



United
Women
in Faith

WV CONFERENCE



Fall 2026 Newsletter

Our Purpose

The organized unit of the United Women in Faith 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.

Pertinent Information

2026 Dates

March 23—National Day of Giving
SGR April 17-18—Cedar Lakes
Conference Center, Ripley, WV
Annual Meeting October 23-24—Wayside
United Methodist Church
Vienna, WV

2026 Themes

Spiritual Growth Retreat-Seeing God's
Image in Everyone
Annual Meeting- Being God's Image to
Everyone

2026 Conference Priorities

Inspire
Influence
Impact

2026 Social Action Priorities

Local-Clean Water for All
National-Foster Parents
International-Human Trafficking



A Letter from our Conference President

Greetings United Women in Faith:

It has been a while since I have seen some of you. As summer is coming to an end, it is time to start preparing for the fall season. Fall meetings will be soon happening within the districts. Please reach out to a conference office or district president to make plans to attend the meeting in your area. There will be a lot of important information shared, and decisions made for the upcoming year including district officers.

As we know, beginning in 2027, there will only be 6 districts. During the annual conference the realignment structure was passed and will take effect Jan 1, 2027. Questions have been raised about how this will impact current district boundaries and representation. There will be a Zoom call on September 21 at 7:00 pm for those who want to attend and have their questions answered. If you want to attend and need a link to the Zoom call, please let me know or reach out to your district president. They will provide you with the necessary information.

This is the perfect time to have a call as we are kicking off the fall season and discussing important changes. Our presidents have been presented with a list of current churches and incoming ones. They will be reaching out to invite the new incoming ladies to their fall meetings.

Fall signifies a time of transition and new beginnings. While all seasons have moments of beauty, there is something special about the changing colors of fall leaves. It is definitely a sight to behold and proof that something beautiful comes with change.

I am excited about the upcoming annual meeting. Our speaker is Mollie James-Vickery from the national office. She is upbeat and excited to join us at the meeting. Please plan to join us October 23-24 at Wayside United Methodist Church in Vienna, WV. I am sure it will be a beautiful time of connection and inspiration for all who attend. Registration is now open for this event!

I want to close with this: While change can come with resistance and uncertainty, it often leads to growth and new opportunities. I ask that you embrace the district changes with an open mind and heart. As we know, many districts are without members on the district team. Embracing the district realignment will allow us to better serve districts and create a stronger, more cohesive community and possibly fill positions that are open within the district team.

May God bless you and thank you for answering the call to serve in our WV Conference. We look forward to working together to make a positive impact in our community and world.

Blessings to all,

**Melissa Corbett
President**



Vice-President

Greetings from the WV Conference United Women in Faith.

I hope you are excited as I am about the United Women in Faith and the plans you have in store for your units. The Conference Team met at Tyrand Cooperative a few weeks ago and made plans for this coming year and even into 2027!

I am sure your districts are planning their Fall Meetings. If you need information about a Fall Meeting in your area, please reach out to a Conference officer or me. We will connect you to the district that you should attend.

The Conference Team is working diligently to prepare for Annual Meeting on October 23-24, 2026, at Wayside United Methodist Church in Vienna, WV. A registration form is included in this newsletter. Make your hotel reservations and send in your registration soon! Mark your calendars, you will not want to miss! It is such a blessing to worship with other United Women in Faith across the state! Mollie James-Vickery a Deaconess serving as the Operations Officer for National Office of the United Women in Faith will be our keynote speaker on Friday evening. We are offering three workshops on Friday afternoon. A Painting Class, Chair Yoga and From Silence to Sanctuary: Responding to Human Trafficking in West Virginia. We hope you will come early and take part in one or more of these workshops.

We are aware that there are some district changes in our conference. Your Conference Team is working with information to pass on to districts that have been affected by this change. United Women in Faith are resilient and will work hard to make a smooth transition. If you have any questions about your new or current district, please reach out to a district or conference officer.

Our themes for this year have been “See God’s Image in Everyone” at Spiritual Growth Retreat and for Annual Meeting, our theme is “Being God’s Image to Everyone”. My prayer for United Women in Faith that we can do just that. As we look for God’s image in others and then to “BE” God’s image to others helps us to fulfil the Purpose of the United Women in Faith.

Blessings for a wonderful Fall

Jessie Thompson, Vice President



Committee on Nominations

**If you DREAM IT
BELIEVE IT
then you can DO IT
Become a member of the Leadership Team.**

DO THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS PERTAIN TO YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW?

Do you like to connect with other women? Are you encouraging to other people?
Do you like to do local mission work? Are you open to the contribution of others?
Are you a leader? Do you support the growth of others?
Do you recognize the diversity in our communities? Do you value a person's feelings over your being right? Do you speak up when you see a wrong that needs to be made right?
Are you willing to work with others? Do you imagine God's vision for yourself and for the world?
Do I maintain a “HOPE” that I can make a difference in the world and community in which I live?

Officers are needed for the following positions:
Nominations Chair
Committee on Nominations members (2 needed)
Looking forward to seeing you at annual meeting!



Kay 304-880-3673

2027 Slate of Officers

*President	Melissa Corbett
*Vice President-Program Coordinator	Jessie Thompson
*Treasurer	Martha Wilkinson
*Secretary	Pam Braden
*Committee on Nominations Chair	“Open”
*Communications Coordinator	Melissa Corbett
Social Action Coordinator	Judi McCracken
Membership, Nurture, & Outreach	Nancy Harrison
Spiritual Growth Coordinator	LeeAnn Parsons
Committee on Nominations Members	“2 open”
Class of 2026	Sue Dostal Karen Grafton
Class of 2027	Terry Bailes
Class of 2028	Elizabeth Lott
Class of 2029	Janet Hall



Communication Corner

After your Fall district meetings and election of officers , please submit your list of officers to the

Conference President- Melissa Corbett, uwflissann@yahoo.com and

Conference Secretary- Pam Braden pbraden@wvup.edu

This is to ensure that the correct information is entered in the Handbook for 2027. In addition, this will allow us to send out the Handbook in a timely fashion.

Thank you for all you do in the missions that God has called each of us to!!

Melissa Corbett, Communication Coordinator



Find us on Facebook @ www.facebook.com/umwww/

Remember to LIKE and SHARE our page with other

United Women in Faith

Secretarial Note:

The Big Reading List

My church girlfriends had been encouraging me to participate in the United Women in Faith Reading Program. I always said I'd think about it, but secretly I thought I didn't want to read any more books about church stuff!

Last year I finally listened to God (and girlfriends) and started reading from “THE BIG LIST.”

It was NOTHING like I thought it was!

That list included novels and books that made me angry about racism and sexism and Native Americans. Fun books. Books that made me appreciate different cultures and love stories.

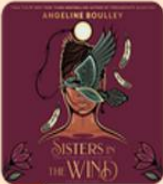
I encourage you to read. Here are a few of my favs so far



Firekeeper's Daughter
By: Angeline Boulley
Narrated by: Isabella Star LaBlanc
☆☆☆☆☆ Write a review
"Isabella Star LaBlanc brings an authentic-sounding narration to this powerful audiobook...Dialogue, including words in other languages, is handled with effortless transitions and clear depictions between characters. This audiobook should not be missed." -- AudioFile Magazine, Earphones Award...



Warrior Girl Unearthed
By: Angeline Boulley
Narrated by: Isabella Star LaBlanc
☆☆☆☆☆ Write a review
Named One of BookPage's Best Audiobooks of 2023 "Actor Isabella Star LaBlanc excels at leading the reader deeper into the story with a tone that exudes both intriguing mystery and genuine emotion." —BookPage "Isabella Star LaBlanc, a Sisseton Wahpeton Dakota narrator, accurately delivers...



Sisters in the Wind: A Printz Honor Book
By: Angeline Boulley
Narrated by: Isabella Star LaBlanc
☆☆☆☆☆ Write a review
A Good Morning America Book Club Pick! From the instant New York Times bestselling author of Firekeeper's Daughter and Warrior Girl Unearthed comes a daring new mystery about a foster teen claiming her heritage on her own terms. Ever since Lucy Smith's father died five years ago; "home"...

These three are about a modern-day Native American family.
10/10 recommend!

To be honest, I listen to books while I’m walking with my dog Miley.
It’s fun and time flies!

Pam Braden, Secretary

Money Matters



Did you know that the Conference will order and pay for Special Mission Recognition pins or Gifts to Mission for all outgoing district officers? Annual Meeting just around the corner in October, I need to order those Special Mission Recognition pins and Gifts to Mission soon!!! If your district has officers you need to recognize, send me those names ASAP!! I will need the names, their positions, and how long they were in the position to order the correct pins. Please email me at martha.wilkinson79@gmail.com .

District Treasurers, please send me your 3rd quarter remittances by September 25 so I can get the conference remittance to the national office by the end of the quarter.

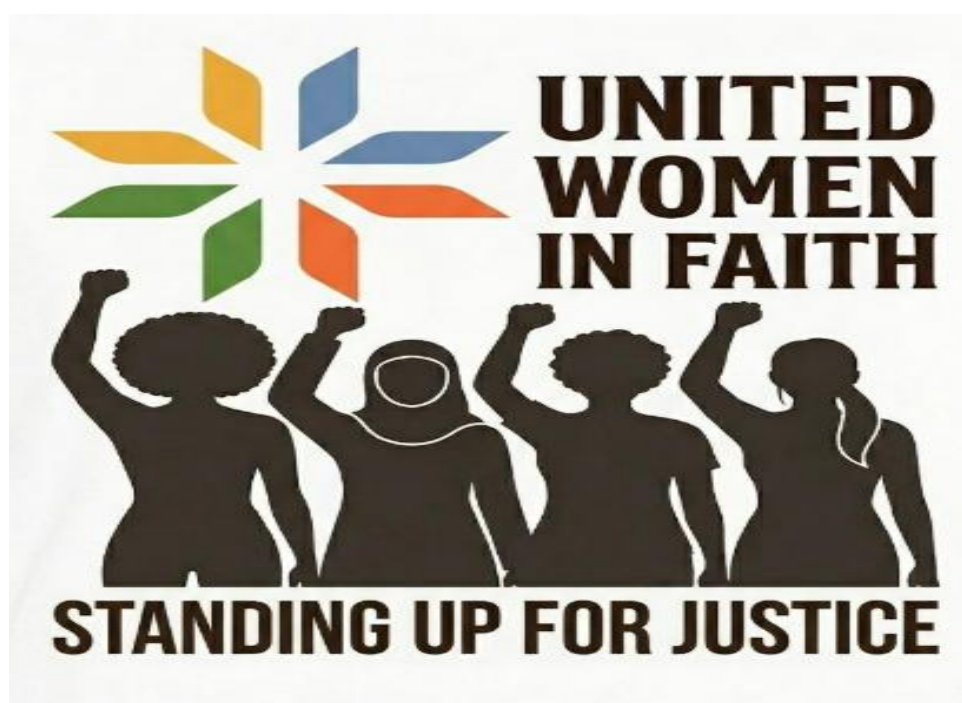
PLEDGE UPDATE:

Year-to-date we have received \$28,829.10 of the total mission giving pledge of \$74,500 from our 7 districts. That represents 38.7% of the total district pledges. The WV Conference United Women in Faith has remitted \$23,245.88 of our conference pledge, or 37.49%, of our \$62,000 pledge.

Martha Wilkinson, Treasurer
223 Mercer St.
Beckley WV 25801

Phone: (cell)304-575-5566
email: martha.wilkinson79@gmail.com

Social Action News



Being Unstoppable in Pursuit of Social Justice by Judi McCracken, Social Action Coordinator

“Mike, it’s all part of your education,” my parents said to my brother whenever he grumbled about his troubles at college. After hearing their mantra during Mike’s four years, I teased my Mom and Dad by saying that when it was turn to attend college, they would need a new refrain if I called home whining.

After a bit more maturity, soul-searching, and Bible reading, I learned “that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us” (Romans 3:3b-5). In other words, during times of adversity, be unstoppable in hope!

From various media forms, I learn about oppressed women and men as they struggle to enter our country, and I have personally observed acquaintances who lost jobs because someone thought they were expendable. God watches and sees our sisters and brothers suffer. These people persevere and hope. [They] say to [themselves], “The Lord is my inheritance; therefore, I will hope in him!” The Lord is good to those who depend on him, to those who search for him (Lamentations 3:24-26).

In a social action role, with God’s help I try to motivate our United Women in Faith to be justice advocates. As advocates we attempt to find justice for God’s people living in the margins: Wherever we find people who do not meet the “traditional family model” is “the margins” (Think about 1950s TV: the Nelsons, Cleavers, or *I Love Lucy*). Many people I know live in “the margins,” which is not a judgement. (In fact, I enjoyed reading a book called, *The way we never were*, which proves the “model family” has always been in the minority! But that’s another story...)

As advocates we could buy a few extra inexpensive items at the grocery store for a local pantry; add a little bit extra to the church offering for flood relief; write to Congress asking the government to “be nice” to God’s undocumented children; hold a sign at a demonstration. We can be creative – and when we are frightened or awkward, grab a friend to go with us! (Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed. If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble. Ecclesiastes 4:9-10).

We can make gestures to the large voice that asks for justice. Ask legislators *why* a clean water bill failed in last year’s session; then we could point the way for people help fund clean water plans. Ask lawmakers *who* will pay for public education when proposed county levies fail. Then we could round up volunteers for public schools (that is, if the schools authorize us to). If we are angry that undocumented children are in cages in Texas or New Mexico, we can locate charities that serve the youngsters and find a way to assist those organizations.

God watches the unjust in their acts, and they will receive compensation for what their hearts hold (Proverbs 24:12).

Judi McCracken, Social Action Coordinator

WV Conference UWF 52nd Annual Meeting

Calling All Women
United Women in Faith
Annual Meeting
October 23-24, 2026

“Being God’s
Image to
Everyone”



Speaker: Mollie James-Vickery
from UWF National Office

Little Kanawha District
Wayside UMC
3001 Grand Central Ave.
Vienna, WV

	WEST VIRGINIA CONFERENCE UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH 52nd Annual Meeting Registration October 23-24, 2026 Wayside United Methodist Church 3001 Grand Central Ave. Vienna, WV Theme: “Being God’s Image to Everyone” Guest Speaker: Mollie James-Vickery Deaconess serving as the Operations Officer for National Office of the United Women in Faith
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Contact Information (Please print)

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
Phone _____
*Email _____

** Please provide an email address which will be used only to confirm registration.*

District (Check one)
_____ Greenbrier-Wesleyan
_____ Mon Valley
_____ Southern
_____ Little Kanawha
_____ Northern
_____ Other
_____ Nine Rivers
_____ Potomac Highlands

Registration Fee: \$50 (to be paid by all attendees)

Emergency Contact:

Name _____ Relationship _____
Phone(s) _____

DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION AND WORKSHOP FORMS: SEPTEMBER 23, 2026

Mail registration fee, registration and workshop forms to:

Janet Hall
933 Sycamore Creek Road
Ripley, WV 25271

Make checks payable Little Kanawha District UWF Special Account

Registration for Workshops
Deadline: September 23, 2026

Your Conference and the Little Kanawha District Team is excited to offer workshops again at Annual Meeting. Workshops are going to be offered from 2:00 to 4:00 Friday afternoon. You can sign up for two one hour workshops or one two hour workshop.

Choose from the following Sessions:

2:00 – 3:00 pm

- _____ Painting Class
Betsy Newbanks
- _____ Chair Yoga
Autumn Hopkins

3:00-4:00

- _____ Painting Class
Betsy Newbanks
- _____ Chair Yoga
Autumn Hopkins

2:00-4:00 pm

- _____ From Silence to Sanctuary: Responding to Human Trafficking in West Virginia
Grace Stewart, Angie Conn, Jennifer Hawkins and Judy Stewart

*Donation accepted for Painting Class

Please Print:

Name of Participant: _____

DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION AND WORKSHOP FORMS: SEPTEMBER 23, 2026

Good Samaritan Food Pantry

Donations needed: chicken broth, hot chocolate mix, cranberry sauce, egg noodles, evaporated milk, fruit cocktail, instant potatoes, Jello, peaches, pineapple, canned pumpkin, stuffing mix, canned sweet potatoes

Rooms have been reserved for the annual meeting in the name of United Women in Faith at the following hotels:

Hampton Inn & Suites - Parkersburg WV

Reservations - United Women in Faith

Cutoff Deadline: September 23, 2026

\$134 (2 beds)

920 Emerson Ave

Parkersburg WV 26104

(304) 428-0555 or (304) 428-0444

Hot breakfast included

Very nice, close to Texas Roadhouse

Grand Central Mall, Hobby Lobby

Hampton Inn & Suites Parkersburg

You can copy the link into your browser when making reservations online. You are also welcome to call the hotel directly to make your reservation.

<https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/pkbdohx-uwf-9ab9330a-ac1e-4a2f-bd99-e35f3edd7f5a/>

Wingate Parkersburg Vienna - Vienna WV

Reservations - United Women in Faith

Cutoff Deadline: September 23, 2026

\$135 (2 beds)

1502 Grand Central Avenue

Vienna, WV 26105

(304) 295-5501

Breakfast included

Very nice, close to Hobby Lobby

Grand Central Mall, Cheddars

[Wingate by Wyndham Vienna/Parkersburg/Marietta | Vienna, WV Hotels](#)

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:

Friday: Registration: 12:00-6:30 P.M.

Session 1: 6:30 P.M

Worship, Special Music, Candle Burn Service, Mission Moment, Communion, Memorial Service,

Keynote Speaker-Mollie James-Vickery from United Women in Faith National Office
Offering:

Reception following the program provided by Calvary, Ripley, Epworth and First Ravenswood UWF

Saturday: Session 2: 8:45 A.M.

Light Breakfast, President's Message, Special Music, Pledge Service, Special Mission Recognition, Mission Moment, Recognition of Outgoing Officers and Business Session



Names Needed for the Memorial Service

**Death is not extinguishing the light;
It is only putting out the lamp because the dawn has come.
Rabindranath Tagore**

**Have you lost one of your Circle Sister's this year?
October 25, 2025 through October 1, 2026?
PLEASE, LET ME KNOW!!!**

**We want to remember and honor our sisters in faith who are no
longer with us.**

If you would like your sister's name added to the Memorial Tree and added to the Conference list, please send me her name (s) by Oct. 2nd.

**(304) 550-6442 Text or Call
Nancyhrrsn@gmail.com or by email**



Spiritual Growth

Think of a time you were holding onto something for dear life — a handrail, a rope, someone’s hand in a crowd.

The Hebrew word for hope *tiqvah*, — it literally means a cord or rope. Hope isn’t a mood or a wish; it’s something we hold onto. Something with tensile strength, made to bear weight.

Romans 5:1-5

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,² through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God.³ And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance,⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope,⁵ and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. ([Romans 5:1–5](#), NRSV)

Paul’s chain: suffering produces endurance, endurance produces character, character produces hope. This is the heart of the scripture — hope isn’t the absence of hardship, it’s what gets forged inside it. None of us gets to hope without going through something first. Hope “does not put us to shame” — because it’s rooted in God’s love, not in whether our circumstances turn out the way we planned.

Whatever cord you’re holding onto this week, it’s tied to something — God’s faithfulness, not your circumstances.

God’s Hope,

Lee Ann Parsons, Spiritual Growth Coordinator



2027 Reading Program is now OUT

The Reading Program encourages members to think critically about current issues through an annual selection of member-reviewed books. It offers an excellent opportunity to deepen your spirituality and to broaden your understanding of our mission work. More information about the Reading Program including the 2027 reading program titles can be found following the link below

[2027 READING PROGRAM CATALOG](#)

The Reading Program is a cherished tradition that brings together members to explore, share and discuss books.

There is something for everyone—the Reading Program is available for:

- Adults, youth, and children
- Enlightening subjects in diverse genres, including:
 - Education for Mission
 - Leadership Development
 - Nurturing for Community
 - Social Action
 - Spiritual Growth

Response Magazine, Faith Talks podcasts and movies are part of the Reading Program.

If you are planning to purchase books, please consider buying at <https://bookshop.org/shop/uwfaith> to earn 10 percent back for United Women in Faith.



... for wisdom is better than jewels, and all that you may desire cannot compare with her."

Proverbs 8:1–21
"The Gifts of Wisdom"
Scriptural basis for the Reading Program

READING PROGRAM PLANS



Eligible years: For 2027, books from the 2021-2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, and 2027 Reading Program lists are eligible for Reading Program reporting credit, if you have not already read them.

PLAN I

- 5 books each year.
- 1 book from each category.
- Selections from the current reading lists if not included in previous reports.

PLAN II

- 10 books each year.
- 2 books from each category.
- Selections from the current reading lists if not included in previous reports.

PLAN III

- 15 books each year.
- 2 books from each category.
- PLUS 5 additional books from any category.
- Selections from the current reading lists if not included in previous reports.

PLAN IV

- 20 books each year.
- 2 books from each category.
- PLUS 10 additional books from any category.
- Selections from the current reading lists if not included in previous reports.



Books can be purchased directly from the retailer of your choice, from bookshop.org/shop/uwfaith, or borrowed from your local public library.

For books on previous reading lists go to: uwfaith.org/read.



It cannot be that the people should grow in grace unless they give themselves to reading. A reading people will be a knowing people."

John Wesley