



CENTRAL DISTRICT UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2026

THE PURPOSE UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

United Women In Faith shall be a community of women whose PURPOSE is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship, and to expand the concepts of mission through global ministries of the church.

Greetings from the District President,

Greetings to all of you who are part of UWF in the Central District! Let me tell you a little about myself. I have lived in West Point all my life, and First United Methodist Church is my church home. I have been married to Eugene Bailey for 54 years, and we have one daughter and three grandsons. I am a retired English teacher. I thought the time had come for me to sit back and enjoy letting others do the work, but that is not what God had planned for me. I am excited as we begin this new season, getting to know each other better and growing in faith together.

We have challenges in this new Central District. We will have to travel farther as our district stretches from the Mississippi River to the Alabama line. For this reason, we will use Zoom for many of our planning meetings. But it is important for us to gather in person, so I urge you to participate in one or two of our district events. If you and/or your unit are interested and willing to serve on a committee or host an event, please let me know!

We certainly have many opportunities in the coming months! Our Day Apart and Officer Training will be hosted by the Kosciusko Wesley UWF on Feb. 28. I know the ladies at Wesley are planning a delicious lunch for us, and Vice President Carolyn Pointer is organizing a meaningful program. This event is especially for all local officers to receive information and training from the district officers. Day Apart is the perfect opportunity for us to get to know each other.

Rose Coffey Graham has planned an information-rich Social Action event. "Faith, Fairness, and the Future: Energy in the Central District" will take place at Cleveland First United Methodist Church on March 21. The panelists will bring different perspectives of the impact of climate change on our daily lives. We want to begin to learn about this issue, discuss the issues, and seek ways that we can be part of the solution. I hope many of you will make the trip to the Delta to join us that day. You will receive a flyer with registration information very soon.

We are focused on serving God through mission giving. I urge every unit to send in your pledges each quarter to treasurer Holly Hitt, 1022 E. Broad St., West Pont, MS 39773. I challenge you also to go above and beyond as God leads you.

We do have heavy hearts for our Conference President Kathleen Smith whose brother passed away recently. Please lift Pres. Smith and her family in your prayers. Also, we must remember all those who have been affected by the recent ice storm. You may be one of those people! Let us continue to pray for power to be restored, water to flow, streets to be cleared, schools to open so that people can return to their lives. We pray for all the men and women who are working tirelessly in difficult and dangerous circumstances to restore our towns.

Please contact me if you have questions or suggestions or if you want to volunteer: (662)295-6219, elizabethbailey@bellsouth.net. May God bless you and may God guide us and empower us to do His work.

Elizabeth Bailey, President

First Annual Meeting of the New Central District
First United Methodist Church, West Point, MS
Saturday, October 18, 2025
OFFICER INSTALLATION



Elected officers are as follows from left to right, Elizabeth Bailey, President, Linda Ferguson, Secretary, Holly Hitt, Treasurer, Lois O'Neal, Communications Coordinator, Sally Rule, Nominations Chairperson, Bettie Holmes, and Shuni Coffey, Nominations Committee. Not pictured are Thelma Collins, and Ruthie Robbins, Nominations Committee. Please see our full slate of officers, both elected and appointed on the next page.

FYI: The Central District consists of 98 Churches which spans across the following counties.

Attala, Bolivar, Carroll, Choctaw, Clay, Grenada, Holmes, Humphreys, Issaquena, Leflore, Lowndes, Montgomery, Noxubee, Oktibbeha, Sharkey, Sunflower, Tallahatchie, Washington, Webster, and Winston

CENTRAL DISTRICT UWF LEADERSHIP TEAM

President: Elizabeth Bailey, 140 Chickasaw Dr., West Point, MS 39773
elizabethbailey@bellsouth.net (662) 295-6219

Vice President: Carolyn Pointer, 178 Henry Lane, Caledonia, MS 39740
carolynwms662@yahoo.com (662) 574-7254

Secretary: Linda Ferguson, 644 Bluecutt Rd., Starkville, MS 39759
lindaf0662@aol.com (662) 648-9398

Treasurer: Holly Hitt, 1022 E. Broad St., West Point, MS 39773
hollymoorehitt@gmail.com (662) 275-3313

Communications Coordinator: Lois O'Neal 1314 9th Ave. N., Columbus, MS 39701
oneallois391@gmail.com (662) 694-1146

Nominations Chairperson: Sallie Rule, 2664 Love Rd., Lexington, MS 39095
srule4917@yahoo.com (662) 792-1636

E&I Coordinator: Akeah Mays, 1212 Louisville St., Apt. 46, Starkville, MS 39759
akeahgraham02@gmail.com (662) 312-3369

MN&O Coordinator: Cinzia Duncan, P.O. Box 91, West Point, MS 39773
cenziaduncan@aol.com (813) 205-8198

Spiritual Growth Coordinator: Ora Dodd, 111 Stearman St., Belzoni, MS 39038
johnny_dodd@bellsouth.net (662) 4068

Social Action Coordinator: Rose Coffey Graham, 437 Polly Bell Rd., Starkville, MS 39759
rosecoffeygraham@gmail.com (662) 242-7962

Secretary of Program Resources: LaShonda Smith, 3693 Mountain Rd., McCool, MS 39108
shonshon39108@yahoo.com (662) 803-8972

Nominations Committee:

Bettie Holmes, 142 Linda Dr., Canton, MS 39046

bettieholmes123@gmail.com (601) 617-9500

Shuni Coffey, P.O. Box 103, Weir, MS 39772

shuni57@gmail.com (662) 299-3409

Thelma Collins, 604 Freedom St., Itta Bena, MS 38941

thelma.collins63@yahoo.com (662) 299-3409

Ruthie Robbins, 303 Mitchell St., Itta Bena, MS 38941

r26@yahoo.com (662) 704-0457

**A DAY APART
AND
LOCAL OFFICER TRAINING**

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2026

TIME: 9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

REGISTRATION: 8:30 A.M.

WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

207 SOUTH NATCHEZ STREET

KOSCIUSKO, MS 39090

REGISTRATION: \$12.00

***registration forms have been sent in a separate email. Please encourage your members to attend and Send in an attendance count so that we may prepare accordingly.

You may call Holly Hitt at 662-275-3313 or

Carolyn Pointer at 662-574-7254 or

Lois O'Neal at 662-694-1146 for questions or concerns.

*** Please note the number for Holly that is on the registration form is incorrect. Please excuse my error. The correct number is 662-275-3313.

**SAVE THE DATE
CENTRAL DISTRICT
SOCIAL ACTION EVENT
MARCH 21, 2026
9:30 AM – 12:00 PM
CLEVELAND FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
“Faith, Fairness, and the Future:
Energy in the Central District”**

Opportunities To Give

Mission Giving

There are five channels of undesignated giving to the mission of United Women In Faith.

They are as follows:

- Pledge To Mission
 - Candle Burning
 - Mission Minute Person
 - Pennies
- Special Mission Recognition
- Gift To Mission
- Gift In Memory
- World Thank Offering

If your local group wants to be recognized as a “Five Star Unit” you will need to allocate a portion of your undesignated giving to each of these five-line items (1) Pledge to Mission (which includes your local UWF pledge) (2) Special Mission Recognition (3) Gift To Mission (4) Gift In Memory and (5) World Thank Offering. The recognition of the “Five Star Units” are based on your prior year giving during this fiscal year of 2026 and will be announced at the 2027 Central District Annual Meeting. The deadline for the 2026 Mission Giving is December _____, 2026. **(Date to be filled in later)**

Quarterly Treasurer reports should be sent to Holly Hitt, 1022 East Broad Street, West Point, MS 39773.

Remittance due dates are March _____, 2026;

June _____, 2026; September _____, 2026 and December _____, 2026.

Please reach out to Holly at 332-275-3313 or email at

hollymoorehitt@gmail.com **(Dates to be filled in later)**

**CENTRAL DISTRICT PROPOSED ANNUAL BUDGET 2026
PROJECTED INCOME:**

Pledge to Mission from Local Organizations	\$6,407.44
District Social Action Event Registration (30 x \$10.00)	300.00
District Mission u Registration (30 x \$10.00)	300.00
A&MD (Administration & Membership Development)	500.00
Total Projected Income	\$7,507.44

PROJECTED EXPENSES:

Quarterly Pledge to Mission	\$6,407.44
District Social Action Event Registration (30 x \$10.00)	300.00
District Mission u Registration (30 x \$10.00)	300.00
A&MD (Administration & Membership Development)	500.00
Total Projected Income	\$7,507.44

2026 UWF Central District and Conference Calendar

January 18 District Leadership Team Meeting (via Zoom)

District Newsletter

January 25 Book Study: Before the Streetlights Come On (via Zoom)

February 7 Conference Mission u Committee Meeting

February 28 District Day Apart and Officer Training, Wesley,

March 6-7 Conference Spiritual Growth Retreat, Lake Tia O'Khata, Louisville

March 21 District Social Action Event: Cleveland First United Methodist Church

“Faith, Fairness, and the Future: Energy in the Central District”

April 11 (?) Central District Leadership Team Meeting (in person)

District Newsletter

May 15-17 UWF Assembly 2026, Indianapolis, Indiana

June 3-5 Mississippi Annual Conference: Millsaps College, Jackson

June 3 Conference UWF Luncheon

July 17-18 Conference Mission u at Galloway UMC, Jackson

Theme: “A Deep Knowing: Experiencing Emmanuel”

August 7-8 Conference Leadership Team Meeting

August 15 or 16 Central District Leadership Team Meeting

District Newsletter

October 9-10 Conference Annual Meeting hosted by Central District

Oct. 17 or 24—Central District Annual Meeting, First Unity UMC, Weir