



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



President's Message

As this month's message I'm sharing our UWF report to the church council:

United Women in Faith Report to Church Council, August 20, 2025

Our unit is using the somewhat quieter summer to plan for the coming year and beyond. We want to establish our Vision and design our actions to match that Vision. At this point we are brainstorming and attempting to consolidate our ideas. Our hope is that every decision and every action will align with that Vision.

Some of the themes emerging from discussion: more organized outreach to women within F-C; connecting with and collaborating with other UM Churches to support our new, larger District; focusing on UMC social principles and UWF social action; providing more hands-on opportunities for service; and deepening spiritual growth.

Since our last Church Council meeting our unit hosted the CALEB General Meeting and gave a presentation about our church, our UWF, and how our Christian beliefs and practices align with the social justice goals of CALEB.

We were fortunate to be able to send 2 UWF members to the Children's Defense Fund Hall-Proctor Institute during July. Camille (Mason) Rambajue and Cheri Harr were inspired by their experience and returned with wonderful ideas which they shared with our unit. (Power Point attached)

In September through CALEB we will be supporting whole-school restorative practices training at Hardy Elementary School, and we will also be training all Hamilton County Schools pre-k teachers. In October training will begin at Hixson Elementary. In October the International Institutes of Restorative Practices will hold its world-wide conference here in Chattanooga, and our CALEB Educational Taskforce will be doing a workshop.

Finally, as the Scenic South District emerges in its new, larger configuration, there are many challenges, but also lots of opportunity in coming months. We hope to do our part in connecting with new friends in overcoming challenges and taking advantage of new opportunities.

Please keep us and our District in your prayers.

With love and appreciation for our church and your support.

Donna Palmer
President

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.



children's defense fund

UWF members Camille Rambajue and Cheri Harr had the opportunity to attend the Hall-Proctor Institute this summer. While there, they learned from many great preachers on topics such as transformative justice and asset based community development. They also enjoyed in fellowship with other United Women in Faith and community members!



Use this QR code to check out some of the music they enjoyed throughout the weekend

Call to Action: Did you know that approximately 37 million children in this country are covered by Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)? Reach out to your lawmakers to let them know that the cuts that Congress voted for will negatively affect roughly half of all of the children in this country! Use this [easy to follow template](#) to contact your representatives today.



WE ARE CALLING ON OUR VILLAGE TO STAND IN THE GAP!

The Read to Lead Academy has become a lifeline for students in our community. Due to sudden cuts in state and federal funding, we are facing a \$60,000 shortfall this fall. Without urgent support, this program, which serves 60 children each week, could be drastically reduced. Your gift helps us with the daily cost of each student and keeps this critical program going.

One Day

\$40

One Full Month

\$320

**An Entire
School Year!**

\$1500

[DONATE HERE](#)



LAUNDRY PODS NEEDED!

Help families keep some clothes clean, donations can be dropped off in the welcome center and labeled with Mustard Tree Ministries.



Laundry Pods Needed

For the past few weeks, the Mustard Tree Ministries have been taking laundry pods to people in the College Hill Courts. We are met over and over again with gratitude and "Thank you Jesus's" over a baggie of 4 laundry pods. You can't buy laundry detergent with food stamps. Kathleen coupons and she is able to get three bags for \$20, but 3 bags doesn't go far. If you would like to help families keep some clothes clean, we would truly appreciate any donations of laundry pods for the effort. Thanks again for the support in our endeavor to build bridges into the community.

Donations can be dropped off in the welcome center and labeled with Mustard Tree Ministries.

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. Stay tuned for emails with upcoming parking dates!

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

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



CALEB Updates

Upcoming Events:

Public School Strong Orientation:

Mon 9/15/25 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.

Statewide School Board Surge

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

Join us at the upcoming September school board meeting where we're looking to show out in numbers as part of a solidarity action, as folks will be packing their school boards across the state. Interested in speaking? Reach out to Hayley Little for more details.

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

- Monthly general meeting on 8/20/25 @ 6:30 pm in the Conference Room

Chris Bowles Circle

- The next meeting is on 8/26/25 from 10:30 - 12 pm in the Morgan Classroom. They will be discussing Diana Butler Bass' *Grateful: The Subversive Practice of Giving Thanks*

Susannah Wesley Circle

- 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!



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



CHURCH & SOCIETY

The United Methodist Church

Living**FAITH** Seeking**JUSTICE** Pursuing**PEACE**

Did you know that the UMC has a long history of social justice work? Have you ever wanted to get involved in that work but didn't know where to start?

If so, check out this incredible resource:

The General Board of Church and Society of the UMC provides a newsletter full of insights into social justice issues, inspiring stories, and actionable steps to make a difference in our churches, communities, country, and the world. It's a meaningful way to stay informed and connected to efforts for justice and peace that's driven by our United Methodist Social Principles.

If you'd like to join this community and receive the newsletters, you can [sign up here](#)

Suggested Readings & Learning Opportunities

We Have Work to Do

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

Our Shared Humanity - from the UMC Church & Society Newsletter

[Read Here](#)

If the Foundations are Destroyed What Can the Righteous Do? Psalm 11:3-4 [Read Here](#)

Subscribe to [response magazine](#) to read articles by UWF members from around the globe

Check out the UWF Podcast and Webinar [portfolio](#)