



FIRST-CENTENARY

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

Happy New Year! As we wrap up January, we're grateful for all that's already underway and excited for what lies ahead. The new year brings meaningful opportunities for fellowship and service, and the important work we'll continue together.

Please see the announcements below for upcoming events. We especially look forward to United Women in Faith Sunday 2/15, along with a mini-retreat led by Kara Lassen Oliver the day prior. We hope you'll join us for these special gatherings and look forward to seeing you there!



Saturday Mini Retreat & United Women in Faith Sunday

We are pleased to welcome Kara Lassen Oliver who will lead a 2 hour mini retreat on Saturday, February 14 and will preach on the 15th, live streamed from the sanctuary to the Vine worship.

Lenten Mini Retreat: A Journey to the Heart of God

This event is being presented in collaboration with the Worship Ministry and is not just for women.

All are welcome.

Frederick Buechner reminds us that "true repentance spends less time looking at the past and saying, 'I'm sorry,' than to the future and saying, 'Wow!'"

On Saturday, February 14, join us for a two-hour contemplative retreat as we begin the Lenten season. Using the labyrinth as both sacred path and spiritual metaphor, we'll journey together through three movements:

- Release – Letting go of what weighs us down
- Illumination – Resting in the heart of God
- Return – Moving forward with renewed purpose and wonder

In our vulnerable world, this retreat offers space to rest, renew, and reconnect—with yourself, with community, and with the Holy One.

Registration appreciated but not required: On the F-C website or by telephone to the church.



Kara Lassen Oliver is a contemplative at heart and a writer. Oliver brings over 15 years of leadership experience in spiritual formation, hospitality, and organizational growth. As a United Methodist lay person she has served as youth pastor, a Volunteer in Mission for two years in Malawi, and over ten years in publishing, most recently on staff at The Upper Room. She is passionate about cultivating renewal and connection, aligning seamlessly with St. Mary's Sewanee's mission.

CIRCLE NEWS

Chris Bowles Circle

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, February 24th

10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

In the FCUMC Morgan Classroom

Will finish the study of Diane Butler Bass' book, *Grateful: The Transformative Power of Giving Thanks*

Susannah Wesley Circle

Next Meeting:

Monday, March 23rd

6:30pm

Location TBD

Will be serving the Mustard Tree meal February 8th.

Creation Care Circle

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, February 11th

6:30pm

In FCUMC Mohny Hall

Learn more about how our church is caring for God's creation and explore ways to get involved!

To learn more about our Circles

[Click Here](#)

CALEB Updates



CALEB is holding a press conference Friday (1/30) at 4pm to call on county officials to end their contract with ICE. Last year local officials entered into a contract with ICE (287g), enabling local law enforcement to act as ICE proxy. Since then, anyone suspected of being undocumented can be arrested and deported for the smallest traffic violation. The vast, vast majority of local arrests and deportations are for non-violent offenses.

First-Centenary clergy will be attending, and Pastor Jason will read a statement from the Council of Bishops. You can show your support by attending or by writing to your County Commissioner opposing the contract.

If you are interested in attending, register using the link below and you will get a notice re the location when that's determined.

<https://www.mobilize.us/caleb/event/892438/>

Volunteer Opportunities



As ABIDE continues to grow, we are excited to expand our program to four days a week beginning in January — and we need more amazing volunteers to make it possible!

If you feel called to serve and would like more information or to get involved, please contact Brandi Anderson at abide@firstcentenary.com.

Recommended Readings

Jan./Feb. response:

Legacy Banquet to Feature One of Little Rock Nine

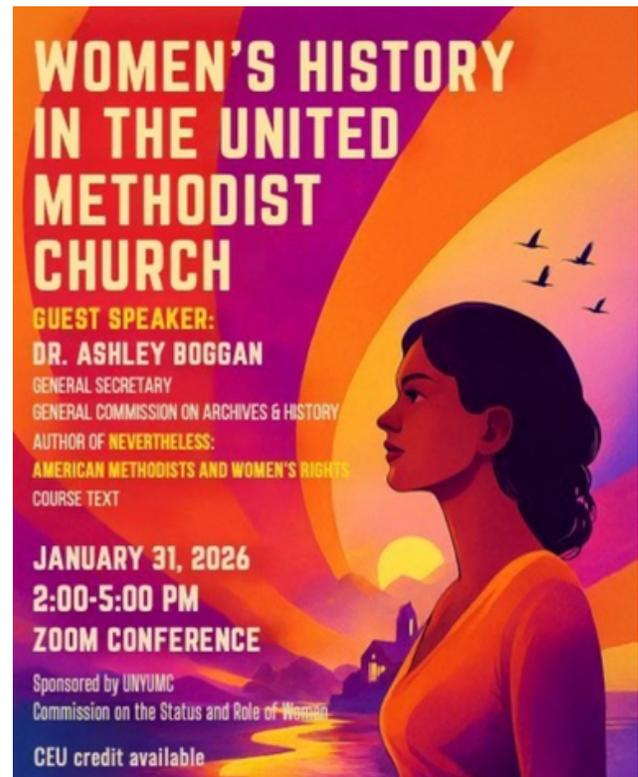
[Click here to read](#)

Faith in action:

United Methodist Church Bishops Condemn Violence in Minnesota

[Click here to read](#)

Free Zoom Event



Make plans now to join Dr. Ashley Boggan when she speaks at the "Women's History in The United Methodist Church" Zoom event from 2-5 p.m. ET on Saturday, Jan. 31. The course text is "Nevertheless: American Methodists and Women's Rights," which Boggan authored. The event, which is free, is sponsored by the Upper NY AC's Commission on the Status and Role of Women. CEU credit is available. Register at the link: <https://bit.ly/4ssYZII>