

In our efforts to care for the safety and well-being of all of our members, the Western NC Conference is planning virtual District Annual Celebrations for 2020. **Please join us for this event on Aug. 29 at 3 p.m. We will recognize our churches' achievements, enjoy music, hear a short speaker, vote on the 2021 budget, install new officers and memorialize ladies who passed away in 2019.**

Event: Aug. 29, 3 p.m.

At wnccumw.org/districtcelebrations, you will be able to access:

- Zoom registration link (Registration opens in early August; TBD)
- An agenda, the nominations report, the budget and Pledge to Mission for 2021 & more



Theme: "Uplifting Our Spirits Through Faith"

We recommend that you consider how best to meet the needs of your members who are not tech savvy and/or connected to the internet. One could set up a couple teams with leaders who are comfortable with technology and identify spaces that could host a small number of women while social distancing and wearing masks, such as a couple rooms at your church. For those who wish to stay home, there will be plenty of capacity for anyone to use their own computer or smart phone. Simply calling and connecting via voice only is also an option. Please--brainstorm this with your units. We want to see you there! **Though we will not be together, we still encourage units to participate in a "Walk for Mission" in your locations that day or within a few days.**

See pg. 5 to review the proposed budget and Pledge to Mission for 2021.

See pg. 6 to review the proposed District officers for 2021.

See pg. 7 for a Walk for Mission pledge form.

We look forward to the day when we can again gather safely in person and experience the joy of the wonderful, supportive community of United Methodist Women that is a part of every Annual Celebration!

We look forward to "seeing" everyone. Stay safe and well!

Please contact Jean Carter with questions and concerns (pg. 6).

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Conference & District Calendar for 2020



- Aug. 29 NP District Annual Celebration: "Uplifting Our Spirits Through Faith"
Program: 3-4 p.m. via Zoom Webinar (opens 2:45-3 p.m.; TBD)
- Sept. 26-27 Conference Annual Celebration, 2 p.m. both days via Zoom Webinar
- Oct. 10 Ubuntu Day of Service, All over the Conference
- Oct. 31 Social Action Workshop: Interrupting the School-to-Prison Pipeline
with District Social Action coordinator Kathy FitzJeffries
Program: 10 a.m.-12 noon via Zoom (opens at 9:30 a.m.)
More info in next newsletter
- Nov. 2020 Northern Piedmont Local Unit Officers Training at Archdale UMC,
11543 N. Main St. (at the corner of Petty St. and HWY 311), Archdale 27263

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, all dates for UMW events at the Conference and District levels are tentative. Please visit wnccumc.org to learn more about how our Conference is handling everything. We plan to keep in touch even more for the foreseeable future (NOW is a good time to join the email list; contact Lily Pierce--pg. 6).

Steps to a Successful Meeting

Whether you are currently gathering by Zoom or in a room, your meeting runs successfully with a few simple guidelines.

1. Start with an agenda. By following a game plan, important items will be covered, discussion will flow more logically and members will have a clear understanding of the purpose of getting together. It's important to feel our time is well-spent.
2. Information for the group should be stated so that all understand. Questions should be repeated so everyone is on the same page. Motions should be restated asking if there is further discussion or any new information regarding this subject.
3. Keep the discussion focused. Remember to cover issues not personalities.
4. Make decisions by consensus. All viewpoints are important.
5. Respect each other.



Blessings,
Janet Bledsoe,
District Parliamentarian

These simple guidelines on transacting business will promote cooperation and harmony.

If District officers didn't have term limits, we could just keep the same handful of willing volunteers forever...but our organization doesn't want or need the same group of women leading everything indefinitely. We value different perspectives, fresh ideas and the various spiritual gifts of each woman. Please prayerfully consider joining our team. It's not a "forever" commitment--remember, term limits! But United Methodist Women can only continue if Spirit-filled ladies step up to serve women, children and youth. We are now holding our meetings via Zoom, and when we can gather in person again, ladies can choose to join us or still attend virtually. In other words, you can be a "team player" from your recliner, in your pajamas! Please contact Donna Miller if interested (pg. 6).

Pssst...this book counts as two books for the 2020 Reading Program.



So You Want to Talk About Race: A Soul-Searching Book Study

- Facilitated by Kathy FitzJeffries, UMW Racial Justice Charter Support Team
- Every Thursday in August (6, 13, 20, 27), 7-8:30 p.m. via Zoom
- Register: <https://bit.ly/umwtalkrace>
- Questions? Contact Kathy (pg. 6).

Seeking Justice & Finding Peace

Perhaps, like me, you recently have been feeling more anxious than usual, in need of finding more peace in your personal life, as well as in the world around you. Thank God for the presence of the Holy Spirit to sustain my faith and uphold my Christian walk, even as I mourn the loss of a loved one to COVID-19. God is with me as I endure the heartache of watching another one fight this disease for her very life. And God remains steadfast, even as our nation grapples with the ongoing debilitating effects of racial inequity. Thank God for the holy scriptures that remind me that I am God's beloved child, like you, adopted by God's grace into God's holy family. Throughout the Gospels, Jesus gives us lots of examples of how to recognize and then reject injustice and inequality. **With God's help, we can work together to find peace in an anxious world; with God's help, we can work for justice in an anxious world.** *For when we know justice, then we can know peace.*

These past few months of social distancing brought with them many changes to the plans we had made for ourselves. We've celebrated communion services, weekly worship and bible study, and even Easter in our own homes. As for UMW, many events had to be cancelled, including our District Annual Prayer Breakfast, the Conference Spiritual Growth Retreat at Lake Junaluska and Mission u at Pfeiffer. We moved our District Mission Study to a virtual event and had a wonderful experience. Very few of us have been in a face-to-face circle or unit meeting of UMW since early March (though we've probably become very familiar with Zoom and Free Conference Call). **Presidents, if you haven't reached out to your members in a while, now is a good time to do so.** Remember that we are a creative, supportive fellowship! Feel free to invite any of us on your District Mission team to join you at your virtual meetings. We'd love to come.

While we may be unsure what the rest of the year will look like, we can be certain that the PURPOSE of UMW has not changed. There are many ways we can get to "know God and experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ." I recommend studying the Gospels and reading *Finding Peace in An Anxious World*. One way we can "develop a creative, supportive fellowship" is to read, discuss and act upon the document "A Summons to Witness, Protest, and Promise" found on the church's WNCCUMC homepage. And please continue "to expand concepts of missions by participation in the global ministries of the church." We may not be meeting in person, but your Mission dollars remain hard at work around the world.

Thank you for all you do for United Methodist Women.
Blessings,
Sandrea Williamson, District President



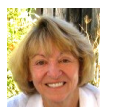
Looking Forward to a Virtual District Celebration

This has so far been a year like most of us have never experienced before, considering the loss of over 135,600 of our U.S. citizens to COVID-19 and the associated loss of income, jobs and housing as we are all asked to stay at home to prevent further spread of the virus. We also experienced the heartbreaking loss of yet another African-American man to the unnecessary violence of policing on our streets. The ensuing protests which brought more violence from those outside the ranks of peaceful demonstrators caused yet more loss of businesses, jobs and income. It's hard to imagine where and when we will eventually come out and back into our society again. **If ever there was a time for prayer, this would be such a time!**

As we look forward to the end of summer and fall, we must be sure that any events we plan will keep our members safe. As you look through the District Calendar, you will see that we are providing the dates as they stand now. We will contact our units if there are changes, but for now, please put the dates on your calendars and plan to attend these events. **We have decided on a Zoom Webinar for our NP District Annual Celebration on August 29 and are still hoping to have our Local Unit Officers Training at Archdale UMC in November.** If you have not yet participated in a Zoom meeting, try to do so. It's actually a great experience and a lot of fun.

"The prophet Hosea (10:12) called upon the faithful people of God to live in a different way by saying, 'Sow righteousness (justice), reap the fruit of unfailing love, and to prepare new ground; for it is time to seek the Lord.' This is such a time. May we lead our communities to live in this 'different way.'" Quoted from Bishop Paul Leeland, 5/28/20

Sincerely,
Jean Carter,
District Vice President



"Think of Your Fellow Man, Lend Him a Helping Hand" -- How?

Greetings and Blessings!

We have all heard the quote by Plato, "Necessity is the mother of invention." Well, COVID-19 has certainly required us to get creative with meeting, worshiping and being in Mission. But it takes more than a deadly world-wide pandemic to stop the United Methodist Women! When "Corona doors" close, they BOLDLY open windows. For instance, **our annual Mission Study, based on the book *Practicing Resurrection: The Gospel of Mark and Radical Discipleship*, was held via Zoom on two consecutive Saturday mornings in June.** Special thanks to Steve Taylor, who did a super job teaching this course. We appreciate those who joined us.

RADICAL Discipleship....hmm....what does that mean for us? How can we possibly be in Mission during a crisis? We must stay at home, wear a mask, wash our hands a zillion times, worship outside the church building and have meetings on Zoom. Consider the lyrics posted below from a song we sang at church last month accompanied by a guitar, in the shade of a big oak tree.

Here is your challenge (and the hands-on Mission project for our District Celebration): collect one bar of soap, one roll of toilet paper, or one bottle of dish detergent for each member of your unit. At the event, I will advise where to take the items or arrange to pick them up. Remember to keep a tally of the items from your unit for recording purposes. **Also, I need to know about the local food pantries and outreach programs with which your church is involved.** As time passes, we will build a base of grassroots ministries to support. Please contact me (pg. 6). As you read Margaret's article below, bear in mind that our funds also help women, children and youth around the world. Lastly, remember this: Kindness is like jam; you can't spread it without getting some on YOU!

*Think of your fellow man, lend him a helping hand
Put a little love in your heart
You see, it's getting late, oh, please don't hesitate
Put a little love in your heart*

*And the world will be a better place
And the world will be a better place for you and me.
You just wait and see*

Peace!
Rynn McGee-Pierce, Mission
Education & Interpretation



*Pssst...this book counts as two books
for the 2020 Reading Program.*



Remember our District Love Offering

Normally, this is one of the busiest times of the year for United Methodist Women. This year, things have certainly slowed down but not stopped. I hope your units have been able to meet virtually or are perhaps holding outdoor meetings while honoring the requirements of social distancing. Within this newsletter, you see that our District Annual Celebration will be held via Zoom Webinar on August 29. Please be aware that a District Love Offering will be scheduled as part of this meeting. **Checks may be sent to me at 2161 Orchard Trail, Thomasville, NC 27360 or given online at <https://wnccumw.org/districtcelebrations/>.** The link will take you to the Northern Piedmont District giving account in PayPal where you will be offered the option to pay via PayPal or a credit card. Our Conference Treasurer will forward your offering to me, and I will credit your unit for the donation.

Conference Love Offerings can also be made online at this link: <https://wnccumw.org/online-mission-giving/>. Or it can be sent directly to our Conference Treasurer, Nancy Reigel, 375 Troy Norris Rd., Boone, NC 28607. Checks should be made payable to: Treasurer, WNCC UMW.

It's hard to believe that we're already into our third UMW quarter of 2020! Giving is down due to many units not being able to meet during the past four months. Hopefully soon, we will all be busy with our fundraisers and monthly meetings and will have the funds to meet our Pledge to Mission and other undesignated giving. **The need is as great or greater than it has ever been due to COVID-19 and other painful events taking place in the world today.** In addition to our gifts, we must ask God to help us see and seize opportunities to be instruments of help and hope to our world.

Blessings,
Margaret Hepler, District Treasurer



Proposed Budget & Pledge to Mission for 2021

PLEDGE TO MISSION

\$100,000.00

ADMINISTRATION & MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT (A & M D)

OFFICER EXPENSES:

Postage	<u>\$ 500.00</u>	
Supplies	<u>350.00</u>	
Travel (mileage)	<u>150.00</u>	
Printing (letters, handouts, etc.)	<u>500.00</u>	
<i>Total Officer Expenses:</i>		<u>\$ 1,500.00</u>

MEETING EXPENSES:

District Annual Meeting	<u>\$ 350.00</u>	
District Spiritual Growth	<u>300.00</u>	
District Officer Training	<u>150.00</u>	
Other District Events	<u>1,525.00</u>	
<i>Total Meeting Expenses</i>		<u>\$ 2,325.00</u>

OTHER EXPENSES:

Newsletter 1) Printing	<u>\$ 2,000.00</u>	
Newsletter 2) Postage	<u>300.00</u>	
Resources & Literature	<u>200.00</u>	
SMR, GTM, & GIM	<u>600.00</u>	
Local Women Stipend (4) (4 first-timers to Conference Mission U & Annual Meeting)	<u>450.00</u>	
Miscellaneous	<u>400.00</u>	
<i>Total Other Expenses:</i>		<u>\$ 3,950.00</u>

TOTAL BUDGETED EXPENSES – A&MD

\$ 7,775.00

Please Send Us District Annual Celebration Program Books



This is a call to predecessor and current Districts: Greensboro, High Point, Lexington, Northeast and Northern Piedmont United Methodist Women, please send annual meeting/celebration program books from 1969 to 2020. It is important to maintain our ministry's history as a vital women's organization in the United Methodist Church. Every year, we come together as sisters for moments of reflection and to share good news, elect officers, honor service, receive inspiration and respond to community needs. Our program book is "the one document" that tells our story of service to women and children during good and bad times from individual District and Conference participation, as well as worldwide community supports. For reasons stated, the program book was selected as this committee's first collection project. Moreover, the books will not require much storage space. We hope many of your members, relatives and friends you know have a copy or two that they are willing to donate for the sake of history.

The committee collection objective is a minimum of 51-100 program copies. To avoid duplication of programs received, notification of receipt shall be posted online until all copy years are on hand. Do not bend or fold program books, and bring them to our next face-to-face meeting. Please provide the donor's name and contact information so our committee can follow up with a Gift to Mission recognition. Once donated, these copies will be retained as property of the Northern Piedmont District United Methodist Women.

Questions? Contact me (pg. 6).
Albertina McGirt, District Historian



Northern Piedmont District Officers for 2020

President**

Sandra Williamson
Bass Chapel, Greensboro
336-681-7258
stbw1948@gmail.com

Vice President**

Jean Carter
Christ, Greensboro
336-668-7916
jeancarter@triad.rr.com

Secretary

Margaret Scales
Wesley Chapel, Reidsville
336-273-1485

Treasurer

Margaret Hepler
Prospect, Archdale
336-472-6180
mlandcbh@northstate.net

Education & Interpretation

Rynn McGee-Pierce
Gideon Grove, Stokesdale
336-706-9116
rynn@hottan.com

Spiritual Growth*

Kelli Smith
Old Union, Sophia
336-799-4302, 336-301-6872
kelliwhitesmith@gmail.com

Social Action

Kathy FitzJeffries
St. Matthews, Greensboro
704-267-9039
myfaithjourney@icloud.com

Membership Nurture & Outreach**

Tiffany Alston
Liberty Grove, Trinity
336-434-4303
tiffa56@yahoo.com

Secretary of Program Resources

TBD

Communications**

Lily Pierce
Gideon Grove, Stokesdale
336-280-1187
npdistrictunitedmethodistwomen@gmail.com

Nominations Committee Chair*

Donna Miller, Class of 2020
Muir's Chapel, Greensboro
336-681-8559
dmmiller94@yahoo.com

Nominations Committee Members

Lynne Gilbert, Class of 2020*
West Market St., Greensboro
336-207-3479, 336-282-3711
lynnegilbert2@gmail.com

*Officers leaving at the end of 2020

**Officers beginning their second term in 2021

Eloise Moore, Class of 2021
Memorial, High Point
336-686-4811
jimnella@aol.com

Meshell Sigmon, Class of 2021
Triad Native American, Greensboro
336-965-9038
meshell_sigmon@yahoo.com

Molly Welch, Class of 2021
Trinity Memorial, Trinity
336-803-1214
molly.welch9311@gmail.com

Brenda Steadman, Class of 2022
Celia Phelps, Greensboro
336-509-4043
bsteadman@triad.rr.com

Irish Spencer, Class of 2023
Memorial, High Point
336-674-0332
irish@spencergroup.us

Historian

Albertina McGirt
St. Matthews, Greensboro
336-855-3024
hefavorsme7@triad.rr.com

Parliamentarian

Janet Bledsoe
Hopewell, Trinity
336-847-7296
ggbledsoe@northstate.net

New Proposed Officers for 2021

Nominations Committee Chair

Brenda Steadman
Celia Phelps, Greensboro
336-509-4043
bsteadman@triad.rr.com

Secretary of Program Resources

Cheryl Little
St. Matthews, Greensboro
336-852-0872, 336-338-1958
crlittle35@icloud.com

Nominations Committee Member

Constance Holland, Class of 2022
(Finishing Dixie Holland's term)
Bethel, Archdale
looney814@gmail.com

Spiritual Growth

Donna Miller
Muir's Chapel, Greensboro
336-681-8559
dmmiller94@yahoo.com

Nominations Committee Member

Jenny Fitzpatrick, Class of 2024
Mt. Pisgah, Greensboro
828-242-7478
jennyfitz86@gmail.com

WALK FOR MISSION 2020

Western North Carolina Conference United Methodist Women

District Name: NORTHERN PIEDMONT



Walker's Name _____ Unit Name _____

1. Please commit to walk at least one lap with us to raise funds in our Walk for Missions.
2. Then ask friends and family to support you in our Walk for Mission. You can decide how much to ask them to contribute for each lap you walk.
3. **Mail your forms and money to Margaret Hepler, 2161 Orchard Trail, Thomasville, NC, 27360.**

Total Pledge \$ _____
 # Of Sponsors _____
 Initial _____
 Date _____


(Please Print)

Sponsor's Name	Email Address	\$ Pledged	\$ Paid
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
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 www.flickr.com/UMWomen



Are you willing to receive your quarterly newsletter via email, reducing our carbon footprint and allowing more money to go to mission work? If so, please email our District Communications Coordinator, Lily Pierce.



UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) provides cleaning, hygiene and school kits in response to disasters and other needs in the United States. They work with international partners to help them address needs in their countries. You can help them restock their kits by going to umcor.org, hovering the mouse over "Serve" in the menu at the top, clicking "Relief Supply Network" and scrolling down to "Kit Assembly." From there, you can download instructions for each kit. You can also make a monetary donation to help buy supplies for kits by hovering over "Give." (Photo borrowed from website)