25 – Clinch Mountain District
- August 26 – New River District
- September 8 – Tennessee Valley District
- September 22 – Appalachian District
- November 17 – Scenic South District
- November 18 – Smoky Mountain District

Be on the lookout for more details from your district office, including the specific time and location of your gathering.

Register Now: July Linking Laity for Empowerment with Rev. Dr. Susan Arnold



Dear Holston Friends,

We invite you to join us for the next **Linking Laity for Empowerment** gatherings on:

Choose from two available sessions:

- **Tuesday, July 22 at 7:00 p.m.**
- **Thursday, July 24 at 7:00 p.m.**

Location: Zoom (link will be provided upon registration)

This month, we welcome **Rev. Dr. Susan Arnold**, who will lead us in a conversation about the **new district realignment in the Holston Conference**. Susan will share:

- What led to district realignment
- How we're moving from 9 districts to 6
- How this change positions us to be a stronger, more connectional church

Each session will include a breakout time for further discussion and reflection.

Register today to receive your Zoom link in the confirmation email.

[Register Now](#)

We hope to see you there!

Blessings,

Becky Hall

Holston Conference Lay Leader



New Holston Conference UWF Facebook Group



Hello, Holston United Women in Faith.

Great news! The Holston Conference United Women in Faith now has a **new Facebook group!**

This is your space to stay updated on news, upcoming events, spiritual growth opportunities, and inspiring stories from across the conference. Whether you're looking to connect, be encouraged, or stay informed, this group is for *all of us*. It's a public page, so you can join anytime and invite others, as well.

Join the group [here](#).

Let's grow together in faith and fellowship. We can't wait to see you there.

Blessings,

Kelly Price

Communications Coordinator

Holston Conference United Women in Faith

Check out some familiar faces in the July/August issue of Response Magazine:

BRIGHTLIGHTS



United Women in Faith members Donna Mosby (center) and Donna Palmer participate in the Education for All Rally, March 30, in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Successfully Advocating in Tennessee

by **DONNA M. MOSBY**

A harmful bill that sought to deny undocumented children access to public education in Tennessee is officially dead for the 2025 legislative session, thanks to the efforts of United Women in Faith members and other justice advocates in Tennessee.

Media outlets in April reported that the bill, HB 793, would not be heard—a direct result of the incredible advocacy efforts of people across Tennessee.

Many faithful members of United Women in Faith in Tennessee stood firmly in the fight against this bill, joining with organizations such as Tennessee Immigrant & Refugee Rights Coalition, Education for All Tennessee, EdTrust-Tennessee, and others, along with concerned parents, educators, faith leaders, business owners, and countless Tennesseans who spoke out with clarity and

conviction. This win is a testament to what faithful, justice-rooted advocacy can accomplish.

However, we remain vigilant. Until the legislative session gavel out, we know that bills like this can resurface in the final hours. We're not letting our guard down and plan to stay ready and committed to stand in the gap for justice.

As stated by Tennessee Immigrant & Refugee Rights Coalition, HB0793 was not an isolated attack. It is part of a broader, troubling pattern of proposals that target vulnerable communities and undermine public education, while failing to address the real needs that would make Tennessee a more affordable, healthier, and more just place to live for all who call this state home.

Today, we celebrate. Tomorrow, we continue the work. 🌱

Donna M. Mosby is a member of the Holston Conference United Women in Faith.

Volunteer opportunities:



[SIGN UP HERE](#)

Pack Day

July 19th at 8:30 a.m. at the Chattanooga Area Food Bank

It may be the end of the school year, but The Nehemiah Project is already gearing up for BACK TO SCHOOL 2025! We are thrilled to kick off our 25th year of serving students and families across our community. Thanks to your incredible support over the years, you've helped impact the educational journey of more than 130,000 students—what an amazing legacy!

This year, we're packing 10,000 backpacks at the Chattanooga Area Food Bank, 2009 Curtain Pole Rd, Chattanooga, TN, on Saturday, July 19. We'll start at 8:30 a.m. and keep going until every single backpack is stuffed. Lunch is also on us!

Remember: closed-toed shoes and comfy clothes—this is a warehouse environment.

Our biggest supply need is 24-count Crayola Crayons. Any donations can be dropped off at the Welcome Center leading up to July 18th.

Fundraising Opportunities for Assembly 2026!

United Women in Faith Assembly 2026 will be taking place in Indianapolis, Indiana next May. If you think you'd like to attend Assembly next spring, but money is an issue, you can help raise money by helping with parking. We want to send as many members as we can. Click the links below to learn more about upcoming parking opportunities and Assembly.



Volunteers needed to Help with Parking

We'll be collecting parking payments in the church lots during two performances of Les Miserables on **7/25/25 & 7/26/25 from 7:00-8:30pm**

Click on the link to sign up:

[**SIGN UP HERE**](#)

[**CLICK HERE to
learn more about
Assembly 2026**](#)

**Dream it!
Believe it!
Do it!**



CALEB Updates

Upcoming Events:

Public School Strong Orientation:

Mon 7/21/25 7:00-8:30pm Virtual ([Register Here](#))

Do you want honest, equitable and fully-funded public schools in Tennessee? Join public school parents and supporters from across the state to learn how to make this vision a reality.

Press Conference: Deadly Silence - What's Happening Inside Our Jail:

Tues 7/22/25 12:30pm @ Courthouse Steps 600 Market Street
([Register Here](#))

Join us as we expose deadly conditions in our jail, share stories of loss, and call for real solutions and accountability.

Interested in learning more about CALEB?

Reach out to Donna Palmer (dsbpsych@gmail.com) or Hayley Little (hayleyklittle@gmail.com) for more information!



Creation Care Circle

- Devotional Hike on 7/29/25 @ 1:30 pm. We will be meeting at the Chickamauga Dam. Tony Smith is leading the hike and you can reach out to him with any questions at hemingway999999@gmail.com

Chris Bowles Circle

- The next meeting will be Tuesday July 15th 10:30am-12:00pm in the Morgan Classroom

Susannah Wesley Circle

- The next meeting is 7/14/25 at Jeanne Rybolt's house
- Call Judy McCready if you are interested in visiting, (423) 883-9922.

Interested in learning more about our small groups? [Click here](#) for more information!

Suggested Readings & Learning Opportunities

We Have Work to Do

Read Sally Vonner's [July/August response](#)

United Women in Faith Calls for Action in the Wake of the Texas Flood Tragedy

[Read Here](#)

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