

UPDATES AND REFLECTIONS

March 2024

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

United Women in Faith (UWF) continues to grow in strength and spirit, and it is heartening to witness the familiarity as the name takes hold.

At the General Meeting on March 24, the theme "Reconnecting with Our Sacred Bodies" guided the group through an uplifting morning. Led by Connie Bland in the absence of Clare Connor, activities filled the gathering with joy and laughter. Gratitude is extended to Connie for orchestrating the delightful program amidst challenges.

The upcoming Blood Drive is scheduled for Saturday, March 2, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Co-chaired by Melody Nichols and Donna Potts, this event promises to be a vital contribution to our community. Appreciation goes to volunteers who have generously offered their time and support. In other news, the Mission Fundraising Committee successfully hosted dinner at Sal's in January, drawing a significant turnout and raising over \$700. Building on this momentum, the next church-wide dinner will be at La Terraza Mexican Grill, 1840 Richmond Road on March 14 from 4 to 8 p.m. Come for an evening of tasty food and fellowship.

Looking ahead, members are urged to renew their commitment to supporting UWF with their talents, time, and financial contributions. With membership at 109 members, this year's budget is tailored to reflect strength and vision. A donation of \$50.00 is requested and can be given to the circle treasurer. Support is integral to the realization of our goals. Send any questions regarding the budget or the Rainbow Giver program to Suzanna Chapman or to me.

Blessings,

Linda

CIRCLE HAPPENINGS

Carol Scott met on February 13 with 8 members and 1 guest. Organist Tom Marshall gave a superb look into the organ and, in discussion, revealed his passion for music. He played some marvelous pieces highlighting the capabilities of the organ.



Carol Scott members and Tom at the organ

Friendship met on February 13. 8 members and 1 guest heard from Bishop Hasbrouck Hughes who told the story of Harriett Tubman and the underground railroad. Margie Smith presented the Response moment. After a brief business meeting, the group enjoyed a social time with a healthy snack of bananas.

Heritage met on February 6 with 15 in attendance. Michelle Roy spoke and provided information about her role as Director of Communication and Community Engagement. The group then signed Valentine's Day cards for Golden Friends and members who have moved away.

Ruth Simpson met February 7 with 7 in attendance. Josh Clayton, WUMC Digital Media Specialist, presented a delightful program explaining how the media is produced for the hallway TV screens. He showed several examples of the videos he produced and told some of the very funny behind the scenes happenings while filming was being done. The group thoroughly enjoyed learning about Josh and his talented artistic endeavors.

Sisters in Grace met February 13 with 20 members and one guest present. Conny Jude, executive director of Respite, gave an interesting and informative program about Respite. Gayle Justice then led an inspirational Bible study taken from the latest issue of Response magazine. Members heard the story of the woman at the well and asked what baggage each needed to let go in order to live a more honest and free life with Jesus, like the woman at the well. After the Bible study, SIG made 25 candy grams thanking the Respite staff and volunteers. Later in the afternoon, in honor of Valentine's Day the next day, SIG provided a string trio to play favorite "old" love songs for those attending Respite. The afternoon was special for SIG and for Respite.



Sisters in Mission met on February 13 with 10 present. Gwen Hinton read a devotion on Valentine's Day that presented God as the giver of love to all, not just centering on couples. Christians are to remember that this day, set aside for Love, is to share with all sisters and brothers, young and old, single and connected as couples. Love should be shared each day of the year, not just on February 14. Laura Viancour shared the Mission Moment. Lou-Anne Smith, Director of Music Ministries and Worship Arts, was guest speaker. Members were given an overview of the WUMC music ministries and allowed to ask specific questions regarding every day and seasonal planning for worship here at WUMC. The business meeting followed and included reports on monthly visits to our memory care units at Patriots Colony and Edgeworth and upcoming UWF programs.

Save the date! Candle Burning, June 8, 10 a.m.

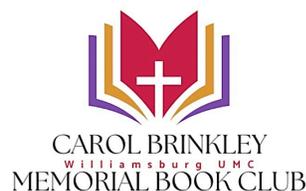
HANDS ON MISSION DAYS will include service activities throughout the week of May 13 – 17. Below activities have been scheduled; hopefully, additional activities can be added with local not-for-profit organizations, including Habitat Restore, Hospice, The Arc, Child Development Resources.

- Emailing UMC missionaries with words of encouragement and support.
- Cleaning and organizing supplies used by Respite Care.
- Cleaning candle holders used in Christmas Eve service.
- Sizing and folding clothing donations at FISH, scheduled for Tuesday afternoon, May 14.

WORLD THANK



To raise awareness of the importance of healthy sleep habits, National Bed Month takes place every March. However, a warm bed is a gift that many in the world do not have. Add 50 cents for each bed in your home and appreciate the fact that you have a warm, comfy bed each night.



The Book Club will meet on March 11 at 7 p.m. via Zoom. Because the meetings are held via Zoom, 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.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Prayers for Fran Lane at Windsor Meade and Clare Connor as she recovers from another surgery.