

UPDATES AND REFLECTIONS

February 2024

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



UWF circles have had interesting programs and productive discussions as 2024 begins. A program book is available for circle leaders who would like further information. Contact lupshaw1@cox.net

Thoughts at the beginning of the year flow toward the year's fundraising. There will be no Fall Festival; however, the Mission Fundraising Committee, led by Susan Miller, has begun planning. As stated in the UWF purpose, support of missions is a high priority. Last year's efforts included dinners at local restaurants where a portion of the proceeds were donated to UWF. Those are being planned again with the first local restaurant dinner planned for February 8, from 2 – 8 at Sal's by Victor. The United Methodist Day at General Assembly in Richmond will be February 1; several members plan to attend. Mark your calendars for Call to Prayer and Self-Denial on February 24 at 10 a.m. The program will be centered around Food, Faith, and Fellowship. March 2 is the date for the UWF sponsored Red Cross Blood Drive. On Sunday, April 21, the church service will be planned and led by United Women in Faith.

For 2024, member donations in support of the budget remain at \$50 per member. If possible, early donations are appreciated.

Brrrr...Yes, welcome to February. Remember this is the month of love and kindness, truly a month of sharing all the love and all the kindness possible!

Linda

CIRCLE HAPPENINGS

Carol Scott met on January 9 with 10 members present. Jan Boykin gave the program entitled "Ten Commandments of Christmas" which was warmly received; all agreed the message is appropriate all year. Carolyn Ebert gave the devotion with a theme of gratitude. The Response Moment was presented by Connie Magruder from an article "Good Feet Church," urging the spreading of God's word. Each member was provided a copy of 2023 directory. The group also planned the schedule of programs and devotions for the upcoming year.

Friendship met on January 9 with 7 members and 1 guest present. Zach Griggs told of his background and answered many and varied questions. Nella Griffin presented the Response moment. Business included planning for 2024. The group shared pumpkin muffins provided by Vivian Golding.



Friendship attendees and pumpkin muffins

Heritage welcomed the New Year with their meeting on January 2. Sixteen ladies attended. Dane Kieffaber presented the program about the Heifer Project. Following the business meeting, several ladies went to lunch at Rocco's.

Ruth Simpson met on January 3 with 8 attending. Michelle Roy, WUMC Director of Congregation & Community Engagement, presented an overview of her responsibilities in providing information to the congregation and the surrounding community concerning WUMC's many ministries and activities. She talked about all the ways information is provided and encouraged the sharing of information with her about the various groups and activities in which the group participates. Michelle works with Josh Clayton to produce the articles and photos seen in the written publications and on the TV screens in the atrium.

Sisters in Grace met on a rainy windy afternoon, January 9. Thirteen members were present with one member attending via zoom. Laura Beach lifted everyone's spirits by leading "laughing yoga" activities with a spiritual focus. What a fantastic way to start the year! Linda Upshaw gave the opening devotion using material from a devotional book by Les Goode, husband of member Renee Goode. Jeannie Niebel shared a Response Moment giving interesting facts concerning the upcoming UMC General Conference. Treasurer Wendy Geiger collected yearly membership donations for WUWF. Gayle Justice shared that all the Sisters in Grace programs this year are from the excellent suggestions given by circle members. The new 2024 UWF directories were given to those in attendance. Jeannie Niebel closed the meeting in prayer.



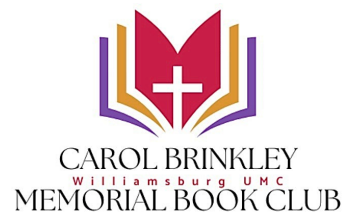
Sisters in Grace laughing yoga

Sisters in Mission meeting for January was cancelled due to inclement weather.

WORLD THANK

February is National Random Acts of Kindness Month, making it the perfect opportunity to remember to be compassionate and empathic to others. Performing a random act of kindness is exactly what it sounds like: deliberately attempting to brighten someone else's day by doing something kind for no specific reason. Put a quarter into the World Thank Offering container for each random act of kindness performed this month.

It's cool to be kind!



Interesting in reading books that are life-changing? If so, on March 11 at 7:00 p.m. join via Zoom for a book club unlike any others. Because the meetings are held via Zoon, there is no need to travel anywhere except to the comfort of your favorite chair! For the March meeting, the group will discuss Beyond Loneliness by Trevor Hudson, a book about life transformation through friendship with God. Everyone is invited to join in the discussion! Contact Cindy Banek for the Zoom link or further information, banek1@cox.net.

Concern Condolences to Donna Potts on the death of her father.