



United
Women
in Faith

THE BEACON

THE CHARLESTON DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2024

From the Desk of the President:

“Here’s what I want you to do: Find a quiet, secluded place so you won’t be tempted to role-play before God. Just be there as simply and honestly as you can manage. The focus will shift from you to God, and you will begin to sense his grace.” Matthew 6:6 The Message

Throughout the Bible we can find scriptures where Jesus implores us to take time away from the crowds to spend time in prayer and meditation. By doing so, we are just talking and listening to God one-on-one with no one watching or distracting us. We can be sure that God is listening to us.

On a recent stormy Saturday, around 60 women and two men took time from our busy schedules to celebrate “A Seat at the Table” during our Annual Spiritual Growth Day Apart. We weathered the driving rain, the gusty winds, and flooded streets to crawl to North Charleston United Methodist Church. What a wonderful day we experienced!

Denise Cutchins and her UWF Unit women served us a buffet of delicious delights! A great way to start our day! Thank you, Ladies!

With a powerful presentation titled “A Seat at the Table”, our guest speaker, Suzan Phillips, talked about our daily prayer life. She began by asking: Why pray? What is prayer? What is prayer not? Through scripture, examples, and discussion, we realized that prayer is one way we live out our faith in God and it helps us grow spiritually. Sometimes it’s difficult to talk to God when we’re going through difficulties in life, but God through the Holy Spirit is always available to listen to us. We can find time in our busy life to pray by reciting the Lord’s Prayer, singing, coloring, or listening to music. Even while driving we can talk to God. Just do it!

“Proceed with much prayer and your way will be made plain.” John Wesley, Founder of Methodism.

Suzan Phillips is the author of “Seriously Seeking God: a Four Week Study on Contemplating the Parables”. It will be available on Amazon next week. If you are interested in having Suzan speak to your Unit, please contact me. One of the highlights of the day was an interpretive dance by the Praise Ladies from Wesley UMC Ladson. They performed “God is Good”. The Reverend Dan Griswold led us in the Communion service and benediction.

To all who attended, THANK YOU! To those who couldn’t make it, we missed you! See you next year!

The SC Conference of the United Women in Faith will present their annual Spiritual Growth Day Apart on Saturday, April 6 th . It will be held virtually. Stay tuned for more information on registering. We have just completed two important events scheduled through the state. The first was a virtual book study on “So You Want to Talk About Race”. The other was the Legislative Advocacy Days. Both were supported by the Social Action Committee and were very informative. If you are not taking part in any of these local, state, or national programs, like the Community Gatherings or Faith Talks, you are missing an opportunity to learn and grow in your daily walk with God!

Happy Spring!

Elaine G. Misskelley

President, Charleston District United Women in Faith

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~ McClellanville UMC ~

Each November the women of the **McClellanville United Methodist Church** have a **Holiday Market**. It is always the Saturday before Thanksgiving. It is a tradition in our church and our small village. It has evolved over the years. It was once called Methodist Bazaar, now a more modern and appropriate name, Holiday Market. We no longer have so many crafts but have added a silent auction. We still have a wonderful bake sale and a lunch that brings out the entire village.

This year was no different. The United Women in Faith and family and friends volunteered to make our market on November 18th a great success. Lunch is the big draw. It is prepared by a former restaurant chef and her family. The baked goods are provided by church members and friends of our church. The excitement of the silent auction is loved by all. Local artists donate paintings and other art articles. We have baskets donated by a friend in Asheville NC who fills them with food and articles from that area. The majority of the proceeds go to organizations that help women and children in our community and in our state. It is a community event. Everything is donated by businesses, artists, and individual in our community. Hope to see you there next year. The food is worth the drive.





The Ladies of Stewart Chapel ~ Tribute to Black History Month



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New Francis Brown UMC



The United Women of Faith of New Francis Brown UMC started the 2024 new year with a mission project. The project focused on sick and shut-in members of New Francis Brown. The purpose was to encourage these members and let them know they were remembered, loved and cared for by their church family.

Unit members donated, assembled and delivered gift boxes to male and female church members. Boxes contained hot chocolate packets, tea bags, crackers, small bottles of water, hand sanitizer, personal care items, tissues, and candy. The boxes also included prayer inserts. The unit plans to provide this service quarterly and over time extend it to community members who may not be members of New Francis Brown.

This project was well received and a blessing to those who gave and those who received.



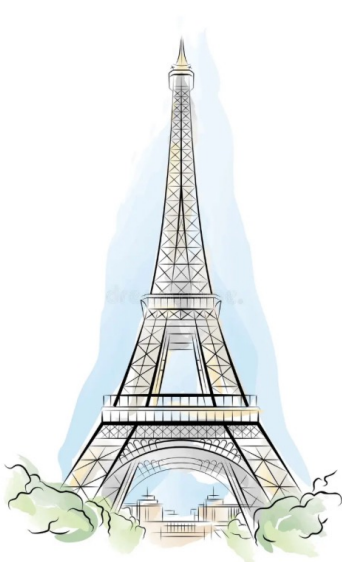
Wesley UMC, Hollywood, SC

We had a great time at the Retreat on last Saturday. Here are pics for the beacon. Some of our ladies at the Retreat, and our Women's Day Program on this past Sunday. All women were asked to wear pink and/or green.



Grace United Methodist Church

The ladies of Grace UMC enjoyed a special event on February 18 which was hosted by the Faith-Hope-Anita Way Circle. It has been a tradition at Grace to host a Mother-Daughter-Get-Together for all the ladies and girls of the church. This year's theme was Viva La Paris' and was enjoyed by all. The young girls were given a beret to wear and coloring books about Paris were on the tables. Information about the connections between France and the USA were highlighted and some French phrases were shared with all. Everyone lifted their voices by singing Frere Jacques in rounds. Refreshments included crepes, croissants and Madeleine's with a variety of trimmings. There was even a photo booth to snap a picture with the Eiffel Tower in the background. Some brave souls even had lessons in dancing the cancan! Everyone left with an Eiffel Tower keychain.



Annual Spiritual Growth Retreat "A Seat at The Table"

Sincere thanks individually and collectively for your support and encouragement to bring this year's Day Apart Program to fruition on March 9.

Despite the uncertainty at the beginning of this day, God worked it out, and the result was a beautiful program and we give Him all the Praise.

How wonderful to have 15 UWF Units/Churches represented, worshipping and fellowshiping together on a Saturday morning at North Charleston, UMC.

Oh taste and see that the Lord is good! ~ *Pearl Foster*

