



United
Women
in Faith

UMW

NOVA NOTES



ALEXANDRIA & ARLINGTON BI-DISTRICT UMW CELEBRATING WOMEN IN ARLINGTON, ALEXANDRIA, FAIRFAX, FALLS CHURCH, LOUDOUN, & PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTIES AUGUST 2022

PURPOSE

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN
shall be a community of WOMEN
whose PURPOSE is to know GOD
and to 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.

It is August 2022.

In August, many of us think of taking a vacation. Many of us dream of going somewhere undiscovered; to do something new or different or exciting. Any break from the ordinary can change our perspective, teach us or, hopefully, inspire us.

The day I sat down to write this, my mailbox held the renewal notice for my “**response** magazine.” I pulled out a recent issue and thumbed thru the pages to see articles that allowed me to stay-cation yet to get all the advantages of a getaway vacation! There was the article on South Korean UMW women establishing a retirement home for the few remaining Korean Conflict “comfort women.” In another back issue, there was a UMW unit setting up a food station for immigrants crossing the Texas border and never asking legal or illegal. I recalled the March, 2022 article about the Albuquerque, New Mexico UMWs establishing “**New Beginnings**” on the Navajo Reservation to create a safe haven with new trailers for housing women, men and families escaping abuse and trauma. Earlier in this year, as our UMW began the name change to **United Women of Faith**, I reread some history of where we came from back to 1869. Then read forward thru

many markers of campaigns for voting, for equality and, more recently, for justice.

Each article, picture, caption, paragraph took me to new places, introduced me to different missions, and showed me women making exciting changes. Suddenly I had my stay-cation and proof that my UMW mission dollars are well spent.

I challenge each of us to take August to look at the mission work of our UMW, soon to be UWF all around us!



Prayer: Dear Lord, Bless the many ways our UMW/UWF sisters are the hands and feet of your Son our Jesus. Bless each of us with strength of commitment, and courage to continue in any and all ways, big and small for Women, Children and Youth. Amen

~Martha Anne Lee, St. Matthew's UMW/UWF, District Spiritual Officer



Needed by October 27
Donations to Support the
Christmas Gift Ministry at the
Fluvanna Correctional Center for Women

This wonderful Christmas gift ministry for the incarcerated women at the Fluvanna Correctional Center for Women in Troy, Virginia, is sponsored through GraceInside, Virginia's Prison Chaplain Service. Each inmate at the correctional center receives the gifts listed below.

If you are interested in supporting this ministry, please drop off your donations at St. John's UMC (5312 Backlick Road in Springfield) between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Monday – Thursday on or prior to October 27th. Thank you in advance for your kindness and generosity. Questions may be directed to Marty at martybickford121@outlook.com.

GraceInside is a non-profit organization that provides Chaplains to Virginia correctional facilities

Here's a complete list of the approved donations. Please note that the correctional center does not permit ANY substitute or additional items.

- 1) Hygiene Items (place in a gallon zip lock bag)
 - One individually wrapped toothbrush (must be in original container)
 - One tube of toothpaste, 6 oz. (must be in original container)
 - One deodorant stick, 2.6 oz. - no spray or roll-on (as close to 2.6 oz. as possible but no larger)
 - One bottle of shampoo, 15 oz. (as close to 15 oz. as possible but no larger)
 - One bottle of lotion, 15 oz. (as close to 15 oz. as possible but no larger)

- 2) Greeting Cards and Stationery Items
 - Christmas and Hanukkah cards and greeting cards for all occasions. Please avoid purchasing cards that contain aluminum foil on the card or envelope flap.
 - Stationery items – writing paper of any size and envelopes either 3 5/8 x 6 1/2" or 4 1/8 x 9 1/2".
 - Forever postage stamps - used to send donation acknowledgement letters. Please place them in a separate zip lock bag.
 - Wooden pencils (unsharpened)

- 3) Money Contributions. For donors who wish to contribute money, please make your check payable to "GraceInside" and write "FCCW Resource Fund" in the Memo section. These funds are used to purchase any shortages of Christmas gift items and to support inmates in other ways, such as providing classroom materials; furnishing worship supplies; or paying travel expenses for funeral or deathbed visits. Please mail all checks to GraceInside, 2828 Emerywood Parkway, Richmond, VA 23294.



We are all part of God’s story! The 2022-23 Program Resource shows how we can answer our calling today as women of passion committed to helping women, children, and youth.

The programs are grounded in Mark 8:27–30 as an invitation to reclaim and explore our identity as children of God and as a community of women of faith. The monthly Bible studies, reflections, program activities, and weekly activities to do on your own between each program will help guide us through the year as we look at who we are in Christ and what that means for how we live in community as United Women in Faith members called to action in local and global communities.

The 2022-23 Program Resource is available for \$14.99 in print and digital options. The digital Program Resource is available on **Mighty Networks** and includes embedded video content, an online community of United Women in Faith members, and exclusive access to monthly Community Gatherings on Zoom with Ilka Vega, author of the 2022-23 Program Resource.

*[Click here](#) to purchase a **physical** copy of the Program Resource. (https://www.umwmissionresources.org/shopping_product_detail.asp?pid=53528)

*[Click here](#) to purchase a **digital** copy of the Program Resource. (https://uwfaith.mn.co/plans/225355?bundle_token=1d000cd1a4998278facf14761a989894&utm_source=manual)

If you *have already* set up your Mighty Networks account you can find the digital Program Resource in the “Resources” section or [click here](#) to purchase your copy.

If you purchase a physical copy of the Program Resource you can **add** the digital Program Resource for only \$5!

(A special promotional link will follow upon completion of your order of the 2022-2023 Program Resource.)

We hope you will join us as we explore this “Mosaic of Faith” and discover the ways that we are all part of God’s story.



VAUMW Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/VAUMW/>

On this FB page I want to point out a video in a post that caught my eye and my heart: scrolling down the site I saw “Racial Justice” Webinar in Memory of UMW member Karen Booker <https://fb.watch/ex4CRgAXAk/>

A Look at UWF-UMW SCHOLERSHIPS international recipient:

Ever wonder about what positive results from the scholarships given out by United Women in Faith (UMW)? August is often the start of school for college students and for the younger children in the Fairfax County area and surrounding areas. For myself and my own children when they were attending FCPS schools the start of the school year was always the day after Labor Day. Now the times are a-changin' so the school year starts are often earlier than before. Those UWF scholarships are going to be put to good use by the recipients soon! On the UWF website there is information about an international UWF scholarship recipient:



Profile of an Africa University Scholar: Geovania Goncalves

Geovania Da Graca Goncalves, 23, will graduate with a bachelor's degree in international relations from Africa University in June 2023. She plans to become one of "tomorrow's Like many of the United Women in Faith scholars studying at Africa U. Goncalves comes from a low-income family, who were unable to fund her college education. She has eight siblings, and her parents are unemployed due to COVID."

Goncalves is particularly motivated to right the wrong she sees in her home country of Angola where "a single politician may make one million dollars a year for himself, whereas 73 percent of Angolans, about 60 million people, live on less than \$1.90 a day. "Goncalves describes herself as a highly sensitive person who feels deeply "someone else's pain, sorrow, sadness, emotion, and hopelessness."

This scholarship helped me overcome several obstacles, the main one being covering my full school fees. This scholarship allowed me to dedicate more time to my studies and get my degree as soon as possible. As a result, this semester my grades have improved. For now, I would very much like to thank you for the opportunity given to me by United Women in Faith." <https://uwfaith.org/latest-news/2022/a-philosophy-based-on-the-good/>

United Women in Faith Scholars

In 2022, United Women in Faith provided approximately 137 scholarships to students in the U.S. and around the world, totaling close to \$400,000. Within that total, slightly more than \$85,000 is given to 16 students who attend Africa University (Africa U).

Has your Northern Virginia UWF-UMW given scholarships over the past years? Has your UWF researched or followed up with the recipients? Let others know the many stories of God's blessings and of the growth in their lives with the use of the scholarships. If they are not already UWF members, you can personally invite them again to be your church's UWF/UMW!



Reminder for ***NoVA Notes***, our new Bi-District newsletter for the Alexandria and Arlington Districts! We will distribute this newsletter monthly to keep you informed of what's happening with the ***United Women in Faith*** in our area. In this newsletter, you can watch for news about upcoming events both in the districts and the Virginia Conference. We would love to hear from you! Let us know what your unit has planned for the 2022 September church-year-opening so we can share with our sisters in Christ. **Please send the information for the newsletter by the 20th of the month.** We NEED your NoVA events information! You can send your stories and news to our new e-mail address: UMWNoVaNotes@gmail.com.

Thank you!
Carol Pratt



The United Methodist Creation Justice Movement is providing these Tips as a tool to equip church members, families, and individuals to respond to God's call to care for creation and do justice.

Tips for August 2022

August's Tips identify ways you too can create a legacy. Ultimately, our legacy is who we are. Consider the bolded verbs below. Make a list for yourself for your fridge or one for your green team that starts with

"We are people who..."

Preserve: When you find something amazingly wonderful, take care to keep it that way! What you do for creation care is your legacy.

Conserve: When you realize something wonderful is being chipped away, take action to stop the damage. Visit the Nature Conservancy website.

Restore: When you see major damage to God's creation, do everything you can to fix it. For example, find ways to plant trees either on your own land or worldwide.

Regenerate: When you despair over degradation, remember "The earth is the LORD's (Psalm 24:1)" and dig in with hope. Work in harmony with God's natural systems to bring back life. Composting, clearing waterways, planting or pollinators are ways.

Renew: Immerse yourself in nature. Try forest bathing, hiking, enjoying a park, hunting for waterfalls and wildflowers, going to a botanical garden or arboretum, getting out on the water in a sailboat, kayak, or canoe. Renew your commitment to care for the nature that renews you.

Designate: Put responsibility where it belongs. Some environmental actions are the obligation of us as individuals. Others are the onus of corporations, businesses, and governments. All of us are accountable for our actions and non-actions for the areas for which we have responsibility. Know the Top Twelve Actions for everyone.

Legislate: Tackle the big problems with big action. If you can't handle the issue by yourself, we collectively can do it! Organize, donate, speak up, vote. Sign Action Alerts from the Creation Justice Movement or United Women of Faith. Make change happen.

Invest: What you choose to use your money for makes a difference. Even small “investments,” such as purchases of organic food and items that are not plastic count, as well as any other outlay of your money, time, or effort that contributes to a healthier planet and to justice for all who live here.

Divest: Get rid of “stuff.” Shed the burden of the consumerism mentality. Pull out of investments in fossil fuels. Choose simplicity and what’s good for the planet.

Teach: Children observe continuously. Teaching younger generations through words, expectations, and especially by example to care for God’s creation and to seek justice is a special legacy. “Train children in the right way, and when old, they will not stray” (Proverbs 22:6).

For more about the UM Creation Justice Movement, go to umcreationjustice.org. United Methodist Creation Justice Movement is providing these Tips as a tool to equip church members, families, and individuals to respond to God's call to care for creation and do justice with our neighbors. For more about the UM Creation Justice Movement, go to umcreationjustice.org.

Song of the Earth Movement

by [umcjnews](#) | Jul 25, 2022 | [Blog](#), [Callings](#), [Networking](#), [News](#), [Season of Creation](#)

