

Keynote Speaker



Rev. Kim Uchimura

My calling and work are in Servant Leadership as a pastor at the local church which work I love almost as much as I love Jesus. I'm wife to my husband Greg, a mom to our three grown children and Grandma to the sweetest five grandkids I know, I am certain of this, though: God loves everyone. Sounds corny, I know, and it's real and healing and empowering when we finally say yes to God through Jesus by the Holy Spirit.

I went to Northwestern University (1982) and my undergrad degree is in Communication Studies. I attended seminary at the Orlando campus of Asbury Theological Seminary (2005), and was in the banking industry for 17 years prior to leaving for seminary.

I worked the longest at Bank of America in Tampa, primarily in Marketing, Administration, Training and Telephone Banking. This well prepared me for work in the church. Perhaps the area I have grown most in my years of ministry is in Spiritual Disciplines, for myself and for the churches I served. I owe it to the influence of two exceptional professors in seminary, Rev. Dr. Paul Chilcote and Rev. Dr. Steve Harper. Both were deeply engaged in helping seminary students connect to God through the Spiritual Disciplines so we could lead the churches we serve to do the same. I am forever grateful to them.

Adult In-Person Study Group Leaders (English)



Jane Darling

Jane is currently the secretary of the Southeastern Jurisdiction of United Women in Faith, and is a member of the Committee on Nominations for the North East District of the Florida Conference. She is also a co-lay leader of the North East District for the Florida Conference UMC. Jane was the study leader for Virtual Mission u in 2024 and is excited to be a study leader for Mission u 2025. She first joined UWFaith over 25 years ago as a member of FUMC Coppell in the North Texas Conference and has since served in a variety of offices in the Florida Conference. Through many years of attending Mission u, the School of Christian Mission, and UMW/UWFaith Assemblies, Jane has developed a passion for social justice and believes that the first step towards justice is educating yourself with Micah 6:8 in mind. Jane is a retired librarian and sings in of the choir at St. Paul's UMC, Ocala, along with her husband, Ed.



Terry Fitzgerald

Terry was born and raised in Tampa and spent her life in the Tampa Bay Area. After returning to the church in 2007, Terry became an instructor and then Director of Lay Servant Ministries for the Gulf Central District. She has enjoyed teaching, speaking and preaching in the Church for several years. Her passion for teaching grew from her years as a Personal Trainer and Fitness Instructor. Terry is Director of Development at Allendale United Methodist Church. She is currently a Candidate for Deaconess in the United Methodist Church and hopes to be consecrated in 2026.



Deaconess Ester Kim

Deaconess Ester Kim was brought up in the United Methodist Church and is currently a member of Tampa Korean Methodist Church. Her maternal grandfather was an early Christian minister in Korea and founded a church in New York late in his ministry. Ester has served on the Conference Committee on Nominations (as chair for two years) and is currently Conference Vice President. Ester was consecrated as a Deaconess at Assembly 2022. She has previously taught at Mission u. Ester is a retired attorney who specialized in securities law. She and her husband have one daughter currently in medical school.

Rev. Denise Sawyer



Rev. Denise Sawyer, MDiv, BCC, has been a diligent worker in the Methodist church for over twenty years. Rev. Sawyer spent many years in many different areas of ministry. She is a former summer youth camp counselor, and camp director. She committed many years to taking Summer VBS to children in the Family Islands in The Bahamas.

Rev. Sawyer spent thirteen years in the field of education. Rev. Denise A. Sawyer attended seminary at Southern Methodist University, Perkins School of Theology in Dallas Texas. She entered full time ministry in September 2000 and was ordained on January 12th, 2001.

Rev. Denise Sawyer moved to the United States in July of 2001. In 2009 Rev. Sawyer accepted her call to the ministry of chaplaincy. She received permission from her Bishop to enter this ministry and after extensive study and training Rev. Sawyer became a board certified chaplain in 2012. She is presently serving as the Systems Director of Spiritual Services.

Adult In-Person Study Group Leader (Haitian Creole)

Dr. Judith Pierre-Okerson



Deaconess Dr. Judith Pierre-Okerson is enthusiastic about Mission u. She is a frequent study leader at the National, Conference, district, and local level. In the Florida Conference, she served as registrar, assistant dean, and dean of Mission u (formerly School of Christian Mission). At the National level, Judith served for 8 years on the Editorial Board, the committee that selects the theme and authors for the Mission Studies. She is the author of the Study Guide for one of our previous studies "The Missionary Conference in the United States."

A longtime member of The United Methodist Church, Judith has served in leadership positions at the local, district, conference, jurisdiction, and national levels both within the denominations and within the United Women in Faith organization. She is the immediate past President of the Florida Conference UWFaith and a member of the Annual Conference Ministry Hub (the new conference leadership team), and the secretary of the Conference Board of Laity. Her local church is Miramar UMC in Miramar.

Deaconess Dr. Pierre-Okerson is an educator; she oversees the Exceptional Students Education Program at a K-8 Academy in Miami Dade County Public Schools.

Youth Study Group Leader

Paulette Monroe



Born in Newport News, Virginia to the late Jessie, Sr. and Elvin Taylor. She is the second child of eight siblings. She attended grammar school, high school and college in the Newport News and Hampton, Virginia area, and in Florida.

Relocating into the state of Florida, she began working in different school districts; retiring after 30 years of service.

Currently, Paulette serves on the Board of Lay Ministry as a Liaison to Bethune Cookman University. She is a Certified Lay Servant Leader and has served in many different leadership roles of the local church.

United Methodist Women benefits greatly from her servant's heart. She has served as Dean of Mission u, Past Conference President, Secretary, Social Action, and Spiritual Growth Coordinator. She especially enjoys serving children and youth within United Methodist Women, the Church, and the Community.

Paulette is married to the Rev. Dr. Walter Monroe, Jr., who recently retired as the District Superintendent of the South-Central District. Walter has a love for United Methodist Women as well. Together they have three adult children and seven "wonderful" grandchildren. They currently reside in Orlando, FL.

Youth Study Group Assistant

Teresa Brooks



After a career as an Art Director and Graphic Designer, Ms. Brooks enjoys the privileges of retirement every day such as volunteering, painting, jewelry making, arts and crafts, and reading! She is a proud member of the First United Methodist Church of Coral Gables and a third generation *United Women in Faith* woman. She lives in Coconut Grove, Florida, with her cats, Sam, Precious, Smokey and Betty Boo.

Children's Study Group Leader

Jackie Brooks



Jacqueline Brooks is a member of the North East District and lives in Jacksonville. She has served as Florida Conference Secretary of Program Resources, Secretary and on Mission u Nomination. She served on the North East District as Secretary and Communication and serves as her local church unit President. She has taught Early Childhood Education for over 35 years.

She volunteers her time with the Florida Chapter for the Association for the Education of Young Children as the Secretary and now as their Treasurer, and as a mentor with Duval Regional Juvenile Detention.

Children's Study Group Assistant

Tammy Crotts



Tammy Crotts is a longtime member of Highlands United Methodist Church in Jacksonville, FL. She is very active in their Mission Monday Creations and children's programs. Currently, Tammy is the Education and Interpretation Coordinator for the North East District.

Virtual Study Group Leader



Rev. Tiffany Mitchell-McCall

Rev. Tiffany Mitchell-McCall is a native of Thomasville, Georgia, and daughter of the Rev. Dr. David D. Mitchell and Kathi Ellis. Rev. McCall is a graduate of Southern Illinois University of Carbondale with a BS degree in Workforce Education and Curriculum Design. Rev. McCall completed a Master of Theology and Spiritual Formation at Asbury Theological Seminary and is in pursuit of a Master of Divinity at United Theological Seminary and will graduate in Fall 2025. Currently, Rev. McCall is the senior Pastor of First United Methodist Church in downtown Jacksonville.

Rev. McCall is married to Troy McCall and has three beautiful children. Her passion is learning, dancing, gardening, and sharing the love of God with others. Rev. McCall has an extensive background in leadership development. In 2001 she took a small school of ten students and one staff member to fifty students and five staff members in a year. In 2014 she was appointed to a small church with five faithful members. In two years they grew to 45. Rev. McCall simply has a knack for building bridges and connecting others to God. She is a disciple maker; her greatest desire is to simply walk in the love of Christ and demonstrate love by boldly preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ.