

Vision

United Women in Faith

Pensacola District Summer 2024

*Alabama-West Florida
United Women in Faith
Mission u*

*Foley, Alabama
August 17, 2024*

THEME

The Kin-dom Is Among You:
Drawing Closer to God and One Another.

Adult, Youth and Children curricula.

<https://www.awf-umw.org/>

*Alabama-West Florida
United Women in Faith*

SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT RETREAT

BLUE LAKE CAMP
ANDALUSIA, ALABAMA

OCTOBER 25-26, 2024

Mark your calendar—details to come.

2024 District UW Faith Officers

President — Peggy Groves

Treasurer — Pat Franklin

Secretary & Communications—
Carol Ascherfeld

Membership Nurture & Outreach —
Julie Vickery

Nominations Chair — Janice Anderson



United
Women
in Faith

Tanzania Tamasha

The Tanzania Tamasha (Festival) held at First UMC Pensacola and hosted by its United Women in Faith unit, was an exceptionally inspiring event. Anna Migera, a Tanzanian pastor, women's leader, children's advocate, and the only Deaconess in the United Methodist Church in Tanzania, gave a heartfelt talk.

Anna shared her life story and faith journey and spoke about her work as a pastor in Tanzania.

She came to First Church to

participate in, and learn about, Vacation Bible School so that she can begin Vacation Bible Schools in Tanzania. She will begin with the 250 children in her own church. Lisa Bond,

Missions Director at FUMC, and the VBS staff and children worked tirelessly with Anna to ensure that she learned every aspect of VBS.

As part of her work with young girls in Tanzania, Anna actively stands against female circumcision. This is still a common practice in many rural areas of Tanzania. Young women sometimes die from the procedure, so activists often give shelter to those who do not agree to experience the procedure.

Anna also spoke about how important Wesley College in Mwanza has been in her education journey. She holds a Certificate in Theology from Wesley College and emphasized how important the college is to women, who are welcomed just as men are.

When asked what the greatest need was, Anna replied that education was extremely important, especially for young women who hold a lesser status than men in the culture.

Donations for Anna's work with children, especially for VBS teacher training and for the needs of the children themselves, exceeded \$800. In addition, members of the FUMC unit donated funds for a computer for Anna.

Anna Migera Chacha is a strong woman who works fearlessly to educate the women and children in her sphere. We can, and do learn from her, and we give thanks for the work she does and for her example to us.



St. Luke UWFaith Fundraisers

St. Luke United Women in Faith sold St. Luke T-shirts in order to raise money for missions. It was a big success. We raised about \$1500. It was a large undertaking but well worth the effort.

We also hosted a Fried Chicken Dinner after church. We were able to raise \$800 for missions.

In August, we will begin our next fundraiser, selling restaurant coupon books.



Pensacola First UWFaith Spotlight on Community Partner

One of the organizations that we support in our area is Family Promise. Family Promise is a national program that transforms the lives of families experiencing homelessness in Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties.

Executive Director, Jennifer Lusher, has shared information with several of our Circle Groups and was a keynote speaker at our District Annual Day.



Pensacola First Church has partnered with Family Promise through our Mission Committee. We are looking forward to hosting our first family in the coming weeks. This is a wonderful opportunity for our United Women in Faith Circles to serve and support our community partners!

A Mission Trip to Downtown Pensacola

On April 13th a group from Gulf Breeze United Methodist Church, including GBUWFaith members, went on a mission trip to the new facility in downtown Pensacola for Family Promise. A total of 18 to 20 volunteers assembled playground equipment, did yard work and indoor cleaning to prepare for the ribbon cutting and grand opening of the new Family Promise Day Center on April 18th. It was a time of fellowship and hard work to help prepare the center for their mission to help homeless families regain an opportunity to move into independent housing.



2024 UWFaith Theme

God's love overflows through us in service for others.

Gulf Breeze UWFaith Visits Dumas Wesley Community Center

Our trip to Dumas Wesley was a fruitful one! We donated several needed items for the families who live there. The tour allowed us to see an apartment which was very clean and neat. It's very obvious that our donations are put to good use and the ladies who work there are glad to be the shepherds!



Dumas Wesley Community Center is in Mobile, Al. It is one of the National Mission Institutions UWFaith assists across the United States through grants, technical support, and member involvement. Founded in 1903 by Methodist Women, it provides Senior Services, Youth Programs, a Child & Adult Care Food Program, Transportation, and Transitional Housing for Homeless Women and their Children. In 2023, 24,525 bed nights were provided for 213 women and children and 2,368 individualized case management sessions and 130 life-skills classes were given (<https://www.dumaswesley.org/>). A portion of our Conference Love Offering also goes to Dumas Wesley.

President's Message

Dear Friends,

I saw this picture on the wall of a restaurant in Minnesota recently. I like this little essay so much that I wanted to share it with you. In the times of such great divisiveness, it's heartening to read words that encourage love and forgiveness and living life in the moment as fully and deeply as we can. Let's take the words to heart and start by loving as if we've never been hurt.

Peace and blessings,

Peggy

As we grow up, we learn that even the one person that wasn't supposed to ever let us down, probably will. You'll have your heart broken and you'll break others' hearts. You'll fight with your best friend or maybe even fall in love with them, and you'll cry because time is flying by. So take too many pictures, laugh too much, forgive freely, and love like you've never been hurt. Life comes with no guarantees, no time outs, no second chances. You just have to live life to the fullest, tell someone what they mean to you and tell someone off, speak out, dance in the pouring rain, hold someone's hand, comfort a friend, fall asleep watching the sun come up, stay up late, be a flirt, and smile until your face hurts. Don't be afraid to take chances or fall in love and most of all, live in the moment because every second you spend angry or upset is a second of happiness you can never take back. Author unknown.

2024 Scripture

“And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you understand what is best...” Philipians 1:9-10

The UWFaith Reading Program

It is time for some good summer reading.



Hope you are participating in this rewarding program, but if not, you can start now.

Talk to your UWFaith Unit's Resource Officer

Go to <https://UWFaith.org>

Select **Menu**, Select **Resources**,
scroll down to **Reading Program**
Select **Learn more**

Looking Forward to Next Year

It's your chance to volunteer to serve in our new Florida Panhandle UWFaith District and represent the western part of the Panhandle. It is fun and rewarding to meet and work with other Christian women to guide our organization to improve the lives of women, children and youth. Talk with any member of your unit board and she will put you in touch with this year's Chair of the District Nominations Committee, Janice Anderson.



The Alabama-West Florida Conference UWFaith Training Workbook defines the positions. Go to www.awf-umw.org, select RESOURCES, then select AWF-UWFaith Workbook.