



MESSENGER

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF TITUSVILLE

206 S. HOPKINS AVE, TITUSVILLE, FL 32796

AUGUST 2024

Peacemaking urged after assassination attempt

By Heather Hahn
July 15, 2024 | UM News

<https://www.umnews.org/en/news/peacemaking-urged-after-assassination-attempt>

Key Points:

- † United Methodist bishops and pastors called for prayer and expressed grief following the assassination attempt on former President Trump.
- † They also urged churchgoers to work to heal divisions in the U.S.
- † One pastor said: “You never look at a person whom Jesus didn’t die for.”

The Rev. Chris Morgan choked up as he prayed at worship the day after the attempted assassination of the current candidate and former President Donald Trump.

To say the violence felt uncomfortably close to home



Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.



United Methodist leaders are calling for peacemaking in the aftermath of an assassination attempt on current presidential candidate and former President Donald Trump. Photo by Kiều Trường, courtesy of Pixabay; graphic by Laurens Glass, UM News.

would be an understatement.

Christ United Methodist Church in Bethel Park, Pennsylvania, where Morgan is senior pastor, stands

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“Water, water everywhere and not a drop to drink”

- Samuel Taylor Coleridge

by: *Nayra Atiya*

<https://www.floridarighttocleanwater.org/>

Driving across the Max Brewer Bridge I saw a gaggle of children playing in the Indian River Lagoon and splashing happily. When their laughter reached my ears, it filled me with wonder.

I began to experience delight and joy when suddenly my heart skipped a beat. What would be the consequences of these children's few hours of fun and frolic in any of Florida's impaired waters?



One consequence I heard about recently was a child who ended up paralyzed after paddle boarding in Titusville's sewage-tainted waters. His mother is suing the city for negligence.

Warning signs should have been posted. Right, Governor DeSantis?

In 2022, Titusville's citizens voted themselves the right to clean water; city council refused to adopt it. Thus they deprived this native son (and others) the right to redress.

Imagine recreating in sewage contaminated waters only to wake up paralyzed with a bacterial infection!

Florida needs a tax payer directive to endorse the right to clean water, enforce our clean water protections, and hold polluters responsible. Why? Because an open wound or a scratch immersed in the feces and fertilizer laden waters could be fatal...as it almost was for me in 2006 when swimming in these same polluted waters.

I was staying at the Holiday Inn when I fell ill. I will never forget the room service oatmeal left at my door nor the baskets of bananas my son brought. That was all I could eat.

No one dared come near me for meningitis was suspected. For days, I ran a fever of 104 that landed me in the ER. It took three incorrect diagnoses and 2 weeks "motel isolation" to summon the strength to fly home to Utah.

Like this child, I had contracted a deadly bacterial blood infection while swimming in the lagoon. My epidemiologist immediately admitted me to hospital. After 10 days and several weeks of intravenous antibiotics, I began to recover, though I was left with a damaged heart.

Water is a healer. We baptize in water. We drink water. We wash with and in water. We are mostly water. We cannot survive without water.

Every surface water body in Florida is impaired, from Pensacola to the Everglades; now subsumed by filth. Yet our "protectors", the Water Management Districts and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, have allowed our jewels and national treasures, our wetlands and waterways to be desecrated. Do you realize that this touches on the very Nature that life on Earth depends upon: CLEAN WATER?

I applaud Brevard's citizens for enacting the Save Our Indian River Lagoon (SORIL) ½ ¢ sales tax in 2016. These tax dollars have fueled hundreds of projects leading to the removal of a million pounds of pollutants annually. We need to continue this work. I entreat you to study and support such investments in Florida's restoration. Your life and well-being depend upon it.

We need to insist on our rights as citizens and require our environmental laws be enforced.

'We the people' do this by creating a constitutional Right to Clean Water.



*Bald eagle over the Indian River Lagoon.
Photo by Kate Perez.*

Good news: the constitutional amendment has been written and now approved by the Florida Division of Elections. You can ensure the amendment passes by signing and circulating petitions throughout your neighborhoods. We need one million signed and verified petitions delivered to the Supervisor of Elections by December, 2025. Are you up to the task?

A beloved American poet, Adrienne Rich, said "...we can count on so few people to go that hard way with

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June 2024 Budget Summary

The Finance Committee appreciates your contributions and donations. With your support we will be able to continue sharing God's love with those around us.

Income

Total Income: \$32,919

Expenses

Church Programs: \$164

Finance: \$2,444

Church Administration: \$2,265

Facility Maintenance: \$9,208

Personnel: \$22,470

Payables: \$1,719

Conference Apportionments: \$3,244

Total Expenses: \$41,514

Income Under Expenses: -\$8,595

The budget for 2024 is **\$487,654** which, divided evenly, makes each month's goal \$40,638 rather than being weighted differently throughout the year.

Thank you for your loving generosity in keeping this church operating! Only with the generosity of our congregation have we been able to weather the storms of the past and even the storms that will inevitably come.



August Birthdays

1 Bob Titus	22 Sue Whitson
6 Julie Harrison	24 Eva Jenkins
7 Joy Brady	25 Jan Gilreath
10 Patty Mooney-Hildebrand	26 Carole Copeland
15 Nancy Boffo	27 Trudy Metzger
19 Carol Henn	31 Peggy Moyer
22 Rita Clark	

August Anniversaries

10 Larry & Jan Gilreath	24 Jackie & Imogene Smith
17 Duane & Nancy Torneden	28 Michael & Nancy Boffo
18 Bill & Natalie Walls	31 George & Fran Nolan
23 John & Carol Stephens	



Frequently Asked Questions

General Questions about the Amendment

Why does Florida need a Right to Clean and Healthy Waters?

There are at least [a dozen reasons why our system of laws has failed](#).

Listen also to the experienced, insightful [Voices of Florida](#), united in the position that what we've been doing isn't working. Florida needs this constitutional amendment.

It has become clear that the current system of water protection has failed; the state executive branch is not enforcing clean water legislation according to environmental laws, legislative intent and constitutional policy. Although a right to clean water already exists by statute, it defers too much to state executive agencies to guard against harm. The proof of dysfunction frequently makes national news, with routine harmful algal blooms, fish and wildlife mortality events and public notices of pathogenic or toxic contamination of our waters. It's not okay. People suffer, wildlife suffers, property values suffer, businesses suffer, communities suffer. Waiting for political solutions in a system that favors pollution industries financing those politics – is a fool's game. We need a clear, simple, legal solution to restore the necessary checks and balances for such a critical necessity to all lives – water.

What does the amendment do?

It creates a fundamental right to clean and healthy waters, clarifies prohibited actions and inactions that harm (or threaten to harm) waters, and defines important terms. It also allows Floridians to enforce this right through the ability to sue state executive agencies that violate this right, empowering courts to look at the science and truth (and not politics) of what's going on before awarding equitable relief to the situation.

How does this affect me?

This constitutional amendment protects your fundamental right to clean and healthy waters, so however that may affect you – from safe / available drinking water to being able to walk along your favorite shoreline without toxins in the air -- this amendment empowers Floridians to protect themselves, their fami-

lies, their communities and future generations from unnecessary, government-permitted harm.

Will this raise my taxes?

No. The top functional reason is Florida's current surplus of revenue, which can easily be allocated appropriately to fix the state water protection / management system without raising taxes. [Here's last year's announcement of a nearly \\$22 Billion surplus](#). Water and wastewater infrastructure is a basic "must" and should have received priority maintenance / improvements for decades instead of being neglected. Such a correction is based on the state's preexisting duty, is fully within the wheelhouse, and would go a long way to mitigating current (continuing) sources of pollution...esp. for the expected uptick in population growth.

Frequently Asked Questions

The main *legal* reasons include: 1) The Florida Constitution prevents a state income tax and otherwise protects taxpayers from having the state impose NEW taxes or RAISE them. 2) As you may know, there was a 2018 constitutional amendment that now requires a 2/3 supermajority vote in order to increase any state tax or fee. That would be difficult to do, and highly unlikely.

An important consideration in the big picture is that Florida's tax base depends on a healthy tourism industry (sales tax), which helps make up for the lack of an income tax. As you may also know, Florida's tourism depends heavily on clean water, so we're right back where we started.

We can't afford to not have clean water. We're currently wasting hundreds-of-millions of taxpayer dollars nearly every year, cleaning up and restoring impaired waters where the pollution was preventable.

Who can sue?

Any "person" can sue, which includes "any individual, partnership, joint venture, corporation; any group of the foregoing to include nonprofit organizations; any tribal entity; or any government entity."

Who can be sued?

A "state executive agency" includes "the Governor; the Cabinet and members of the Cabinet; each State executive officer and State executive department, and each State executive departmental unit described in Section 20.04, Florida Statutes; the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission; each water management district; and each officer and governmental entity of the executive branch having statewide jurisdiction or jurisdiction in more than one county."

What type of harm is prohibited?

Generally speaking, harm includes water pollution and anything that disrupts the water's natural flow or ecolog-

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ical systems.

“Harm” as it’s defined in the amendment means “the introduction of pathogens, contaminants, or toxins into waters or the disruption of natural hydrological or ecological processes or functions of waters. This term includes but is not limited to such chemical, biological, or physical stressors to waters that contribute to unnatural water levels or nutrient loads; that remove, fragment, or degrade habitat of native fish or wildlife; that disturb vegetation or soil near the edge of waters; that introduce exotic or invasive species; that obstruct or divert natural flow; that overexploit native species; and that negatively affect the health of humans or of native fish or wildlife.”

Which waters will be protected?

“Waters” as defined in the amendment refers to “the aquatic ecosystems of aquifers, bays, creeks, estuaries, estuarine systems, lagoons, lakes, rivers, riverine systems, springs, streams, wetlands, intracoastal and coastal waters within the boundaries of the State of Florida and shall include the natural tributaries and artificial waterways which impact these water bodies. This term shall include fresh, brackish, saline, tidal, surface, ground and underground water associated with these water bodies.”

How do we know the state legislature or governor won’t undermine the will of the voters for this initiative like they did others?

This amendment is specifically drafted to be self-executing, which means it does not need further legislation to implement it or enable its intended effects. Likewise, drafters paid intricate attention and researched bodies of law relevant to how every word could be interpreted by courts. Will this prevent attempts to block or undermine it? No. We expect well-resourced opposition will do what it possibly can to impede this from taking effect, but we have to trust in the courts to abide by notions of truth, the public interest and the very purpose and principles of good government and constitutional law. We don’t expect it to be easy.

How can I learn more about the amendment?

We are happy to answer questions by email (admin@floridariighttocleanwater.org) or schedule an informational session with you or your organization, at your convenience.

[Legal FAQs about the Amendment](#) | [General Questions about the Campaign](#) | [Potential Applications of the Amendment](#) | [What do Party Platforms Say?](#) | [Previous recordings of FAQ events](#)

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us...” Certainly we cannot count on either Florida’s legislature or governor to do the right thing.

Can we count on you to place the right to clean water on the ballot in 2026? Download, sign, and mail in your petition. Get your family and friends to sign it. Get your neighbors involved too.

There may be just enough time to undertake this sacred duty to clean and restore Florida’s waters to a portion of health and to their rightful glory. Just maybe. This is in your hands now.

Indian River Lagoon. Photo by Kate Perez.



Sunset over the Indian River Lagoon.
Photo by Kate Perez

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just blocks from where the shooter, Thomas Matthew Crooks, lived. Church members knew both the 20-year-old Crooks, killed by Secret Service agents, and Corey Comperatore, [the firefighter who died protecting his family](#) from the shots fired at the Trump rally in Butler, about 54 miles north.

After praying for all affected by the violence including the former president and the family of the shooter, Morgan called for prayer for “our country.”

“Democrat, Republican, independent, is irrelevant,” he said. “It is about showing people the love of Christ.”

Morgan is among the United Methodist pastors and bishops speaking out after the attack that also left two people critically injured. These church leaders all condemned the violence, shared their grief and urged church members to act as peacemakers in both a divided nation and [a denomination that is still recovering from its own separations](#).

“As Christ’s followers, we are called to be healers in our churches, communities, countries, and the world,” said Council of Bishops President Tracy S. Malone [in a statement condemning the violence](#).

“In these times of political tension and disagreement, we must remember our shared humanity, the sacred worth, and the inherent dignity of every person.”

After the attack, Western Pennsylvania Conference Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi [issued a call to prayer](#).

“Whether a child attending school, a grandmother buying groceries, or a politician attending a political rally, all deserve to go about their daily lives in safety,” she wrote.

“Our civil society and democracy depend on it.”

The bishop leads a conference that encompasses United Methodist churches across the Pittsburgh area including

Election resources

The United Methodist Board of Church and Society has worked to foster peaceful elections in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Nigeria and Zimbabwe.

The denomination’s social-witness agency offers resources for nonviolent and faithful civic engagement in [Creating Change Together](#).

Bethel Park and Butler. The conference has struggled with political and theological divisions of its own.

Last year, Western Pennsylvania [saw nearly 300 churches](#) — about 40% of its congregations — disaffiliate after longtime denominational debates over the place of LGBTQ people in the church.

Moore-Koikoi’s statement noted that the conference is not only praying for the family of Comperatore but also the members of Cabot Church where he was a member. The church was among those that left The United Methodist Church.

Christ United Methodist Church is a big-tent congregation that never considered disaffiliating. The church has an average weekly attendance of more than 750 worshippers who bring a variety of perspectives to church and politics.

Morgan told United Methodist News that the church has been trying to get people focused on what they share in common and not where they differ.

“When we use where we differ as the jumping off point, we never get to anything that we agree on, because it becomes immediately us versus them,” he said.

Even before the weekend’s attack, Morgan had planned to lead a fall study titled “Do Unto Others,” aimed at helping church members navigate the tense season that culminates with the U.S. presidential election on Nov. 5.

The study, which references the Golden Rule, is based on a series developed by Resurrection, a United Methodist Church, in Leawood, Kansas. The church, which has the highest attendance of U.S. United Methodist congregations, also plans to offer a kindness campaign focused on “Do Unto Others” this fall.

“This assassination attempt points to the extreme end of the political polarization we find ourselves stuck in with its rhetoric and acrimony,” said [the Rev. Adam Hamilton, the church’s senior pastor, in a call to prayer on Facebook](#). “This is not where most Republicans and Democrats are or want to be.”

In an Oval Office address after the attempted assassination, President Joe Biden urged Americans [“to lower the temperature in our politics.”](#)

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United Methodist leaders offered a similar message.

“Denouncing violence is the Christian response, and prayer is our daily commitment,” [wrote Indiana Conference Bishop Julius C. Trimble in a statement.](#)

“Assassination attempts are an affront to democracy and the sacred worth of all people. May God protect those who serve in leadership and those who offer themselves in their service.”

The Rev. Alyce Weaver Dunn, the Western Pennsylvania Conference’s director of connectional ministries, was guest preacher July 14 at Christ Community United Methodist Church in Butler. USA Today [included her prayers in its coverage of the Butler community’s response.](#)

“We need to listen more deeply to one another so we know each other’s story,” Weaver Dunn told United Methodist News.

“A person is not equivalent to their particular opinion or political/theological perspective — that opinion or perspective is only one part of a person. We need to be forming relationships with others that recognizes and

appreciates the fullness of the other’s humanity. Our faith in Jesus Christ compels us to know one another fully as Christ has known us.”

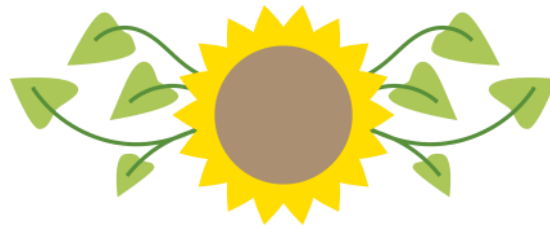
The Rev. Deborah Ackley-Killian, the superintendent whose Butler District includes the Butler, Pennsylvania, community, also prayed that the Holy Spirit would guide Americans to live in harmony.

“May the Spirit be our guide as we desire to live together in mutual respect for one another as citizens of this nation and the kingdom of God,” [she wrote.](#)

Morgan said that all people must learn to look at people through the lens of how God looks at people.

“What I tend to say all the time from the pulpit is that you never look at a person whom Jesus didn’t die for,” he said. “And if we look at people through that lens, you treat people differently, regardless of how they treat you.”

Hahn is assistant news editor for UM News. Contact her at (615) 742-5470 or newsdesk@umnews.org. To read more United Methodist news, [subscribe to the free daily or weekly Digests.](#)



Our Food Pantry Needs Your Help!

Dan & Dotty Everling have been jewels in the crown of our church ministries. Together they managed the food pantry effectively, kindly, and generously for many years. After Dotty stepped away from the ministry due to health issues, Dan carried on provisioning the pantry, organizing and shelving the donations and supplies, and putting together bags of food to meet the needs of people in our community of different demographics.

Dan has had to step away from his work in this ministry and we are in urgent need of people to take up his yoke. We have wonderful volunteers helping to give out the food on Friday afternoons; people who are caring and dedicated and want to keep this ministry going but can’t do so without your help. By the blessings of God, we have been able to feed many, many people in this community when they need it the most because of volunteers and donors.

There are other food pantries in this area, but people are looking for food every day of the week and the loss of any pantry is absolutely felt by those who rely on them. Over the years, we have watched food pantries in Titusville close. If we can’t find people to help, we will unfortunately and certainly be the next food pantry to close.

If you or someone you know would like to help, contact Mario Davis in the church office at 321-269-7631 or email office@fumctitusville.com. All these tasks can be divided by multiple people, and Mario and Tom Mosier will help you get started. Thank you!

Longest Day of Your Life

2024



FUMC Youth joined other local youth groups for the Longest Day of Your Life (LDYL 2024).

A day, starting at 6am with food, service projects, devotionals and so much more! This year our students had the privilege to volunteer at the Salvation Army in Daytona. This location of the Salvation Army focuses on children in low-income housing. While serving there, our students built Vacation Bible School sets and decorated their facility to welcome and share Christ with the children they serve.

To end the day, the 30+ students enjoyed all the amenities of Daytona Lagoon.

Join us for the September 4th We Gather dinner at 5:30pm to hear more about all that the youth and children did during this Summer of 2024!



Parsonage Open House

245 Brookshire Ave.

August 28th

1:30pm-3:30pm



Community Breakfast Needs

- Pancake Syrup
- Frozen Grands Bisquits
- Cooking Spray
- Vegetable Oil
- Peanut Butter
- Jam/Jelly
- Butter
- Grits
- Dawn Dish Soap
- Coffee



Children's Summer Play

GOLDILOCKS ON TRIAL

BY ED MONK



SHOW TIMES:
JULY 13TH @ 6PM
&
JULY 14TH @ 3PM

PRODUCTION BY
FIRST UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
CHILDREN & YOUTH
MINISTRY



Back row: Atticus Freeman as *Papa Bear*, Alison Hafley as *Baby Bear*, Emery Nelson as *Mama Bear*, Ella Robertson as *Goldee Locks*, Sofia Zverer as *Judge Wallabee*, Gwendolyn Villain as *Bailiff*, Lily Abercrombie as *Attorney Wombat*, Orion Freeman as *DA Muffinhead*

Front row: Rachel Larchar, Director; Arabella Hensley as *Merwin the Wolf*; Breslin Nelson as *The Little Pig*; Lily Crunk as *Dr. Cantaloupe*; Lily Dryer as *jury member*; Toni Goss as *Detective Clorox*; and Kimmie Goss, Lillian Tripp, Eve Oliver, and Sylvana Parada as *jury members*

August 2024

First United Methodist Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 12:00pm Ladies Day Out	2 9:00am Connection Kids: Pizza & Movie 1:00pm Food Pantry	3 7:30am Garden Club 8:00am Comm. Breakfast
				4 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship	5 9:00am Connection Kids: Crafts & Hot Dogs	6 7:15am Rotary Club Meeting 6:00pm Stud. Min. Sm. Group 6:00pm Soliloquy Rehearsal 7:30pm Broadstreet Rehearsal
11 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship 11:00am Coffee Fellowship	12	13 7:15am Rotary Club Meeting 6:00pm Stud. Min. Sm. Group 6:00pm Soliloquy Rehearsal 7:30pm Broadstreet Rehearsal	14 3:30pm Silver Chimes Reh. 5:30pm Vivos Voco Reh. 6:30pm Crosspointe	15 12:00pm Ladies Day Out 4:00pm Leadership Team Mtg.	16 1:00pm Food Pantry	17 8:00am Comm. Breakfast 11:00am Art Faull Celebration of Life
18 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship	19	20 7:15am Rotary Club Meeting 6:00pm Stud. Min. Sm. Group 6:00pm Soliloquy Rehearsal 7:30pm Broadstreet Rehearsal	21 3:30pm Silver Chimes Reh. 5:30pm Vivos Voco Reh. 6:30pm Crosspointe	22	23 1:00pm Food Pantry	24 8:00am Comm. Breakfast 10:00am Moonlight Quilters
25 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship 1:30pm Parsonage Open House	26	27 7:15am Rotary Club Meeting 8:30am Mimi's K.S.S. 5:30pm Moonlight Quilters 6:00pm Stud. Min. Sm. Group 6:00pm Soliloquy Rehearsal 7:30pm Broadstreet Rehearsal	28 3:30pm Silver Chimes Reh. 5:30pm Vivos Voco Reh. 6:30pm Crosspointe	29	30 1:00pm Food Pantry	31 8:00am Comm. Breakfast

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FUMC Staff

Reception Desk	Ext 201
Rev. Wayne Cook - Pastor	Ext 202
Mario Davis - Administrative Assistant	Ext 203
Glenda Waring - Membership Secretary	Ext. 204
Leah Patterson - Finance Secretary	Ext. 204
Lauren Good - Family Ministries	Ext. 205
Tom Mosier - Facilities Manager	Ext. 206
Leah Patterson - Custodian	Ext. 206
Carol Henn - Music Director	
J.D. Daniel - Organist	
Steve Rossi - Sound Tech	
Josh Huss - Lights and Visuals	

First United Methodist Church

206 S. Hopkins Ave
Titusville, FL 32796

Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.

Worship Services: 10:00 a.m.

Church Office Hours: 8am – 4pm, Monday - Friday
Closed from 12:00 – 12:30 p.m.

Phone: (321) 269-7631

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Facebook: www.facebook.com/682694095204027

Instagram Handle: [@UnitedChurch321](https://www.instagram.com/UnitedChurch321)

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChscOclDe-wGkXHftvzGX9Q>

[UChscOclDe-wGkXHftvzGX9Q](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChscOclDe-wGkXHftvzGX9Q)



August 2024

1st UMC Ministries

OUTREACH

Bags of Grace	Patchwork Friends
Christmas Store	School Outreach
Community Breakfast	<i>(Apollo Elem., Madison MS, Andrew Jackson MS, Astronaut HS, & Titusville HS)</i>
Community Garden	Shoe Ministry
Cuba Missions	Stop Gap Community Dinners
<i>(Santa Cruz Methodist Church in Holguin, Cuba)</i>	
Food Pantry	
Good Shepherd	
<i>(Funds to help the community with bills & other needs)</i>	

MUSIC MINISTRIES

Celtic Christmas	Handbell Choirs
Church Choir	Holiday Cantatas
Evensong Services	Special Concerts

FAMILY MINISTRIES

1st Wednesday Dinners	Summer Youth Camp
Bus Ministry	Theater Programs
Children's Ministry	<i>(Children & Adult)</i>
Fall Festival	Vacation Bible School
Open Play	Youth—Longest Day of Your Life
<i>(1st Monday, safe playtime for parents & kids)</i>	Youth Ministry
Rock the Universe	

NURTURE MINISTRIES

Bible Studies	United Women of Faith
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