

THE Link Newsletter | April 2024

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF TRINITY UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

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Mark Your Calendars

April **A Call to Prayer Offering**

- 4 Leadership Team Mtg 7 pm Zoom
- 20 *The Link* articles due
- 28 Sunday General meeting: Spiritual Growth service. Call to Prayer.
In the Chapel at 3:00

May **Recognize Graduating Seniors**

- 2 Leadership Team meeting
- 15 Submit SMR nominations to Cheryl Osborn
- 19 Sunday, General meeting. Speaker-Sunday in-person.
2:15 Meet and Greet, Program at 2:30, Rm 232
- 20 *The LINK* articles due



President's message *Ruth Gottschall, Co-President*

Our Trinity UWF Unit recently hosted a very successful North Central District (NCD) Spiritual Enrichment Day in our Youth Building. This day involved lots of planning, emails, coordination, and most of all, women willing to volunteer to help with all the tasks required to host a District meeting. I want to thank all those who attended and helped in any way, whether you directed people to the building, greeted them when they came in, helped register them, or brought food. Each person adds to the success of the event. We are fortunate to have so many willing to help where and when needed. In this message, I also want to recognize those that serve not only in our Trinity UWF but are District leaders as well. Current NCD Officers from our unit are Linda Cook, Secretary/Communications; Sandy Kramer, Treasur-

er; and Marie Samec, Social Action/Education and Information Coordinator. In previous years, Jeanine Christian served as NCD President; Jahala Stirling, Spiritual Growth Coordinator; and Jackie Blinn, Treasurer. If I've missed any other NCD officers, I'm sorry. I've been a member about 10 years, and these are the ones I remember. Thanks again for answering the call...
"Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!" Isaiah 6:8 (NRSV)

Spiritual Enrichment Day March 16

On March 16th Trinity Unit of the United Women in Faith was honored to welcome all UWF members from the North Central District to our campus to celebrate Spiritual Enrichment Day. Spiritual Enrichment Day is an annual event which gives members an opportunity to expand our spiritual growth. This special day served as our March General Meeting. The Youth Building was filled with over 60 people from many of the units in the District as well as members of our own unit.

UWF district president Jane Darling welcomed participants to the event and served as our hostess. Dr. Lorraine Mayfield-Brown from the Oakhurst United Women in Faith was guest speaker, who presented a program entitled "UWF Faith: Being an Instrument of Change." Dr. Mayfield-Brown is an adjunct faculty member of St. Petersburg College, with a background in sociology and particular interests in stratification, social movement, social justice, teen pregnancy, and family issues. As an avid reader she encouraged participants to take advantage of the reading program provided by Trinity's UWF and specifically recommended several books on our cart, such as *The 1619 Project* and *I'm Methodist, I'm Christian, I'm Black*. Dr. Lorraine Mayfield-Brown has served in leadership positions at the local and district levels of the organization. She has been a participant and a study leader in the former School of Christian Mission and has been a study leader at Mission u for the last 4 years. In 2023, Dr. Mayfield-Brown served as a national Mission u Trainer for Living the Kingdom. She is currently the Assistant Dean of Mission u.



The Special Mission Project for the event was the collection of sanitary napkins, ultra-thin, super long, unscented. They will be sent to UMCOR with special designation for use in Florida. After a savory luncheon provided by Missi Newbauer, many of the attendees enjoyed a leisurely walk on Trinity's lovely campus. *Elaine Robinson*

A Call to Prayer Offering *Donna Buhi Spiritual Growth Coordinator*

The Call to Prayer Offering is an expression of our individual commitment as we celebrate our annual "Quiet Day". The Call To Prayer general meeting on April 28th is a service which calls for each member to be in an attitude of prayer and willing to share, even if this means a personal sacrifice. Your selfless giving joins the generosity of others who lift their hearts and hands to God to raise the voices of those impacted by climate crises. Gifts to A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial 2024 will support programs for climate justice put into action by United Women in Faith. Call to Prayer Offerings can also be collected at the April Circle meetings since some members cannot attend General meetings. When you give you join a movement to support work that equips and mobilizes members and communities to take action for just energy for all.



Sunday, April 28, 2024

3:00 pm at Trinity Chapel

A CALL TO PRAYER SERVICE

As stewards of God's creation, you're invited to attend A Call to Prayer Service being held on Sunday, April 28, at 3 pm in the Trinity Chapel. Donna Buhi, our UWF Spiritual Coordinator, is planning a beautiful service to inspire us to take action in our daily lives and community regarding climate justice.

The Trinity Unit is excited to host this uplifting service and bring awareness to this important issue that impacts all of God's people and creation. Invitations have been extended to several UWF units in the Gainesville area to join us. **Come gather, pray, reflect, and put your faith into action.** See you on Sunday, April 28, at 3 pm in the Trinity Chapel. After the service, an optional prayer walk will take place on the Trinity grounds.

For UWF, the impact of climate change and protecting God's creation and those who are disproportionately affected by the climate crisis is more than our belief; it is one of core principles and a matter of justice.

This yearly event is a faith-filled time when we assemble with lifted hearts and hands to celebrate selfless giving for a common cause and spiritual communion with God. A Call to Prayer 2024 offering will support the ongoing climate justice work of United Women in Faith's (UWF) National Office.



United
Women
in Faith

"For where two or three
gather in my name, there
am I with them."

--Matthew 18:20 NIV

Trinity United Women in Faith has a NEW WEBSITE

April
time for a change

<https://trinitygnv.org/uwf>

Our UWF web page is now easier to find on the Trinity website and new information is now available. To visit the UWF web page, you can click on this link, www.trinitygnv.org/uwf

Another way to reach our web page is to go to the Trinity website, [Trinity United Methodist Church \(trinitygnv.org\)](http://Trinity United Methodist Church (trinitygnv.org)), click on Ministries, scroll down and click on Women's Ministries, then scroll down and click on the "Learn More" button.

There you will find the following:

- Updated Information
- New Photos
- New Member Registration Form
- LINK Newsletter
- Share Thoughts and Prayers
- New Resources
 - UWF Daily Prayer Guide
 - UWF Podcast & Webinars
 - Upper Room Daily Devotional

Please help us get the word out and share the link(s) with your friends.

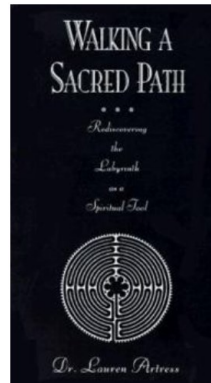
Devotion *Donna Buhi, Spiritual Growth Coordinator*

As I'm sure you have noticed, the grounds at Trinity will soon be blessed with a Labyrinth! Construction is underway, and we will have an opportunity to walk this sacred path. In our February General Meeting, Ann Abbott, on behalf of the Labyrinth Committee, presented some history of the labyrinth, guidelines for walking, and the personal experiences that may result.

A CALL TO PRAYER AND SELF-DENIAL takes place on April 28 at 3:00 in the chapel. That gathering will conclude, weather permitting, with a walk to the labyrinth, complete or still in progress.

A passage in WALKING A SACRED PATH by Lauren Artress says... "My journey in the labyrinth yielded far more than I had expected. I experienced the walk itself as such a wonderful metaphor for the way I walk my days: just as it was meant to be. Trusting/not trusting in the path, my ability to follow it, whether it was the "right" one, (standing) in the center and listening to the word "open" pulse through me. Although the words of the messages (or the silence) we receive vary greatly, at root I believe all the wisdom leads us to one place: healing, connection and love for all of life."

Romans 6:3-4 Or don't you know that all who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore, we were buried together with him through baptism into his death, so that just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too can walk in newness of life.



North Central District Social Action

Menstrual hygiene kits ("Period Packs") will be assembled at Mission u this July in Lake Mary for The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). UMCOR states, "The U.S is facing a tampon shortage and record high inflation, making it difficult for many to afford basic necessities, including period products". Each kit includes one bar of soap, hand sanitizer, travel wet wipes, travel pack of flushable wipes, laundry detergent packs, 10 tampons, 10 sanitary napkins, and trash bags.

Our North Central District is responsible for the unscented, long super, ultra-thin pads sanitary napkins/pads. We met our minimum quota thanks to donations brought to the Spiritual Enrichment Day at Trinity March 16. Anything over and above will go to Mission u so we can assemble as many kits as possible. Those who still wish to donate are welcome to do so. Please notify Marie at samecmm@aol.com or 352-317-6729. Liners and non-qualifying pads collected were donated to Peaceful Paths, our local domestic violence shelter. *Marie Samec*



UWFaith Education & Interpretation *Marie Samec E&I Coordinator*

Training for E & I mission coordinators was provided on March 8th by Shannon Priddy. She serves as Executive for Financial Interpretation and Mission Giving, UWFaith National Office and is based in Indianapolis, IN. We were told although the job of E & I hasn't necessarily changed, the expectation has changed.

The ultimate job is to share the *impact* of each woman's gifts, educating our members and others on where our money goes, and fundraising. There are similar duties and responsibilities in other leadership roles, but E & I is more outward focused.

Our Christian organization supports programs in the United States and around the world that improve life for women, children and youth and their communities. I plan to share each month about where the money comes *from* to fund these programs, as well as where the money *goes*. I will highlight various programs, services, and resources.

All resources, natural and financial, are from God. Earth Day 2024 is April 22nd. Our Call to Prayer service on April 28th will focus on our UWFaith Climate Justice priority issue.

Education and Leadership Development + Spiritual Growth and Nurturing Opportunities are some of the areas where our money goes. **Mission u** helps educate and equip us for our world, as well as providing nourishment for our souls! Please consider attending in-person or virtually in July! Go to <https://flconfuwf.org/2024-mission-u> for all the information. Please contact me with any questions anytime.



Lois Hogg

September 21, 1929-March 11, 2024

Trinity United Women in Faith lost a precious member this month. Lois Hogg was a gracious Southern lady with a gentle smile and lovely comforting drawl. Born in Lakeland, she was a Baptist before she joined Trinity. She started coming to Trinity upon moving to Gainesville to be near her daughter Carolyn, who preceded her in death several years ago. Lois was a member of the Fishermen Class and UWF Trinity Circle. She was an elegant, stylish lady, whose lipstick always seemed to match her outfit. She maintained that youthful blossom for nearly 94 years. One of her favorite interests was gardening and flower arranging, and she was regarded as the "flower whisperer" for her artistic gifts and a green thumb. Her home was as charming and inviting as she was. Also a member of the Sandspur Garden Club, Lois was involved in many flower shows, events and special occasions. Ninety four years is just not long enough. We will miss this dear, sweet lady.

Circle News

Faith Circle

Due to Alachua County Spring Break, Faith Circle moved our meeting to March 19th at Trinity. Kathy Whitmer presented a program about food insecurity in the Gainesville area. While I knew it existed, especially for elementary age children, I did not realize just how many children, youth, adults and UF students were affected by it. Our 8 members in attendance discussed ways that individuals can be involved in addition to donating to food banks and decided that we should enhance our focus on Gainesville Community Ministry. In an online search after our meeting (http://gcmhelp.org/services_and_programs0.aspx) I discovered there are several varied programs that I was not aware of besides the Food Pantry where a 2 day supply of food is given for each member of the household every 28 days to those who have been accepted into the program. *Betty Martin*

Grace Circle

Grace Circle members met at Trinity on Tuesday March 12 with nine members present and three joining us on Zoom. Joan Drost sustained us with a lovely array of fruits and tasty snacks. Jeanine Christian provided a devotion which she drew from the book *Prayers and Ponderings* which is a compilation of writings from residents of Brooks Howell home where our own Nan Gordon spent her final days. Jeanine reflected on one submission dedicated to the value and power of *common* people in our lives and how their influence is often uncommonly powerful. Jeanine also provided our program further elaborating on the basic necessities of life: Food, Faith, Fellowship *and* Water. Water is vital to our lives. It was water that led the Samaritan woman to the well where she met Jesus and her life was changed. And through communion with food and water we further fellowship with one another. *Elaine Robinson*

Peace Circle

Peace Circle met March 12th with 8 members present. Cynthia Willms furnished refreshments. We shared joys and concerns, including three March birthdays. March was Women's History Month. Mary Ann Hastings's devotion focused on Miriam, Moses' sister with references from the Old and New Testaments. Carolyn TeStrake presented a fascinating Florida history back to the early 1800's, featuring Mina Warren, her great-grandmother. Marie Samec highlighted the March/April issue of response magazine with the mission maps and Earth Day focuses. Donna covered a long list of agenda items. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, April 9, at 10:00. We welcome new members! *Marie Samec*



Climate Justice

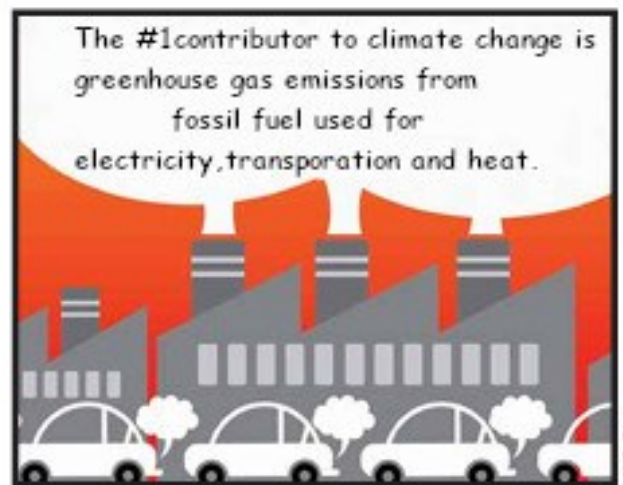
CAMPAIGN: JUST ENERGY FOR ALL



Be stewards of God's creation: Work with companies and governments for clean, renewable energy through a just and equitable transition.



A major contributor to air pollution is the **BURNING of fossil fuels.**



United Women in Faith

TAKE ACTION:

uwfaith.org/what-we-do/serve-and-advocate/just-energy-4-all/



Mission u & Spiritual Enrichment 2024

Friday, July 19 – Sunday, July 21

The Westin Lake Mary, Orlando North
2974 International Parkway
Lake Mary, FL 32746

Join us at Mission u 2024 as we explore what it means to draw closer to God and one another.



Mission u 2024 offers three exciting curricula on this theme. Order your copy here: uwfaithresources.org

Adult: Welcome Home by Neomi Fletcher

The adult curriculum uses the image of home to explore how living in close proximity to the kin-dom is like making a home with God. Participants are invited to develop practices for building healthy, welcoming communities as a result of being anchored in the abiding love of God.

Youth: Cultivating Symbiosis - The Nature of God's Kin-dom by Nica Sy

In Creation, we see the power of symbiosis, or interdependent relationship. The youth curriculum explores the idea of symbiosis between our relationships with one another and our relationship with God. By drawing closer to one another and our world, we draw closer to the kin-dom.

Children: Me in the Kin-dom by Kathy Cook

The children's curriculum uses the Lord's Prayer as a lens to help us see that we are all members of the family of God. Children will begin to understand that the kin-dom is living with Christ and one another on earth as in heaven.

Registration for in-person event on July 19-21:

Adults: \$150; Youth ages 11-17: \$100; Children ages 10 and under: \$80

To register, visit the conference website at www.flconfuwf.org or complete the registration forms for adults and youth/children attached.

Registration deadline is Friday, June 21, 2024.

Scholarships: A limited number of scholarships is available for on-site Mission u. Complete the Scholarship Application form attached or at www.flconfuwf.org Completed forms must be received by Wed., May 15th.

Hotel room reservations must be made separately, directly with the Westin Lake Mary.

Special rate: \$127/night, single or double. Hotel room reservation deadline is June 28, 2024. To reserve your hotel room, click on this link:

[Book your group rate for United Women in Faith 'Mission U' 2024](#)

Virtual Mission u 2024: Tuesdays and Thursdays, July 23, 25, 30, & August 1, 6:30 p.m. – 9: 00 p.m.

Online registration for Virtual Mission u will open after April 8th on the conference website: www.flconfuwf.org

Registration deadline is July 9, 2024. Fees: Individual: \$25; Group of 3-5 together in one location: \$75;

Group of 6-10 together in one location: \$100; Group of 11+ together in one location: \$150



4000 NW 53rd Ave. / Gainesville FL 32653
352-376-6615 / <https://trinitygnv.org/>



United Women in Faith

MISSION STATEMENT
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.

faith action sisterhood