



United  
Women  
in Faith

# UWF NEWS

September 2022  
Volume 14, Issue 5

## EXCITING FALL ACTIVITIES JUST AHEAD!

### A Message from Our President Surviving the Summer of Sad

I, like many of you, am in the season of life where visitations, funerals, memorials, and writing of sympathy cards seem to be too frequent. This summer has been particularly sad for me. In May we lost a nephew at age 19 to a drug overdose. In August we lost a sister-in-law. Same family, two deaths in three months. In July, a dear friend lost her son at age 47. Less than two weeks later, this friend also lost her only sibling, her sister, at age 69. All of these deaths were sudden, and unexpected, and almost unbearably sad. Each brought many questions. Questions for God: Why at 19? Why at 47? A mother and father should not be burying their child, no matter their age.

Why God??? Why?

As I contemplated these tragedies, they were compounded by the news of deaths from gun violence. Perhaps you read the article about the principal at Urbana High School who moved here after 10 years in the profession elsewhere, only to experience the death of one of his students within a few months of arriving. It is in our neighborhoods, our city, our state, our nation. It is in Buffalo, Uvalde and Champaign.

UWF hosted a Faith Talk podcast on September 1 discussing gun violence. I had other obligations, but I plan to listen to it as soon as it is posted on the website. In two weeks they will have a discussion about decriminalization of black students. Our national organization is becoming a light in the darkness for these issues. They give me hope that we can make a difference when we work together.

This post on Facebook put the summer in perspective:

“You’ll survive.”

That’s the first thing they tell you after you lose someone. And, you know what, they’re right.

In time, we all find a way to pick up the pieces and move on. What they forget to mention, however, is that survival and happiness aren’t the same thing.

So, as we approach the fall, I am ready for a new season, to move forward, maybe not yet to happiness, but with gratitude and with hope. It is a season to be thankful for the lives that were lived. It is a time to focus on the living, and on how each of us can make life better for another. That’s what United Women in Faith is all about. We CAN make a difference by and through mission.

I’ve missed our gatherings over the summer, and I look forward to our Fall Special Program. Please join us on September 14 as we hear from a woman who recognized a need in our own community and who is now helping other women to succeed. She has given hope to our sisters. This would be a great time to bring a friend to one of our gatherings. For, we are all in this together.... Hope to see you there...

### Don’t miss our September Program!

On Wednesday, September 14, you are invited to attend a very special program! Our guest speaker will be Beth Wendling, Founder of Orphans Treasure Box. Her topic is “Second Chance through Restart”. Restart is a wonderful program that employs women coming out of



prison, addiction, domestic violence and other types of trauma.

The September 14 meeting begins at 2:00 in Friendship Center North. There will be refreshments! Dorcas Women are hostesses.

You're welcome to bring along to our meeting one or two used books in *very good* or *excellent* condition to donate to Orphans Treasure Box.

## What is Orphan's Treasure Box?

Orphans Treasure Box is a faith based organization that sells thousands of donated books to support orphans and the families who adopt them. They also give away money to those in need...even in the midst of a pandemic. Last year they helped children in Swaziland, Peru, Haiti and locally in Illinois.

Over the past year, the outlet store has provided books for a women's prison in Illinois, a ministry serving immigrants and refugees in Texas, an organization that ships Bibles and Christian resources around the world, and several food pantries, libraries, and schools.



Our speaker, Beth Wendling, will tell us about their relatively new program, Restart. To get a fuller picture of their work, you need to visit their website: <https://www.orphanstreasurebox.org>. Their impact is far reaching and simply amazing!

## Two (2!) Sunday Markets in October!

It's time to get ready for our fall fundraiser! We are once again hosting two Sunday Morning Markets in October and we will need everyone's help! There are several ways you can be a part of these important fundraising efforts:

- You can bake! And bake some more!
- You can prepare homemade soup!
- You can put together a collection of items for a gift basket!
- You can help decorate!
- You can make purchases and bid on silent auction items!

- You can invite your friends and family to church and gently lead them to the Sunday Markets!

## First Sunday Morning Market: October 2

We will feature small cakes and will also sell all kinds of baked goods (quick breads, coffeecakes, cookies). Please note that this year we don't plan to sell large, fancy decorated cakes. However, coffeecakes are a special treat, so if that's your specialty, please help us out. We'll also sell quart jars of our two popular varieties of soup: Chicken Rice and Beef Vegetable. For more information on soup, see the article below.

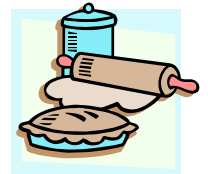
## Second Sunday Market: October 9

We'll feature pies, especially **fruit** pies, pecan, apple, blueberry, pumpkin...We welcome all kinds and sizes of pies, including individual tarts!

We'd love to have our tables loaded down with yummy baked goods on both Sunday mornings. Small loaves of quick breads—especially pumpkin, banana, blueberry, cranberry, and date-nut—are always in demand.

## Attention All Bakers!

Please help us out by preparing baked goods to sell at our October Sunday Markets. Stop at the UWF table in Friendship Center North on **September 18 or 25** to let us know what you plan to make. Or, contact Anne McKenney ([arockymac@aol.com](mailto:arockymac@aol.com); (217)356-4728). We may also have a few cake/pie carriers for you to pick up. Please see important packaging and delivery instructions on p. 3.



## Attention Soup Cooks!



If you'd like to help by preparing a batch or two of soup, please stop at the UWF Table in Friendship Center North on **September 18 or 25** to pick up recipes, instructions, and empty Mason jars. Or, contact Sharon Johnson (217)356-9078); ([sjohnson@champaignfumc.org](mailto:sjohnson@champaignfumc.org)).

## We Will Also Sell Gift Baskets!

We plan to offer a total of 25 themed gift baskets on both Sundays. (We hope that you and your friends will do their Christmas shopping early and purchase one or two of these beautiful baskets!) This year, we want to focus on small or medium sized baskets that reflect these themes: Fall, Christmas, U of I Sports, Senior Citizens (stamps, Word Search, tea), Spa (e.g. shower, bath, relaxation CD), Cooking (e.g. measuring cups, cookbook). We plan to price the baskets between \$15 and \$25, so please keep that in mind as you plan and shop.



Once you've decided on a theme, gather items and place them in a plastic bag (one bag per gift basket). Leave the bags in the large container in the Resource Room no later than 5 p.m. on Monday, September 19. We'll decorate the baskets for you!

**Please note: We cannot accept random items!**

## Will There Be a Silent Auction?

Yes! There will be a Silent Auction! The Silent Auction will begin on October 2 at 10:00 a.m. and conclude at Noon on October 9. Our silent auction is one of the most anticipated events of the fall. Over the years, we have offered an array of intriguing silent auction items, including tickets to Illini games, home repairs, dinners, artwork, and much more. Be sure to stop by at the Silent Auction Tables on October 2 and October 9 and place your bid!

## Let's Remember Why We Do This!

As United Women in Faith we pledge annually to support mission work that helps improve the lives

**We believe  
love in action  
can change  
the world**

of women, children, and youth globally, nationally, and locally. Our annual fall fundraiser, along with our personal pledges, enables us to fulfill that very important promise. To do this,

we need everyone's help. If you are no longer able to bake or shop, please consider making a monetary contribution. Send a check in any amount, payable to UWF, to our treasurer Linda Boehm at 1712 Henry St, Champaign 61821. We thank you.

## Fall District UWF Will Meet in Mahomet

The Fall Meeting of our District UWF will meet at Mahomet UMC on Saturday, September 17 beginning at 9:15 a.m. and concluding at 2:00 p.m. The theme for the meeting is **"Together We Serve"**. The main speaker will be Kay Clifton, retired Deaconess and current president of Spoon River District United Women in Faith. Cost of the luncheon is \$10. A vegetarian option will be available by request. To register, send a check in the amount of \$10 payable to Sharon Johnson no later than **September 6**.

The district will be collecting love gifts for Cunningham Children's Home and Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House at the meeting. You'll find a list of the items they're requesting below. Please put your donations for each agency into separate bags and give the bags to Sharon Johnson before September 16. Do not put gift cards in the bags. Give them to Sharon for safe keeping.

This promises to be a wonderful meeting! It will be a day of fellowship, sharing, and learning. It's a short trip to Mahomet, so Ladies, let's go!

### **For Cunningham Children's Home School**

- Composition notebooks with sewn binding (no spiral)
- Black and blue pens
- Plastic pencil boxes
- Zippered pencil pouches
- Hand Soap Pumps any scent except coconut
- Men's Body Wash
- Men's Deodorant
- Amazon or Walmart Gift Cards (\$25)

### **For Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House**

- bar soap
- bath towels
- lotion (hand or body)

**We serve.**

**We advocate.**

**We make a difference.**

## How is a tradition born?

Someone has a great idea for an event. Someone else loves the idea, writes about the event and boldly declares it to be "The First Annual...." So,

that's how our July 2022 ice cream social became known as an annual tradition. Only time will tell if there's a Second Annual event! We certainly hope so!

## The First Annual Ice Cream Social!



We were interested in finding out from the eight women who came to the midsummer event, what motivated them to attend and the unanimous response was “ice cream”! Of course! So, whatever event is planned for next July should definitely feature ice cream—along with our favorite toppings!

The plan was to watch and discuss an episode of UWF Faith Talks Podcast called “Mom’s in Prison.” It turned out that that podcast was not yet up on the UWF website. Our attendees were very patient and even stepped in to try to help as we searched for an alternative.

Eventually we chose a video episode of Voices from the Field—featuring missionaries speaking live from their mission site. We watched the missionaries from Liberia and used closed captions in order to better understand the speakers—not a perfect solution, but nevertheless...

Here are a few observations made by our women after viewing the video:

- ✝ It was fun to share the evening with eight other ladies, including Pastor Julia.
- ✝ The mission statement of the missionaries in Liberia is, “Not for ourselves, but for others.”
- ✝ The missionaries were filmed wearing UMW printed fabrics. They were quite colorful and definitely got everyone’s attention.
- ✝ The main issues highlighted in the video were human trafficking and teen pregnancy. Nearly one-third of girls become pregnant before 18.
- ✝ The missionaries are working hard to overcome these issues. They have a 5 year plan for a contained area which would offer housing, training, and childcare to help the girls earn a living so that they didn’t have to work the streets as prostitutes.

The consensus of the group was that this particular video was not as appealing as the “Mom’s in Prison” podcast would have been. However, the ice cream sundaes were sensational! Thanks to Karen Wood for providing the ice cream and the attendees for providing the delicious toppings.

## Information that You Absolutely Need to Know for the Sunday Morning Markets!

### Important Packaging Information

- ✓ Leave pies whole; cover with plastic wrap.
- ✓ Cookies and brownies by the half-dozen (these sell best) or dozen. Arrange them on a paper or plastic plate, securely covered in plastic wrap; or in clear plastic containers. Please, no plastic bags!
- ✓ Small loaves of breads sell best; use plastic wrap (not aluminum foil).
- ✓ Attach a small piece of paper or label identifying the baked item and listing any unusual or perhaps allergenic ingredients, (such as nuts) or other helpful information (e.g. sugar-free; gluten-free).
- ✓ We will provide attractive labels for your baked goods.

### Important Delivery Information

- ✓ **Cakes and other baked goods** must be delivered to the church between 10 a.m. and noon on Saturday, October 1 or no later than 10 a.m. on Sunday, October 2.
- ✓ **Pies and other baked goods** must be delivered to the church between 10 a.m. and noon on Saturday, October 8, or no later than 10 a.m. on Sunday, October 9.
- ✓ Jars of soup should be delivered to the church on Saturday, October 1 or no later than 10 a.m. on Sunday, October 2.
- ✓ If you’d like someone to pick up your

- ✓ baked goods and deliver them to church, please call Anne McKenney (217)356-4728)

### Important "Market" Dates

Bring items for baskets anytime, but no later than 5 p.m. on September 19

Sign up for baked goods, and pick up soup recipes, Mason jars, and plastic cake/pie carriers at the UMW table, September 18 and 25

Bring quarts of **soup** to church between 10 a.m. and noon on Saturday, October 1, or no later than 10 a.m. on Sunday, October 2

Bring **cakes** and other baked goods to the church between 10 a.m. and noon on Saturday, October 1 or no later than 10 a.m. on Sunday, October 2

Bring **pies** and other baked goods between 10 a.m. and noon on Saturday, October 8, or no later than 10 a.m. on Sunday, October 9

Silent Auction opens at 10 a.m., October 2

Silent Auction closes at NOON, October 9

### Be sure to attend...

our Fall Special Program,  
September 14, 2:00 p.m.  
Friendship Center North,  
"Second Chance through Restart"  
Guest speaker: Beth Wendlin  
Founder of Orphans Treasure Box  
Refreshments!

*Keep reading the wonderful books in our church library!*

The Source for all Things UWF

<http://uwfaith.org>



### Save this issue as a reference!



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**Faith,  
Action,  
and Sisterhood**





United  
Women  
in Faith

**All women of the church  
are invited to attend!**

**Fall Special Program**  
**“Second Chance through Restart”**



**Guest Speaker: Beth Wendling**  
**Founder, Orphans Treasure Box**

**“Restart” is a wonderful program that employs women coming out of prison, addiction, domestic violence and other types of trauma.**

**Wednesday, September 14, at 2 p.m.**  
**Friendship Center North**

**You are welcome to bring along one or two used books in very good or excellent condition to donate to Orphans Treasure Box.**

**Dorcas Women are hostesses**