

Mission u 2021



There's Far More Here
THAN MEETS THE EYE

Mission u 2021 Virtual Event

Friday, June 18th and Friday, June 25th

Worship Services:

7:00 PM

Saturday, June 19th and Saturday, June 26th

Class Times:

8:30 AM to 5 PM

Adult Studies offered:

Bearing Witness

Pastor Lia Icaza-Willetts

Push Out

Dr. Lorraine Mayfield – Brown & Dr. Anne Winn



Pastor Lia Icaza-Willetts: Bearing Witness (Virtual)

Lia accepted the Lord Jesus at age 30 at Coral Way UMC in Miami. She was ordained in 1988. Lia was the first Hispanic Woman ordained an elder in the Florida Conference.

Lia served in ministry for 32 years. She also served, as Director of Evangelism in the GBOD in Nashville, for 6 years. Lia is gifted with the ability to develop spiritual leaders in congregations.

Her passion is to reach youth for Christ. Lia holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology from Concordia University, in Montreal, Canada, a Masters in Christian Education from Scarritt Graduate School, in Nashville, Tennessee, and a Masters in Divinity

from Emory University, in Atlanta, Georgia.

She has co-authored the book, "Culture Shifts: a Group Bible Study for Postmodern Times." Many of her writings have been published in the religious page of several newspapers and magazines. Her Christmas prayer 2012 was published in, "The Book of Christmas Prayers" by Daily Word and her Christmas prayer 2019 was published in the Christmas edition 2020 of Woman's Day, Country Living, and House Living Magazines.

Lia is fluent in three languages, English, Spanish and French. Lia is married to Rev. Tom Willetts and they have two amazing daughters Rev. Tiffania Icaza-Willetts and Isabel Icaza-Willetts.



Dr. Lorraine Mayfield-Brown:
Push-Out Co-Study Group Leader (Virtual)

Dr. Lorraine Mayfield-Brown has been, for five years, the president of the Oakhurst United Methodist Women's unit in Seminole, FL. Prior to her presidency, Lorraine held a variety of other offices in her unit.

She is a life-long member of the United Methodist Church. Prior to holding positions in her local organization, she served as Mission Coordinator for Membership, Nurture and Outreach for the Gulf Central District in Florida.

As a long-term member and enthusiastic Mission u participant, she served as a youth study leader for the Food and Faith study, adult study leader for the "What About our Money?" mission study and "Living as a Covenant Community", spiritual growth study as well as other adult spiritual growth studies. Dr. Mayfield-Brown is a sociologist, receiving her Ph.D. in Sociology from the City University of New York-Graduate Center and is currently teaching at St. Petersburg College.

She is a mother of a wonderful adult daughter.



Dr. Anne Winn: Push-Out Co-Study Group Leader (Virtual)

Dr. Anne Winn is married to Tom Winn and have three adult children and seven grandchildren. She and Tom are adventurers and have moved nine times in our 21 years of marriage. At one point in their adventures, they moved to a 45-foot live-aboard Sea Ray. Anne says they were on their way to “Island Hop” in the Caribbean with their goal staying for a while in the American Virgin Islands. Alas, they were in Titusville and Hurricane Irma hit THEIR marina. Long story short, they are now Landlubbers and live in Deltona, Fl. Anne’s home church is Trinity UMC (Deland).

Anne has three University degrees: B.S. in Nursing, M.S in Psychology, and Ed.D. in Human Development and Counseling. Obviously, she has had various career opportunities: Psych Nursing, Meditest Nursing, and faculty member at Michigan State University (School of Nursing) and Professor at Alabama A&M University (Psychology and Counseling Department in the School of Education). She retired from Alabama A&M in 2008. Anne says “School is my “jam”! and I would go back today (if I didn’t have to pay for it).”

Dr. Winn grew up in the Methodist Church, took a 25-year hiatus into the Presbyterian Church, but returned to her senses when she moved to Florida. Not only did she join a Methodist Church, but she became a United Methodist Woman—the group she had been looking for forever! She’s been a member of three districts: Atlantic Central District, North Central District, and now the Eastern Central District where she is currently their President.

Mission u is her favorite United Methodist Women’s Learning Activity. She says she’s only missed one event (boat adventure) since becoming a member of United Methodist Women. “I was privileged to teach/facilitate the Climate Justice Mission study and will co-teach/facilitate with the virtual Pushout Mission Study 2021,” Winn said.

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Mission u 2021 Onsite and Virtual Event

Thursday, July 15th to Saturday, July 17th

Adult Studies offered:

Bearing Witness

Norla Cruz (Spanish Onsite)

Danny Davis (Virtual)

Rev. Inhong Lee (Korean Onsite)

Paulet Royes-Neale (Onsite)

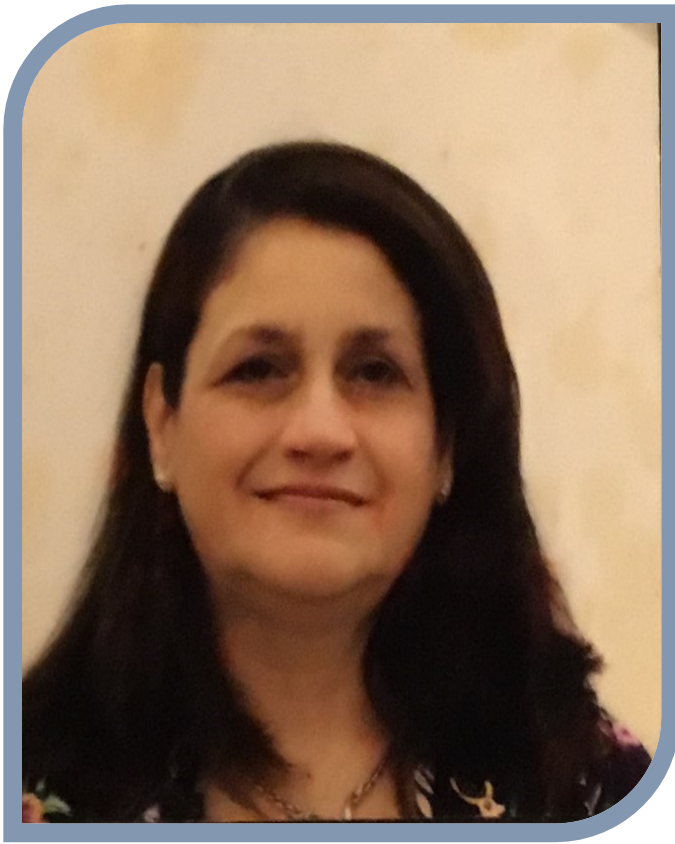
Rev. Jetro Jeune (Creole Onsite)

Push Out

Grace Okerson & Rev. Michelle Shrader (Onsite)

Ruth Jean Pierre (Creole Onsite)

Dr. Amy Mormino & Rev. Lee Hall-Perkins (Virtual)



Norla Cruz:
Bearing Witness Study
Group Leader (Spanish –
Onsite)

Norla Cruz was born in Cuba and moved to Miami at a young age. She is a life-long United Methodist who is member at Kendall United Methodist Church in the Southeast District, and she has been a United Methodist Women member since 1980. Norla is a graduate from Florida International University with a B.A. in Spanish Literature and Modern Languages and has a K-12 teaching degree. She pursued a Master's degree in Linguistics with a minor in French and Portuguese. Norla is a retired teacher.

She has worked with children in her local church and on several mission trips to Jamaica teaching VBS. She has taught the children's study class at Mission U for many years, coordinated and taught programs for the Hispanic Family Camps for 34 years, and has served as District Chairperson on the Committee on Nominations, Secretary, Education and Interpretation and Hispanic Coordinator at the Southeast District.

She and her husband David have been married for 37 years and have a son, David and a daughter, Giselle, who both grew up participating at different UMW events and Mission U.

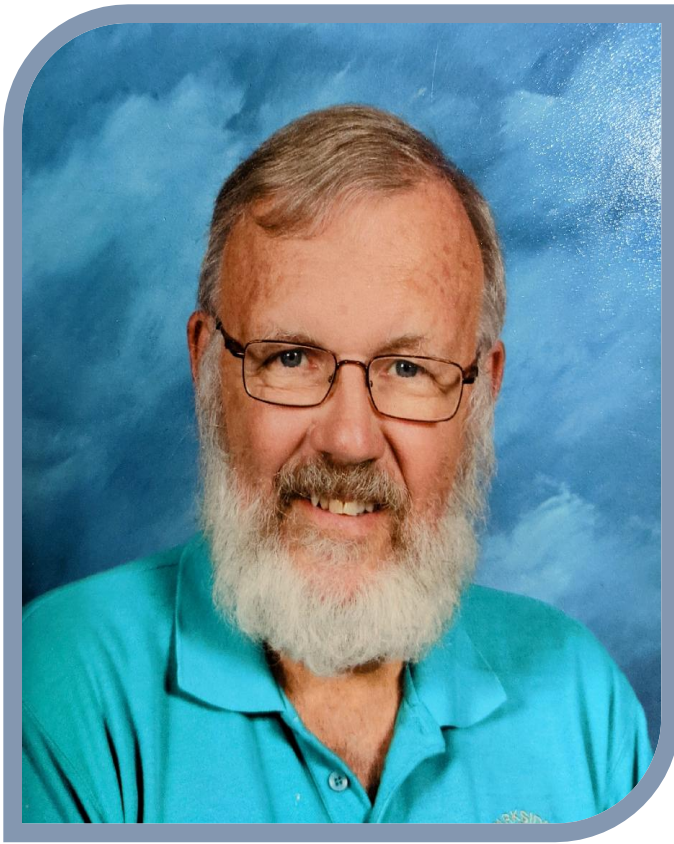
Dar Testimonio en el reino relacional de Dios.

Este estudio trata de como dar testimonio en el reino relacional de Dios. Vivir el testimonio moral de la Iglesia a traves del discipulado radical. Explorar la forma en que nuestra creencia en Cristo nos dirige a participar en palabras y en hechos en la accion salvadora de Dios.

Somos hijos de Dios. Dios es nuestro padre, no es un patriarca distante, sino alguien familiar. La iglesia es la casa de la familia humana bajo Dios. Somos familia en Cristo. Como miembros del reino relacional de Dios nunca estamos solos. Vivimos como familia de Dios.

Compartir personalmente la fe es una de las maneras de dar testimonio de la voluntad de Dios.

El proceso de dar testimonio nos pone en armonia con la voluntad de Dios.



Danny Davis: Bearing Witness Study Leader (Virtual)

Danny Davis was born in St Joseph, MO, the home of the Pony Express. With a father in the United States Navy, Davis moved frequently in his childhood throughout the central and western United States and Japan. He graduated from High School in Lansing, Kansas and went to Baker University, a United Methodist related college in Baldwin City, KS. He spent 3 years at Baker studying music education with an emphasis in choral music and voice. In 1976, Davis joined the United State Navy as a hospital corpsman. He served in Jacksonville, FL at the Naval Hospital as a surgical technologist; and the Medical Clinic at Mayport Naval Station where he supervised the minor surgery clinic and emergency room

and served as Clinic administrative petty officer.

After the Navy, Davis completed his degree studies in Organizational Theory and Management at the Davis School of Business, Jacksonville University. He worked briefly for Dean Witter Reynolds as a financial advisor before taking his family to Atlanta to attend the Candler School of Theology at Emory University as an ordination candidate.

Davis came back to Florida and served as a pastor in the United Methodist church. In 1996, Davis left pastoral ministry and took a position with Church World Service in Miami supervising a legal services program for immigrants. He later became the executive of a non-profit agency in Palm Beach County educating people in how to obtain appropriate health care. In 2005, Davis obtained his teaching credentials in the state of Florida as an ESE Teacher. In 2009, he received an endorsement in Autism. He retired as a teacher in a self-contained autism classroom in the Broward public school system.

Davis is married to Pamela. They have two grown children, Marcus, and Michelle, both of whom are married, and three grandchildren, Dominic, Chloe, and Maxwell. Danny and Pam have been married for 41 years. They both have served the United Methodist Women enthusiastically. Pam has served as a local, district and conference officer in the Florida and North Georgia conferences. Danny as a pastor supported the programs and purpose of the United Methodist Women and as a layperson has been a patient husband to a wife deeply involved in living the purpose. He is a member of the Order of St. Luke, the only religious order in the United Methodist church. The order seeks to educate the church in living out the sacramental life we have been called to by Christ.



Rev. Inhong Lee:

Bearing Witness Study Group Leader (Korean- Onsite)

Associate Pastor at Tampa Korean UMC

Rev. Lee has been joyfully serving TKUMC for four years. He was born in South Korea, and he has experienced various multi-cultural ministries. He has also lived in Philippines for three years as a missionary.

He is married to his beautiful wife and has two beautiful children.



Paulet Royes-Neale: Bearing Witness Study Leader (Onsite)

Paulet Royes-Neale currently resides in Fort Lauderdale, Florida with her husband Phillip. She has lived in Fort Lauderdale for many years since migrating from Jamaica, West Indies.

Her plans to reside in New York were short lived since she did not pass the first winter test.

She is the mother of two adult children and the proud grandmother of Mikayla who was 1 ½ pounds at birth, now a healthy 4-year-old.

Born to Methodist parents who were actively involved in ministry; both were local preachers, so she says she did not miss a gathering at her local church or in surrounding communities where they preached. Her awareness of a call to service was at a very early age. She says she sat in on a Sunday School exam and pondered on Isaiah 61 vs. 1-2 “The spirit of the Lord is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent me to Heal the brokenhearted”..... This scripture never left her consciousness; therefore, choosing a career to become a Registered Nurse was not by chance. God has directed her path to serve the underserved community in one of The Safety Net Hospitals of Broward County.

Though she knew that God was calling her to be in ministry with people, she was not sure about where to begin. She started gaining some clarity about the office of Deaconess and Home Missioner when she attended a Spiritual Retreat led by Deaconess Jan Gordon in Leesburg, Florida, and later a discerning session led by Deaconess Cindy Johnson at Mission U, Bethune Cookman University in 2015. She was commissioned as a Deaconess to the Florida Conference in 2020.

She worships and serves in many areas of ministry at Village UMC in North Lauderdale, Florida and she is currently the President of Village UMW unit.



Rev. Jetro Jeune: Bearing Witness (Creole Onsite)

Jetro Jeune is a Provisional Elder in the Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church. He has served churches in the Florida Conference since 2013 as a pastor. Currently, he is serving Wabasso Haitian Mission United Methodist Church, in Sebastian Florida.

He has been married for 16 years to Kerlyne Charles-Jeune. Rev. Jeune has five children: Jah'kelsen, Nathaniel and Kayla-Mae, Eroidson and Gosly.

Rev. Jeune says, "by the grace of God, we are continuing to grow stronger in our relationship and in our relationship with God. God's love toward us has never failed. He is a loving God, a patient God, and a God of peace." He goes on to say, "I am so grateful for the call to pastoral ministry; wherein I am partnering with God in the redemptive mission of the world. I have realized obedience and humbleness are two characteristics that God requires to continue to be a useful instrument in fulfilling the grand commission, Matthew 28:19-20, to transform the world. I desire to be obedient and to be humble." He says he is honored to serve as a "Mission U Study Leader" for a second time. "Despite this difficult time, I am so excited about what I will be experiencing at Mission u this year". Jeune says.

Jetro graduated from Asbury Theological Seminary, in 2012 (M.Div.); a B.A. from University of South Florida in 2000 (International Studies), and A.A. from Palm Beach States College in 1998.



Grace Okerson:
Pushout Study Group
Leader
Co-Study Group Leader is Rev.
Michelle Shrader (Onsite)

Grace Okerson has been participating in United Methodist Women events, at the local, district, conference, jurisdictional and national levels since she was an infant and credited United Methodist Women for the leadership roles' she has assumed throughout her young life but particularly for the passion for mission that was instilled in her through her participation at School of Christian Mission and Mission u year after year. Grace has served as the Facilitator for the Florida Conference

United Methodist Women Youth Retreat, as an Annual Meeting Keynote Speaker, and as the youth Mission u Study Leader.

Grace graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Social Science with minors in Diversity and Social Inequality, Women and Gender Studies, and Journalism Studies from the University of Central Florida. Grace served as Global Mission Fellow with the General Board of Global Ministries as the Lunch & Volunteer Coordinator at the NOAH Project, an agency tackling issues around homeless in downtown Detroit, MI.

A member at Miramar United Methodist Church and a certified candidate for Ordained Ministry, Grace is currently in her last semester at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston, IL pursuing a Master of Art in Public Ministry degree with a concentration in racial justice.



Rev. Michelle Shrader:
Pushout Study Group
Leader (Onsite) Co-Study
Group Leader is Grace Okerson

Rev. Michelle Shrader is originally from Tampa, Florida and was a member of Hyde Park UMC. She is currently serving as the Sr. Pastor at Good Samaritan UMC in Tallahassee, Florida.

Rev. Shrader has served previously in the role of Missions Initiative Specialist in the South East District and as a Missionary Pastor in Cape Town, South Africa.

She has taught several Mission U courses, including the 150th Anniversary course.

our Conference Anti-Racism Task Force and has extensive experience with racial reconciliation ministries in the UMC.

She is the Coordinator for District Teams with



Ruth Jean-Pierre: Pushout Study Group Leader (Creole-Onsite)

A member at Hallandale Haitian, Ruth Pierre Jean Pierre is a member of the deaconess and Home Missioner Order of The United Methodist Church, serving in the health care ministry. Deaconess Ruth currently serves as the South East District United Methodist Women Secretary and the President of her local United Methodist Women.

At the conference level, she has served as the Assistant Dean and Dean of Mission u, Chair of the Committee on Nominations, Mission Coordinator for Education and

Interpretation and Haitian Language Coordinator.

Deaconess Ruth has previously led the Mission Studies: Food and Faith” in Haitian Creole. "What about our Money" in English. She has led studies for the district and local units and has spoken at numerous United Methodist Women Sunday events.

Deaconess Ruth Pierre Jean Pierre is married to Berthony and they have three adult children and a grandchild.



**Dr. Amy Mormino –
Pushout Study Group
Leader (Virtual) Co-Study
Group Leader is Rev. Lee Hall
Perkins**

Amy Mormino teaches World Religion at St. Petersburg College and the University of Tampa. As a professor, Dr. Mormino likes the focus on religious diversity in Florida. She has a Ph.D. in Global Christianity from the University of Edinburgh and has taught in Scotland, South Korea, Nepal, and Kenya. She lives in St. Petersburg, writes the newsletter for the Gulf Central UMW, and is the owner of the world's cutest cat.

A class summary: Pushout, based on the book by Monique Morris, is an especially timely course given the recent debates over race, law, and seeking new alternatives. In the current school system around the U.S., black girls are often harshly judged and punished in schools and the legal system, endangering their futures. This class will focus on breaking out of harmful patterns and finding innovative and effective solutions.

She is co-teaching with Lee Hall-Perkins



Rev. Lee Hall-Perkins: Pushout Co-Study Group Leader (Virtual)

Called by God at the age of fourteen, the Reverend Lee Hall-Perkins shares the Gospel through his preaching, writing, and social activism. He received his bachelor's degree in religious studies and Master of Divinity from Vanderbilt University. Recognized as a leader on and off-campus, the University awarded Rev. Hall-Perkins the Dorothy Legros Award for Global Vision and Spiritual Leadership. God has opened doors for him to minister in many venues across the United States and most recently in the nations of Israel and South Africa.

In 2011, Rev. Hall-Perkins was ordained as an elder in the Church of God in Christ, but currently serves in the Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church. He is the senior pastor of Mt. Zion UMC of Clearwater. Under his leadership, the congregation has acquired new property worth 1.9 million dollars and began new ministries.

Before relocating to Florida, Rev. Hall-Perkins served in several ministry capacities in Tennessee. He was the associate pastor of the Living Word International Church in Nashville, Tennessee for six years, the NextGen minister at Gordon Memorial UMC, and an editor at R.H. Boyd Publishing Corporation—one of the country's oldest African American religious publishers. Rev. Lee is a contributing writer for *BlackPast.org* and David Cook's adult Sunday School curriculum. He has also been published in the African American Lectionary.

His partner in life, love, and ministry is the Rev. Jana Hall-Perkins, who is the senior pastor of McCabe United Methodist Church. Together, they are the proud parents of Aniya and the co-editors of *Unashamedly Black, Unapologetically Christian: A Devotional for Black Faith and Life*.

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Children's Coordinator: *Cathy Mospens*

Youth Coordinator: *Dana Richardson*

Childcare:

Ellen Mospens - Nursery to 4 years old

Children and Youth Classes offered Onsite Only:

Responding to Violence

Marvia Aiken K-2nd Grade

Jasmine Richardson 3rd-5th Grade

Becoming Peace Peacemakers in a Culture of Violence

Paulette Monroe 6th -8th Grade

Kim Youngblood 9th-12th Grade



Cathy Mospens: Children's Coordinator

Cathy is blessed to be married to a super, supportive Christian man, Rich Mospens. They have three terrific children, two awesome daughters-in-law and five grandchildren ages infant to 6 years old.

Cathy is a retired teacher and certified in exceptional student education, elementary education, middle school integrated curriculum. Reading and ESOL endorsed.

She is a life-long United Methodist and followed her mother in UMW.

Cathy has served as treasurer and membership chair in United Methodist Women, North West District as well as Conference Membership Chair. She has also served as President of Deerlake UMW's unit.

As a church member, she served the church as lay-speaker, was on counsel of ministries, on Administrative Counsel, Sunday School teacher, choir member and children's nursery supervisor.

Cathy is also active in her community volunteering for March of Dimes, Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Guardian Ad Litem. Her hobbies include: singing, and playing with her grandchildren



Dana Richardson: Youth Coordinator

Dana Richardson attended UMW Christian School of Mission in middle school as a student, then served as a Youth Counselor while in college, and was an Assistant Youth Coordinator as a Young Adult. At this year's Mission u, she will serve as Youth Coordinator.

She currently works for Orange County Public School where she has been dedicated to teaching for 18 years, most recently as a Culinary Arts Teacher. She has taught grades 6-12 in Reading, Exceptional Student Education and is ESOL Endorsed by the FLDOE.

When Dana is not teaching in the classroom, she enjoys spending time with her three children and husband. She is determined to return and give back to her community as she inspires the next generation.



Marvia Aiken: K- 2nd Grade Study Group Leader

Marvia Aitken is a member of Miramar United Methodist Church and has been since 1998.

She enjoys serving God and the people in her church. She serves in several areas of the church: Co-Lay leader, Sunday School Superintendent, Vacation Bible School Director and Co-leader of Children's club. She is also an adult volunteer at the Warren Willis Methodist Camp during the summer. Marvia is currently the District Chairperson on Nominations of the United Methodist Women.

Marvia is the proud mother of a young adult and four elementary aged children. She says, "they have a continually active presence in The United Methodist Women." Marvia also advocates for children in foster care and says that she hopes that children who are displaced from their homes will find a kind and loving forever family.

She is a certified candidate for ministry in the Methodist Church where she will be able to pursue her call to be a local pastor. She loves being the study leader for the children. She states, "it dispels feelings of joy as they are educated about the social justices that affect our society and are challenged to be leaders for change."

Marvia says, "she loves God, all living things and is passionate about being a steward of the environment."



Jasmine Richardson: **3rd – 5th Grade Study Leader**

Jasmine Richardson is from Orlando, Florida. She graduated from Jones High School in 2015 and then started college at THE GREAT Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University majoring in elementary education. She is now a graduating senior of the Spring class of 2021.

She has been attending Mission U since she was little and has also had the opportunity to serve as an assistant teacher with the infant group.

She says she has always had a passion for children, and looks forward to working with our 3rd-5th grade!



PAULETTE MONROE:

6th-8th Study Group Leader

Paulette Monroe is a native of Newport News Virginia, attended Grammar, High School, and College in Hampton, Virginia, and in Florida. She retired from the public-school systems of 30 years, in addition to being employed at Lake City Community College and The University of Florida.

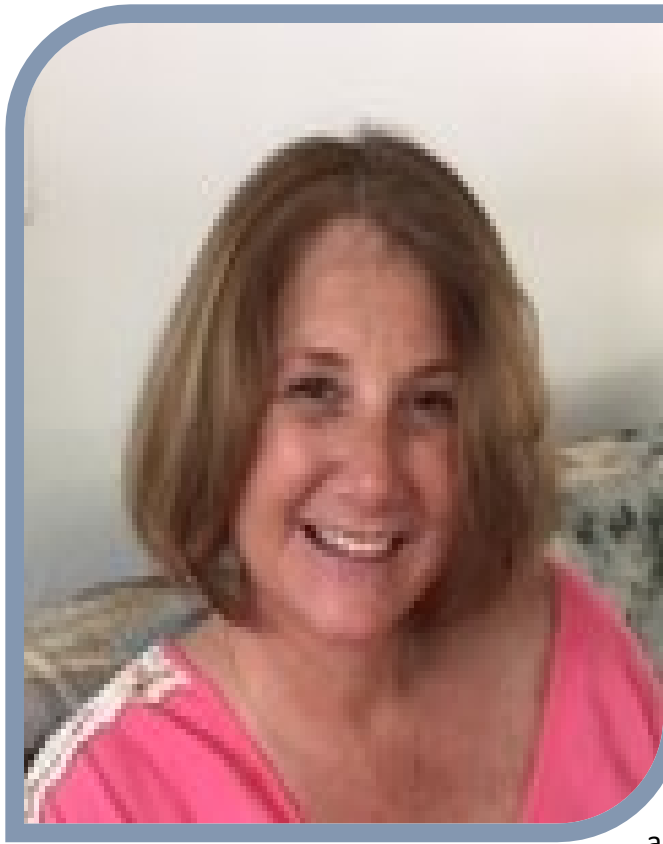
The organization of United Methodist Women became a sanctuary for her; She says she has been inspired by the mission work of United Methodist Women, its' advocacy work for Women, Children and Youth, and its' supportive community to not only her, but to her family.

She has served the organization in many leadership roles: as Past Florida Conference

President of the United Methodist Women, Southeastern Jurisdiction Leadership Team, Committee on Nominations, Coordinator for Children and Youth for Mission u, Dean of Mission u and as a Study Group Leader. In addition to serving the organization, she was privileged to have had the opportunity of serving as a Past Conference Lay Leader of the United Methodist Church.

She has had a strong passion for the mission work of United Methodist Women for over 30 years and she has supported the work to advocate for Women, Children and Youth - both near and far; to be a voice for the voiceless, and The PURPOSE "to be a community of Women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons..."

She enjoys working with children and youth within the local church and the public school system. Her passion and aspiration for children and youth is a call beyond measure; it is a gift, and she is am excited about the message that we will learn at Mission u this summer 'learning and understanding what it means to Become a Peacemakers in a Culture of Violence during our time together.'



Kim Youngblood:
9th – 12th Grade Study
Leader (Onsite)

Kim has been a life-long Methodist but enjoys hearing the word from all denominations. Since moving to the FL Keys in 2010, she has enjoyed and is honored to have attended at least 20 different churches.

She says she feels like a late bloomer when it comes to my religious education. Kim has thoroughly enjoyed attending 5 Mission u's, and is very eager to continue to learn through the 150 plus year history of the United Methodist Women.

As a lifelong learner, she finds teaching allows her to learn even more. She is especially

fond of teaching middle and high school students about developing a relationship with God. The Peace Study is so very important to Kim personally for multiple reasons. She looks forward to learning from her students as well. We will relish is relaxation in a Peaceful Spiritual Way.