

Adult In-Person Study Group Leaders (English)

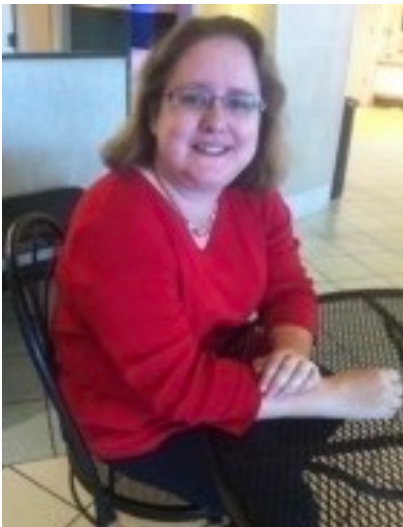
Ruth Mageria



Ruth Mageria is the Executive Director of CROS Ministries, whose mission is to serve the hungry in Palm Beach and Martin Counties through community collaborations. She has been on the staff of CROS for 23 non-consecutive years.

Ruth is a member of the United Methodist Church of the Palm Beaches, (Atlantic Central District). She is the current chair of the Conference's Outreach Ministries Committee. She was appointed to the Criminal Justice subcommittee of the City of West Palm Beach Mayor's Taskforce on Racial and Ethnic Equality. Originally from Kenya, Ruth continues to facilitate workshops in East Africa as a consultant with the Kenya Association of Fundraising Professionals.

She lives in West Palm Beach and is the proud mother of James, a UCF Knight!



Dr. Amy Mormino

Dr. Amy Mormino is a professor of Humanities and World Religions at St. Petersburg College and has taught in the past at the University of Tampa and the University of Edinburgh. She likes to show students how the arts and faith are lived out around the world and in our own community. She also puts out the newsletter for Gulf Central United Women in Faith. She lives in St. Petersburg with the world's most beautiful cat.

Dr. Robert Ladner



Dr. Robert Ladner is a Christian educator and former United Methodist pastor, currently teaching adult courses in Old Testament and New Testament scripture, church history, contemporary theology, comparative religions, and social issues at his home church, First United Methodist Church of Coral Gables. He earned his PhD in social psychology in 1972 and spent several years teaching at the University of Kentucky and Indiana University before moving to Miami and working in the Department of Psychiatry at the UM School of Medicine. He currently directs research into medical and social service delivery to low-income persons with HIV/AIDS in Miami-Dade County.

Adult In-Person Study Group Leaders (Haitian Creole)

Dr. Judith Pierre-Okerson



A deaconess and a longtime member of United Women in Faith, Dr. Judith Pierre-Okerson has served in leadership positions at the local, district, conference, and national levels of the organization. A former assistant dean and dean of Mission u (formerly School of Christian Mission), Judith is a frequent Mission u study leader at both the National and conference levels and the author of the study guide for The Missionary Conference in the United States Mission Study. Dr. Pierre-Okerson serves Christ through The United Methodist Church at the local, district conference and General church levels. She served as delegate to several general and jurisdictional conferences. She is a member of the Florida Conference delegation to the upcoming General Conference that will meet in April 2024 in Charlotte, NC. A member at Miramar UMC, Judith is the Southeast District Lay Leader. 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. She is the proud mother of Grace Okerson, who will graduate from Candler School of Theology in May.

Rev. Timothe Jacques



Currently the pastor at New Life UMC in Ft. Lauderdale and an adult study leader for several years.

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 is the Conference Lay Leader of the Florida Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, 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.



Children's Study Group Leader

Marvia Aitken

Marvia Aitken is a member of Miramar United Methodist Church (1998-2024). She is active in the church's ministry, including Sunday School Superintendent, Vacation Bible School facilitator, Co Lay Leader, and Lay Speaker.

Presently, she is working as a substitute teacher. She is looking forward to a fulfilling and Joyful time with the young ones at Mission u 2024.





Children's 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.

Virtual Study Group Leader

Jane Darling



Jane is currently the president of the Florida Conference's North Central District United Women in Faith and is president of her local unit at St. Paul's UMC in Ocala. She first joined UWFaith over 25 years ago as a member of FUMC Coppell in the North Texas Conference. Through many years of attending Mission u, the School of Christian Mission, 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, having served public and academic libraries in Florida and Texas. She sings in the choir at St. Paul's UMC, Ocala, along with her husband, Ed. Together they love traveling the US and the world, are ardent supporters of Gator Softball, and are the well-trained parents of Ocho, their absolutely adorable dog.