

HAPPY
Mother's Day

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF TRINITY UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

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Happy
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Day

Mark Your Calendars!

May

2	Leadership Team Mtg, Zoom, 7 pm
12	Mother's Day
15	SMR Nominations from Circles due to Cheryl Osborn
19	General Meeting - Rm 232, 2:15 PM refreshments; 2:30 Speaker

June

Register for Mission U coming in July

6	Leadership Team meeting TBD
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July

Reading Reports due to Ann Abbott

4	Happy 4th of July! No Leadership Team meeting, no Circles
19-21	Mission U/Spiritual Enrichment Retreat at Lake Mary Westin hotel

President's Letter Jo Anna Hallman, Co-President

Though April showers may come your way,

They bring the flowers that bloom in May

It looks like those lyrics have been validated. What glorious days we have been experiencing recently. If we were ever in need of finding evidence of God's love for mankind, we only need to look out the window!

Kurt Kaiser's song "Pass it On" contains the lyrics, "what a wondrous time is spring, when



all the trees are budding. The birds begin to sing, the flowers start their blooming. That's how it is with God's love, once you've experienced it. You want to sing, it's fresh like spring. You want to pass it on." He wrote that in 1969 and the song became famous in the 1970's around the campfires of many Christian youth camps and retreats.

April is full of dazzling sunlight and the earth seems greener. The flowers are just beginning to burst with color. In May spring's promise is fully realized. We look around with fresh eyes and appreciative hearts at the transformative power of the season. We encounter the sacred in the ordinary.

As we move through the seasons this year, let's never take God's great gifts for granted. Each season has its own spectacular offerings. Each season bears profound witness to the power of God.

What does this spring bring to us as members of Trinity's UWF? We can look with pride and joy and a sense of accomplishment and inspiration at our North Central District meeting in March hosted by Linda Cook. And April's Call to Prayer service in the chapel hosted by Donna Buhi. Our labyrinth is now completed and has already been the source of prayerful meditation. The benches will remind us of friends who have gone on before us, but whose loving memories remain firmly entrenched in our hearts.

Yes, indeed. That's how it is with God's love; once you've experienced it you want to sing, it's fresh like spring, you want to pass it on.

Spiritual Growth *Donna Buhi, Spiritual Growth Coordinator*

As the TV reporter reviewed the chaos in the Middle East, birds could be heard chirping in the background as dawn broke. Didn't they realize a war was brewing? Life goes on. At home, Bill was doing Spring clean-up in the front yard. Bushes needed to be cut way back. A lot of progress had been made when, over the top of the trimmer, a bird's nest with two eggs was revealed in the branches. What to do? Life must go on. Maybe Momma Bird would return to save her babies. A female cardinal watched from nearby trees, coming close but not returning to the nest. Did she finally come back? We're not sure. God assures us that even the birds of the air are precious in His sight. It is our responsibility to do what we can to save even the smallest of His creation.



1 Corinthians 10:26 says "The earth and all that is in it belong to the Lord." And we belong to God

Education and Interpretation, *Marie Samec, Education & Interpretation Mission Coordinator*

Where our Money Goes,

A series of articles is planned to examine where our United Women in Faith ([UWF](#)) money goes, the sources of funding, and the programs and services provided. Our pledges and other gifts help support local missions (pages 12-13 in our 2024 Yearbook) and contribute to work around the globe on behalf of women, children, and youth. I hope to highlight some areas for you.

UWF scholarships create opportunities through education for women, helping change lives and build future leaders. The National Scholarship is for lay women in the USA who are pursuing careers in church or social service vocations. Preference is given to laity working on behalf of women, children, and youth. UWF's own general secretary and CEO,

Sally Vonner, received a scholarship while attending Perkins School of Theology. The International Mission Scholarship Program was designed to enable women and youth from *outside* the United States to receive leadership development opportunities to strengthen their contribution to the betterment of society.



In 2022, approximately 192 scholarships were awarded to students in the United States and around the world, totaling over \$410,000. Within that total (as of August 2022), slightly more than \$85,000 was given to 16 students who attended Africa University in Zimbabwe. Africa University is the first and only fully accredited institution of higher learning established on the African continent by action of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church in 1988.

The most recent Annual Report and other detailed financial information is available online at uwfaith.org/who-we-are/financials/. Response magazine is also an excellent resource that highlights the work of UWFaith.

Nominating Committee, Cheryl Osborn, Chairperson

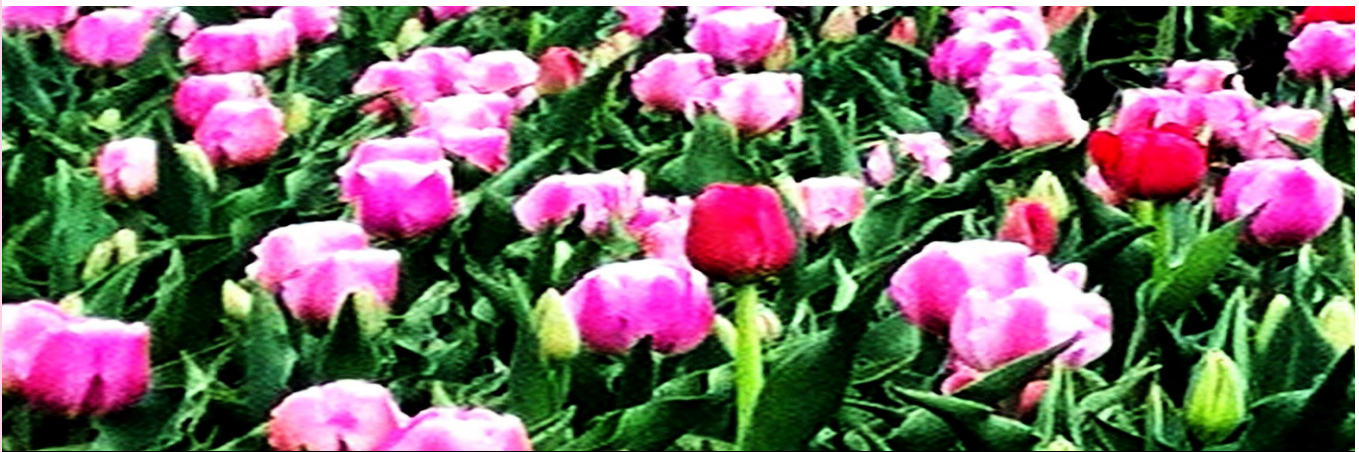
UWF Opportunities!

Are you interested in becoming more involved in UWF? Maybe the time hasn't been right before, but now you're finding yourself open to doing something new? Giving something back? Feeling a little nudge to stretch and grow within the supportive arms of your UWF sisterhood? If so, we have opportunities, and *now* is the time to let us know you're interested!



The Nominating Committee is meeting now to find nominees for the 2025 Trinity UWF Leadership team. There are openings to serve as Co-President, Co-Vice President and Education & Interpretation Mission Coordinator. If you prefer a more behind-the-scenes role and like record-keeping, the Treasurer position may be just right for you. There is training for every position as well as plenty of loving support from the experienced members of the leadership team.

If you are curious and want to find out more about any of these opportunities to serve, please call or email Cheryl Osborn (Sunshine Circle), Nominating Committee Chair, or contact any member of the Nominating Committee. We're listed in the front of your yellow UWF Yearbook.



A Call to Prayer

Trinity United Women in Faith held its annual Call to Prayer service in the chapel. The focus of the service was the issue of Climate Injustice. Invitations were sent out to several area UWF units as well as all members of our church family. The Chapel was full of attendees and the setting was particularly fitting as the glorious sunlight filtered into that quiet space through the canopy of trees above. Gail Werner provided her talents on the piano with beautifully soothing music in the background. Spiritual Growth Coordinator Donna Buhi organized an inspirational service with individual testimonials provided by Jeanine Christian, Karen Henderson and Marie Samec. Attendees were challenged to consider how we individually can affect climate change and how our community and nation might make changes to lower the carbon footprint. After the service Jim Cook introduced the subject of our Labyrinth and led the participants on a tour of the structure which is entering Phase 2 of its completion.

Elaine Robinson. Photos provided by Marie Samec and Kathy Davis



Labyrinths

The existence of labyrinths date far back into antiquity and they have been constructed throughout the world in Christian and non-Christian settings. According to the Labyrinth Society, a labyrinth is a meandering path, usually circular in structure, which may be used for many purposes, often for meditation, dancing, church functions-



- the very space and setting is believed to stimulate right-brain activity.

According to the Rev. Dr. Jill K. H. Geoffrion, Ph.D, an authority on labyrinths, "A labyrinth can be a wonderful outreach and hospitality tool that communicates the warm, open spirit of a church. Having a labyrinth that is available to the larger community is a wonderful way of welcoming the public onto the church property or into the building. Sharing this sacred tool communicates the congregation's interest in the spiritual health of its members and neighborhood."

Signage directing people (Trinity members and non-members) to the Labyrinth is a significant part of this project. As a result, it is believed that Trinity's Labyrinth will be a form of outreach to the community, connecting people to the sights, sounds and the peace of its natural setting. It also will provide a comfortable contemplative space for prayer to Trinity members.

Several years ago, members of Trinity's United Women in Faith were exploring a way to memorialize several of our departed members after receiving gifts in memory from their families. It was hoped that these gifts could be used to create a permanent remembrance which might serve the community as well. The idea of a labyrinth was proposed. After consultation with the senior ministers, a small committee of three people (Jim Cook, Ann Abbott, and Sandy Kramer) implemented the labyrinth project. Since its initiation, four other members have joined the team: Jim Nilon, Keith Doty, Stan Beckerdite, and Susan Jones. While the UWF was able to provide a portion of the necessary financial means to supplement this project, a large proportion of the required capital was donated privately by church members, without affecting the overall church budget.

Construction of Trinity's Labyrinth is being overseen by Bryce Burger, Landscape Architect from Gainesville, who also has family ties to Trinity. Phase 1, which has been completed, involved the design and layout of the path of the Labyrinth. The pavers forming the path have been laid to be ADA compliant. At the center of the Labyrinth will be Trinity's Triquetra, the symbol of our church. Phase 2, now underway, will be the creation of signage directing people to the Labyrinth, as well as the construction of four granite benches dedicated to the UWF members whose memorial gifts inspired the construction of the Labyrinth at its inception. Phase 3 will address landscaping.

You will find this path situated to the south of the church sanctuary, near the memorial garden. The front pond is clearly visible nearby combining scenic beauty with the audibly tranquil sounds of flowing water provided by the pond's lovely fountain. Please check out the Labyrinth and enjoy this project initiated by your own United Women in Faith. *Elaine Robinson and Ann Abbott*



The Trinity Labyrinth

A new special place on the Trinity campus.

A place of prayer.

A place for developing new ideas that may grow out of previous happenings.

A place to take time often escapes us in our sometimes-crowded schedules.

A place of welcome.

A place of nature.

A place of peace.

A place of remembrance.

The **Trinity Unit of UWFaith** has chosen the labyrinth as a place of remembrance and celebration for three women who have shaped who we are as United Women in Faith and continue to have an impact on our lives.

Phyllis Darnell was a woman of action, a woman I would term as "grit and grace"! Phyllis was responsible for many of our events such as Coffee Connection, Dorcas, and lunch for Trinity's staff. She was a faithful woman of God. The work she initiated in Dorcas continues today in the making of prayer shawls and other "care" items for the church family and the community. Phyllis served as President of the Trinity Unit in 2002 -03 and was awarded the unit Special Mission Recognition in 2001.

Cheryl Foltz will always be remembered for her quiet, dedicated mission to the fiscal health of Trinity's UMW. She was a woman of strength, dignity, and with a delightful sense of humor. Cheryl was a true sister in Christ! For numerous years, Cheryl and John prepared the annual Program Book for the Trinity unit. She received the unit Special Mission Recognition in 1981.

Priscilla Pridgen was truly a woman of God. She was so faithful in her mission of giving through her music, her work for the Florida Youth Ranch, and her commitment to (at that time) United Methodist Women. Priscilla was an inspiration to many women. She served as unit President in 1968-70 and received a Special Mission Recognition in 1979.

Three benches on the labyrinth pathway will be dedicated to these women. The benches are there for a moment of prayer and/or reflection as you travel the labyrinth path.

Jeanine Christian, Jim Cook and Linda Cook contributed to this article. Marie Samec photo.



Southeastern Jurisdiction *Get Together!*

The Thirteenth Quadrennial Meeting of the Southeastern Jurisdiction (SEJ) United Women in Faith was held April 19-21, 2024, in Chattanooga, TN. This was my first SEJ event and I left feeling the Holy Spirit's presence. Sue Owens, the 2020-2024 SEJ President presided with a sense of humor. Kay Roach from the Florida Conference served as Vice President. Rev. Janet Wolf motivated us to live out a faith the world can see, love as Jesus loved, although it is not always easy. Our UWFaith General Secretary/CEO Sally Vonner challenged us to *be* more, *do* more, together – for such a time as this. We heard many inspirational accounts of the work of UWFaith around the world. [Racial Justice](#) and [Climate Justice](#) were focuses. Personal accounts from women of color, as well as workshops drove home the intersection of these issues and the continuing need for our advocacy for justice and for ongoing work in oppressed and dispossessed communities, with special attention to the needs of women, children, and youth.

Although the topics were very serious, they kept us entertained with music all weekend and a Christian comedienne at the [Legacy](#) Celebration Banquet. Plan now to attend the next SEJ meeting in 2028. The newly installed officers will determine the location.

"I give you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, so you also must love each other." ~ John 13:34 (CEB). *Marie Samec*



Spirit-filled Mission u this July!

I am delighted to hear some of our members are considering attending in-person Mission u at The Westin Hotel in Lake Mary July 19-21, some as first-time attendees! If you cannot attend in-person, sign up for virtual sessions July 23, 25, 30, and August 1 from 6:30-9:00 p.m. New: Group rate available for virtual! See updated flyer.

REGISTRATION DEADLINES FOR Mission u:

May 15 Scholarship requests

June 21 for In-Person

June 28 for Hotel

July 9 for Virtual

Forms and details at flconfuwf.org/2024-mission-u



Mission u & Spiritual Enrichment 2024

In-Person Event: Friday, July 19, 4:00 pm – Sunday, July 21, 12:00 noon
The Westin Lake Mary, Orlando
North 2974 International Parkway
Lake Mary, FL 32745

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

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

Children: Me in the Kin-dom by Kathy Cook

Registration for In-person and Virtual Mission u is now open!

To register, visit the FL Conference UWFaith website at www.flconfuwf.org

or register online: [Click here to register for Mission u In-person or Virtual](#)

In-Person Mission u Fee: Adults: \$150; Youth ages 11-17: \$100; Children ages 10 and under: \$80

Registration deadline for In-Person Mission u is Friday, June 21, 2024.

Scholarships: A limited number of **scholarships** is available for In-person Mission u. The Scholarship Application can be found at www.flconfuwf.org Completed applications must be **received by Wed., May 15th.**

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

Virtual Mission u Fee: Individual: \$25

Group of 3-5 together in one location on one device: \$75

Group of 6-10 together in one location on one device: \$100

Group of 11+ together in one location on one device: \$150

Registration deadline for Virtual Mission u is July 9, 2024.

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.](#)

Circle News

Faith Circle

Pat Thomas hosted the April Faith Circle meeting at her home. Following the food and fellowship, devotion by Susan Burchfield, and a little business, a thought provoking program was presented by Kathy Whitmer on the topic of "How Big Is Your God?" *Betty Martin*

Grace Circle

Twelve members of Faith Circle met on April 9th in a hybrid meeting with several of our members joining us on Zoom. Joan Drost provided our program centered on Hospitality. In accordance with the theme, Joan provided our snacks, and reminded us that eating together can be form of worship. Sharing experiences brings us closer together. She recalled a time in her life while living in Holland where she encountered some challenges due to the differences in culture, but eventually through reaching out, she established a warm friendship with one of her neighbors. She urged us to find new ways to foster welcoming relationships in our own neighborhoods even if it means to stretch out of our comfort zones. *Elaine Robinson*

Peace Circle

Peace Circle met with 11 present on April 10th. We welcomed Elizabeth Ambrose as a new member of our unit! She recently moved here from Alabama to be near family who attend Trinity and enjoys caring for her grandson. Joys and concerns were shared. Mary Ann Hastings shared a poem by Jan Richardson, "The Magdalene's Blessing", and discussion about Daniel from a Jewish perspective. Ann Abbott presented an uplifting program based on Isaiah 43, with the message that despite our feuding world, God is about to do a new thing! information was provided on the link between Eastern Orthodox and Methodist religions. We were asked to pray for the upcoming UMC General Conference and new things. Cynthia Willms shared an article from *response magazine* about the Native American gifts for conference attendees. She advised us to celebrate and get to know our delegates and show support. Donna Buhi reminded us to read The Link and conducted our UWFaith business. *Marie Samec*

Sunshine Circle

The Harn Museum was the scene of the April Sunshine Circle Meeting. We were delighted for Tara Thornock to give us a private, customized tour! Tara is extremely knowledgeable about the Harn collection and she kept us engaged and entertained.

Thanks, Tara! After the tour we went downstairs for lunch and continued our fellowship. Three Sunshine members recently participated in helping serve snacks at Faith Mission.

Mary Hall, Cheryl Osborne and Sandy Swal braved an intense rainstorm to meet students at Faith Mission. It was fun to see the students in person. Sunshine members are encouraged to attend the UWF unit meetings. The Call to Prayer and Prayer Walk - Sunday April 28, 3:00 pm in the Trinity Chapel led by Donna Buhi and the Sunday, May 19 meeting in room 232 at 2:30.

The Sunshine Circle May meeting will be held in the Trinity Atrium, Sunday May 5, at 2:00 pm. Our topic is to learn more about the Trinity ERT. Amy Sterling is our guest speaker and a member of our Trinity Emergency Response Team. *Mary Hall*



Trinity Circle

Trinity Circle met on Tuesday, April 9 in room 204 with 7 members present and 4 absent. Trinity has suffered a massive loss of members in the last couple of years. Tootsie Horne, Nancy McMillin, Barbara Nickle, Lois Hogg and most recently, Senga Watts. We miss them terribly.

We began our meeting by sharing our joys and concerns. Ruth Gottschall, our leader, opened the meeting with prayer followed by a reading from the Prayer Calendar. Announcements and discussion of upcoming UWF events was followed by our program. We have been going through the ABC's of Christianity using the book ABC'S OF A GODLY HEART by Cassandra Martin. Parts were distributed and everyone participated in the program.

We were dismissed with a prayer from the Response Magazine and singing verses one and three of Bless Be the Tie That Binds. We also recognized our April birthday, Dar Holley, and sang Happy Birthday after which we enjoyed refreshments and a birthday cake baked by our own Daisy Lomangcolob. *JoAnna Hallman*



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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