

UPDATES AND REFLECTIONS APRIL 2025

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Looks like May is going to be a very busy month. UWF Sunday is May 11. Rev Deborah Lewis will be our guest pastor. Rev Lewis is a resident in counseling at Peninsula Pastoral Counseling. Her message is "No Snatching". WUWF will be helping with the ushering, greeting, reading scripture, and Gwen has volunteered to lead the Moment of Teaching. Please contact Dianne Colestock to volunteer.

Hands on Mission week is May 17-23 which Grace Holloway has been very busy planning. We will all have a time of fellowship wherever we volunteer. Many of you have signed up at you April Circle meeting. We will look forward to dining out again in late spring at Blaze Pizza and this Fall at Tuscany Ristorante.

The Candle Burning program is being planned for Saturday, June 7 at 10:00 AM. This special ceremony will return to the parking lot in the back of the church. Please bring your own chair. We had hoped to have it in the Memorial Garden this year but with the construction that will be going on during this time access to the Memorial Garden will be difficult. Join others who come together to commemorate cherished memories and celebrate the enduring bonds that connect us all.

As May arrives, take a moment to take in the beauty of nature surrounding us (minus the pollen). Sing with the birds, watch the butterflies, savor the fragrance of blossoms in the air, and connect with neighbors across the fence.

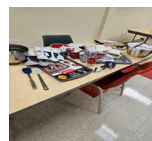
LINDA

CIRCLE HAPPENINGS

Carol Scott

The Carol Scott Circle met on Tuesday, April 8 with 6 members present. Grace Holloway shared information about UWF's upcoming Hands On Mission Week and Lunda Graham had our program.

Heritage



The Heritage Circle met on Tuesday, April 8th in Room 174. Eight members were present. Sue Steberl presented the devotion taken from the Lenten Daily Devotions. After our business meeting, some ladies went to the sanctuary and checked all of the pew pens. Those that didn't work were replaced. The other ladies cleaned and restocked the kitchen in Room 174.

Ruth Simpson



The Ruth Simpson Circle met on Wednesday, April 2. There were 6 members present. Amy Kuzemka, Marketing Development Manager for Edmarc, gave an overview presentation of the services this non-profit organization provides. It is a pediatric hospice that helps seriously ill children stay comfortably at home with their families whenever possible. Edmarc provides patient and family support, in-home physician-directed nursing care, a perinatal program, and a bereavement program to support families. All services offered give comfort, strength and support

to the entire family, and the families never receive a bill for any of these services.

Sisters in Grace



Sisters in Grace met on Tuesday, April 8 with 13 members and 2 guests present. Lisa Thomas, from Hope Family Village, presented an inspiring program about their community-centered collaborative offering acceptance, housing, and sustainable support for people with mental health conditions and their families. Grace Holloway shared plans for the 2025 UWF Hands on Mission Week and gave members the opportunity to sign up for their choice of activities. Susan Miller shared basic information regarding Lighting the Way, the upcoming Capital Campaign, and recruited volunteers to help with the dinners. We ended with an activity called The Talking Tray which helped members to gain deeper insights into each other. Diane Robbins closed the meeting reading one of her favorite Bible passages followed by a prayer.

Sisters in Mission



Sisters in Mission met on Tuesday, April 18 with 11 members and 2 guests present. Libby Daniel shared a reading, "Last Breath" based on 1 Peter 2:24 and Jesus' crucifixion. Elizabeth Foxx shared about her experiences of cycling and training for the Union Cycliste internationale World Time Trial Championships held earlier this year in Aalborg, Denmark. Patty Benesh presented a *Women of the Bible* lesson on Mary and Martha, relating their significant character traits with all of us in current times. At closing Patty shared her mother's "preacher" cookies – a no-bake recipe that could be made quickly for unannounced guests!

Joys & Concerns:

Prayers for Susan Griffin's sister-in-law who is under Hospice care in Texas.

Joys for Nancy Reynold's granddaughter's wonderful recovery.

UWF 2025 HANDS ON MISSION WEEK



All week – writing notes of encouragement to UMC missionaries, email addresses available on-line All week – decorating placemats & posters for Kairos Prison Ministry, placemats and guidelines will be provided, a great activity for families and grandchildren!

Saturday May 17 9:00 – 12:00

- sorting and stocking donations
- Habitat Restore
- 1303 Jamestown Road
- liability waiver and orientation required, see the website for the [Williamsburg Habitat Restore](#)

Monday May 19 9:00 – 12:00

- cleaning Christmas Eve candleholders - church kitchen or home

Tuesday May 20 9:00 – 12:00

- organizing donated items and assisting shoppers - Grove Community Outreach Center
- 8800 Pocahontas Trail

Wednesday May 21 11:00 – 2:00

- sharing picnic lunch with residents of Latisha's House
- donating food for picnic lunch
- decorating placemats & posters for Kairos Prison Ministry - Williamsburg Botanical Garden
- 5537 Centerville Road/rain backup is room 174.

Thursday May 22 10:00 – 12:00

- crafting and playing games with The Arc of Abilities
- Abram Frink Community Center
- 8901 Pocahontas Trail

Donations requested

If you are unable to volunteer, please consider donating to one of our selected missions– or anytime! During this week, please leave donations in the Collection Closet, clearly labeled for HOM and the recipient organization. For larger donations or other times, please deliver directly to the site.

Wednesday Picnic

- picnic food (sandwiches, chips, cookies, and drinks) needed - specific items and quantities will be provided during sign-up - specific drop-off instructions will be provided

Habitat Restore

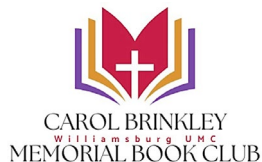
- gently used household items, furniture, and construction materials

Grove Christian Outreach Center

- non-perishable food items
- gently used clothing and household items

For more information or to sign-up, check the church website, williamsburgumc.org or contact Grace Holloway, gracewholloway@gmail.com, or 318-547-2484.

CAROL BRINKLEY MEMORIAL BOOK CLUB



The book club will meet on Monday, May 12, at 7:00p.m. via ZOOM. They will be discussing the book, *Solito: A Memoir*, by Javier Zamora. This is a true story about a young boy's 3,000-mile journey from his small town in El Salvador across the US border to reunite with a mother who left 4 years earlier and a father he barely remembers.