

UPDATES AND REFLECTIONS JANUARY 2026

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



As we move through these winter months, let us take time to reflect on our blessings. We have a strong organization involved in many different activities in Williamsburg United Methodist Church and in the greater Williamsburg area. If you have not noticed, there is an updated UWF bulletin board in the hallway across from the chapel. The four circles represent the four Circles that make up our UWF unit! Remember, you can attend any or all of these circles at any time. Bonnie and I visited three of the four circles at their January meetings. We will catch up with Sisters in Grace in the next few months.

As you receive and look through your new UWF directory, look at the goals listed on pages 7 and 8. As a member of our unit, this is what we strive to do. Pay attention to 1f and 1g this month. Are you supporting the Chili sale? Will you be attending Call to Prayer and Self-Denial? Membership in UWF is more than attending a monthly circle meeting!

We are still looking to fill a few positions on the Executive Board. We need a Recording Secretary. Her job is to attend board meetings and prepare the minutes of these meetings. We have a form that matches the agenda for the evening so the secretary can fill in the form as the meeting progresses. Hopefully, that will make the taking of the minutes a little easier.

We also need a Social Action mission chair. Her job is providing the membership with updated information about ongoing issues that reflect the interests of the United Methodist Church. Upcoming events include the Red Cross Blood Drive on February 28th and the Call to Prayer and Self-Denial on March 14th.

Janet

CIRCLE HAPPENINGS

Heritage Scott



The Heritage-Scott Circle met on Tuesday, January 6th. There were 16 members and 2 guests at the meeting. Bonnie Knizatko attended as Vice President and Michelle Roy presented the program on Realm. The ladies gained useful information about Realm and Michelle answered questions about it. Following the business meeting, several ladies went to Carrot Tree for lunch.

Ruth Simpson



Ruth Simpson Circle met on Wednesday, January with 7 members and 2 guests present.

Our meeting began with a “pep talk” from Janet Henke that reminded the members that being a WUWF member includes attendance at the WUWF unit special meetings and events in addition to attending monthly Circle meetings. After a brief business meeting, Michelle Roy presented an overview of the new Realm system and offered her help if problems occur when navigating the system. To complete the meeting, Bonnie Knizatko presented the Pledge Service 2026 program to receive the 2026 pledges.

Sisters in Grace



Sisters in Grace Circle met on Tuesday, January 10 with 18 members and 1 guest present. Diane Robbins shared about her trip abroad that traced the footsteps of the early apostles going into “all the world” carrying out the Great Commission. Following her program, we completed our plans for our ARC outreach for this month and for our time with Respite Care in February. The 2026 WUWF handbooks were passed out and dues were collected. We rejoiced at having Biddie Whitt back with us after a long time away dealing with challenging health issues.

On Thursday SIG hosted the ARC of Disabilities Day Program as part of our monthly outreach with them. We interacted with them in a morning full of fun and games. Being with them was uplifting and refreshing!

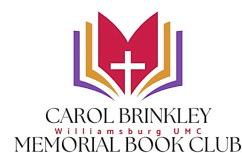
Sisters in Mission



Sisters in Mission Circle met on Tuesday, January 10, with 12 members and 1 guest present. Gwen and Bonnie gave "New Beginnings" devotions. Donna reported that \$2,000 was raised in our Cookie/Soup mix and notecard December Sales. All monies will be given to the WUWF Missions Fund. Donna also discussed the upcoming "Souper Bowl" Chili sales event. We will also be considering a "Christmas in July" event to use left over supplies from the cookie and soup mixes from December. All circles will be encouraged to volunteer as needed for preparation and sales.

After positive discussion, members attending chose to divide into teams for leading the monthly meetings during 2026/2027. Those present enthusiastically formed teams. Gwen Hinton, Virginia Price and Libby Daniel will be leading programs for February and March. The February topic will be Love Stories of the Bible. Lastly, our membership discussed and chose to move our meeting day and time to the 3rd Tuesday at 5:00 p.m. for this new year. Prayers for good health and recovery from illness should continue for Patty Benesh.

CAROL BRINKLEY MEMORIAL BOOK CLUB



Here is the wonderful book that will be read for our March meeting:

March 9: *The Girl With 7 Names* by H. Lee

WORLD THANK OFFERING CHALLENGE



What is the World Thank Offering?

The world Thank Offering is a part of the United Women's Mission Giving that supports national and international programs working with women, children and youth in the United States and around the world.

I am going to present you with a challenge each month. Drop your coins into any type of coin box. In November your coins or dollars will be collected in your Circle meeting. My suggestion is to convert all your change into dollars or a check for the WUWF treasurer.

Here is your January challenge: count all your TV's and put \$0.25 for each one in your container. For February your challenge is count all your lamps and put \$0.25 for each one into your container. Have fun girls - you will hear from me again next month. Linda Upshaw