

July 2020



## ***From Your President:***

It seems every day our news gets worse as we try to deal with this coronavirus and what it means for us, our families, our neighbors here and abroad. Then we hear and read about the protests for justice for our African-American friends and their families. There seems to be so much anger and hate in the world as well as despair. It can be hard to remain positive in today's world but I try to remember every day that God is in control. So, believing this, what are we to do? I believe we are to remain strong in our faith and reach out to those who need us. The question is how to do this and stay safe. We can be creative in our giving. Reach out by phone and text and write a note. Have we forgotten how to do this? Be generous in our giving to UMW and our churches. We can also educate ourselves about all the issues confronting us these days. There are books on our reading list that can help us understand about race. The coronavirus seems to be in the news daily. Be sure you are listening to an authoritative site. Our [unitedmethodistwomen.org](http://unitedmethodistwomen.org) web site has bible studies to help us stay spiritually strong.

News flash! We will be having our District Annual Meeting. We are going hi-tech and doing it virtually. Before you panic, instructions are in this newsletter and I hope you will plan to participate. We will meet on August 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. We need you! There are some changes to our hands-on missions. We will not be doing Armenia shoeboxes or UMCOR kits due to the limitations of the Mission Response Center. However, we can still help. Nara, the director of AGAPE, who serves in Armenia requests donations and children's clothing. To donate you can send a check to the district treasurer with the Advance number of S-00004 in the memo line.

We will not be able to participate in Annual Celebration at Lake Junaluska as the decision was made to cancel our face to face meeting due to health concerns. However, we will have Annual Celebration virtually on September 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. Details will be forthcoming.

Our district Missions Festival scheduled November 14<sup>th</sup> at Franklin First is still expected to be a live-in person event. This will depend on future information about the Covid-19 pandemic but we will keep you informed.

Stay strong sisters. Remain steadfast in faith and flexible in attitude. United Methodist Women have always adapted to changing conditions in their world and still stayed connected in mission to each other.

Please contact me if you have any questions or if I can help you in any way.

Your sister in Christ,

Debbie Ray, (acting) President ([wsray@charter.net](mailto:wsray@charter.net))  
569 Country Club Drive, Waynesville, NC 28786, (828-400-3499)



# DISTRICT ANNUAL CELEBRATIONS

## BY ZOOM WEBINAR

### AUGUST 2020



All eight District Annual Celebrations will be virtual events via Zoom Webinar. We have created a [special page on our website](#) where you will be able to find ALL information about the District Annual Celebrations. [Check it out](#) as information continues to develop. Registration will be required for these free Zoom webinar meetings.

Here are the dates and times for our virtual meetings:

- **Appalachian** - Saturday, August 29, 2020 – 10:00am
- **Blue Ridge** - Monday, August 31, 2020 – 7:00pm
- **Catawba Valley** - Tuesday, August 25, 2020 – 7:00pm
- **Metro** - Monday, August 24, 2020 – 7:00pm
- **Northern Piedmont** - Saturday, August 29, 2020 – 3:00pm
- **Smoky Mountain** - Wednesday, August 26, 2020 – 7:00pm
- **Uwharrie** - Friday, August 28, 2020 – 7:00pm
- **Yadkin Valley** - Thursday, August 27, 2020 – 7:00pm

## “Zoom” into our SM District Annual Celebration, August 26

The pandemic continues to keep us from gathering in person, but we will meet virtually via Zoom webinar on **Wednesday, August 26, at 7 PM** to approve the 2021 budget, elect and install officers, and learn more about C4C (Congregations for Children). All members in attendance are voting delegates.

### How do I participate in the Zoom webinar for District Annual Celebration?

- Go to <https://wnccumw.org/districtcelebrations/> (Ctrl + click to open the hyperlink.)
- If you haven't done a webinar before, instructions may be found in the blue box on the right of the webpage.
- **Register for our Annual Celebration** by scrolling down the webpage to our district. Registration is free, but you do need to register to participate. If the link is not yet active when you visit the page, check back closer to the meeting date.
- Prepare for the meeting ahead of time by viewing the budget, slate of officers, and other information which is posted below the registration link.
- View available downloads by clicking the links: Nominations Report, Budget/Pledge to Mission, Agenda, and Program Book.
- Donate to our District Love Offering (our “Chicken Feed” offering) either by using the link shown online or by mailing your check to Judy Bromley, 336 Maple Leaf Ln, Clyde, NC 28721, by November 15, 2020.

### What about members who don't have the technology to “Zoom”?

- We ask local unit officers to share information about District Annual Celebration with all members. Get their feedback about the slate of officers and the budget.
- You could plan to watch in a small group or invite someone to watch with you but each one would have to register to have a vote. Remember to use all the CDC/UMC guidelines regarding masks/social distancing to keep everyone safe.

## **NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Learning As We Go**

Hello Ladies! I am Erlinda Rogers and I have been part of the Nominating Committee for this past year. At present, I am acting as the Chair for this Committee. Due to the "social distancing," we have not had the opportunity to meet and visit with women who could have been potential candidates for the vacant positions on the nominating list. This was discussed at the last Executive Board Meeting. President Debbie Ray reassured the board that we, the Nominating Committee, are looking for new ideas of how to reach women who may have an interest to serve, but may feel hesitant to respond by thinking they may have to have the skills, or the knowledge of United Methodist Women ministry and how it is organized. Of course, there is the question of what is expected and how will they know what to do. I can identify with these thoughts, as I am a "Newbie" in leadership on the Executive Board. I have experienced all these feelings and was happy to receive these welcoming words of encouragement. "We are all learning as we go along." I can certainly work with those words. It was a welcome that said "you are not alone."

My first appeal for help is to ask everyone to think of those women who express their love to serve the Lord and enjoy people. Should you consider yourself or anyone else one of these, please let me know. Please contact me so we can talk further about it. Thank You!

Erlinda G. Rogers

[erlindarogers1@bellsouth.net](mailto:erlindarogers1@bellsouth.net)

828-454-5394

## **SOCIAL ACTION PLAN: ECONOMIC INEQUALITY**

For this newsletter our emphasis is on economic inequality. Income and wealth inequality in the United States impacts women and communities of color, which in turn further marginalizes those who may already be vulnerable. Decades of poor policy choices got us to this point. The US has seen a major shift in concentration of income and wealth in recent decades, making life harder for the majority. While real incomes for the top 1 percent have grown 185 percent over the past 35 years, incomes for the rest of the population have increased an average of only 13 percent.

Too many jobs pay minimum wage which cannot sustain a family. Women make up 75 percent of these low wage workers and they are disproportionately women of color. Rising cost of higher education and student debt put a heavy burden on both young people and their families. Real estate booms in many urban areas have driven up the cost of housing, while low- and moderate- income housing programs are in decline. A health crisis can become a financial crisis for families.

Fair and just policy changes now could reverse the income and wealth gap. United Methodist Women are called to act locally and in national efforts to begin to bridge the inequality gap.

I have included in this newsletter (on page 4) an article from the national website about this issue. The information above comes from the national office. Sign up for email action alerts by going to the [unitedmethodistwomen.org](http://unitedmethodistwomen.org) web site.

Debbie Ray, Acting Social Action Coordinator  
(828) 400-3499 or [wsray@charter.net](mailto:wsray@charter.net)

## Service and Advocacy > Mission Focus Issues > ECONOMIC INEQUALITY

### What are the Root Causes?

This did not just happen on its own. Our current economic insecurity is the result of specific policy choices that have shifted wealth and income to the top: cuts in taxes for the wealthy and corporate tax cuts, cuts in public services, employer cuts to pensions and health benefits, predatory mortgage lending, stagnant wages with rising cost of living, work speed up, and shifts from the public to the private sector in everything from schools to roads to military to prisons, eliminating many unionized public sector jobs.


### Why Get Involved in This Issue?

United Methodist Women is engaging in education to better understand these changes in economic policy and how they impact women, youth and children. We will be exploring these realities in our communities, state, and nation and taking action to seek greater equity and dignity, living wages, sustainable livelihoods and economic security for all. We will look at how inequality is a global issue. The United Methodist Social Principles affirm, "We support measures that would reduce the concentration of wealth in the hands of a few." (Social Principles, *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*, 2008, p. 163).

"In Luke 4:18-19, Jesus began his public ministry with these words from Isaiah:

*'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. God has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.'* (NRSV, adapted)

Christ teaches that faith requires action for social and spiritual well-being and especially care for the poor and the oppressed. The early church understood that all were to share all that they had and especially care for the widows and orphans (Acts 2:44-245; 2 Corinthians 8:13-15)...The covenant community was called to observe sabbatical years in which the land was not worked and its produce was available to the poor (Exodus 23:10-11)...The prophets warn us that an economic system based on greed, economic exploitation, and the indifference to the needs of the poor is contrary to God's will and leads to ruin for the society (Amos 8:4-6; Jeremiah 22:13-17)." (Resolution 4052, "Economic Justice for a New Millenium," *The Book of Resolutions of The United Methodist Church*, 2012, pp. 546-547)

 Sign up for  
e-mail Action Alerts

([https://secure3.convio.net/umw/site/SPageNavigator/Social\\_Action\\_Alerts.html](https://secure3.convio.net/umw/site/SPageNavigator/Social_Action_Alerts.html))

### Scriptural Inspiration

*"God remembers those who suffer;  
He does not forget their cry,  
And he punishes those who wrong them. ...  
The needy will not always be neglected;  
The hope of the poor will not be crushed forever."* (Psalm 9:12, 18)

*"Protect the rights of the poor and needy."* (Proverbs 31:9)

*"Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.  
Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled.  
Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh."* (Luke 6:20a)

### From the United Methodist Book of Discipline

As a church, we are called to support the poor and challenge the rich ... Poverty most often has systemic causes, and therefore we do not hold poor people morally responsible for their economic state. (Social Principles, ¶ 163 E)

### Our Values

As globalization quickens the consolidation of wealth and power by fewer individuals and corporations, United Methodist Women continues to stand for economic justice for those on the margins of society.

United Methodist Women work in this area includes:

- Advocacy for debt relief for impoverished nations crippled by efforts to repay loans to international bodies
- Support for the abolition of sweatshops and child labor
- Promotion of Fair-Trade policies and products
- Support for farm worker rights
- Participation in living wage campaigns

### Contact Us:

Carol Barton, Executive For Community Action  
[cbarton@unitedmethodistwomen.org](mailto:cbarton@unitedmethodistwomen.org) (mailto:cbarton@unitedmethodistwomen.org)

## SPOTLIGHT ON SPIRITUAL GROWTH:

Are you finding peace in this anxious time?

Our Spiritual Growth Study this year is called *Finding Peace in an Anxious World*, and it is appropriate for our times. This study uses the book of Proverbs and “The Serenity Prayer” as a guide to help Christians find their way through anxiety, worry, and fear, and move towards God’s peace that surpasses all understanding. The four chapters focus on different aspects of the prayer—serenity, acceptance, courage, and wisdom—and each concludes with a spiritual practice to help further develop the featured characteristic in your life. I found the book to be both practical and encouraging.

We won’t be using this study at Mission U, as originally planned, but the book is still available from Mission Resources, and the national UMW organization has made a study guide and videos available that can be used for individual and small group study. You will find these resources at <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/finding-peace-in-an-anxious-world>. I found the videos provide good overviews of the chapters, and can be used alone, but the book provides valuable detail and depth not found in the videos. If you don’t have internet access, and want to order the book, contact Mission Resources Customer Service at 1-800-305-9857. You may want to combine book orders with other women in your unit in order to save postage and handling.

Many of you have watched the three session videos of the Western North Carolina Conference UMW Spiritual Growth Virtual 2020 Event entitled *For Such a Time as This*, which happened online June 12-14. We heard inspiring and challenging messages based on chapter four of the book of *Ruth*. You can still access these videos at <https://wnccumw.org/events/spiritual-growth-retreat-2020/>. These videos would also make excellent programs for your units, circles, or small groups.

Even though we were not able to memorialize unit members who died in 2019 in our usual way at a Day Apart, please send me those names, as we will find a way to appropriately memorialize those persons. You may contact me by email at [cgh2arper@gmail.com](mailto:cgh2arper@gmail.com), or phone at 828-349-3228, or by mail at 101 Everett Rd, Franklin, NC 28734.

Carol Harper, Spiritual Growth Coordinator



Those who bring sunshine to the lives of others  
cannot keep it from themselves.

\* \* \* \* \*

*Be not deceived; God is not mocked:*

*For whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.*

Galatians 6:7 KJV

## MEMBERSHIP, NURTURE AND OUTREACH

When I was called to be the Coordinator of membership, nurture and outreach for the Smoky Mountain District of United Methodist Women, I must admit I thought mainly of a need for more members joining the ranks of this great organization. However, during this particular time when we are all asked to quieten down, stay at home and count our blessings, I have had the time to think more realistically and I have come to the conclusion that maybe **nurturing** is the more important aspect of my responsibilities. Perhaps, during this period of time especially, we concentrate on looking out for each other, especially those sisters who, for a long time, have not been able to attend UMW meetings. This is a good time to check in with them, to offer help, send a "thinking of you" card or write a note. My daughter, who is an "essential worker" in a nursing home tells me this is a very difficult time for the residents she serves, when their families and friends cannot visit. All of us need the reassurance we have not been forgotten.

The following ideas are the result of a google search and I find them helpful, so I share them with you, knowing full well that you can add many more suggestions to the list.

1. Identify a person/s in your family, friends, acquaintances who may need to have their spirits lifted or someone you haven't spoken to in a while or haven't seen for a while.
2. Plan a definite time to call and check in with them, send a note, flowers, pictures etc.
3. When calling, always ask if this is a good time or if you should call back later. Don't assume anything and never jump to conclusions.
4. Be the most positive person you know.
5. Under promise and over deliver.
6. Communicate candidly and honestly.
7. Be passionately appreciative.

Esther Manchester  
Membership, Nurture & Outreach Coordinator  
828-226-7481 or [ehm1@yahoo.com](mailto:ehm1@yahoo.com)



## Ways to Give to the Legacy Fund

- ◇ Make a gift to the Legacy Fund through your local unit United Methodist women treasurer.
- ◇ Use our Western North Carolina Conference Legacy Commitment Form, available on our website at [www.wnccumw.org/legacyfund](http://www.wnccumw.org/legacyfund).
- ◇ Online on the national office website at [unitedmethodistwomen.org/legacyfund](http://unitedmethodistwomen.org/legacyfund).
- ◇ **By phone:** 800-278-7771 (8 am—6 pm EST, M-F)
- ◇ **Text** Legacy150 to 41444
- ◇ **By check:** note "Legacy Fund" in memo and mail to: United Methodist Women, Treasurer's Office, 15th Floor, 475 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10115
- ◇ **Other methods** include gifts of stock, life insurance, bequests, and other forms of planned giving. If you are interested in making a gift like this, contact the national office at 800-278-7771.



## MISSION EDUCATION & INTERPRETATION:

I came across John Wesley's 18th century manifesto that could have been written today. The writing is on display at the Wesley Museum in the Methodist Chapel in Bristol, England and couldn't be more relevant for 2020:

### JOHN WESLEY'S MANIFESTO

1. Reduce the gap between rich people and poor people.
2. Help everyone to have a job.
3. Help the poorest, including introducing a living wage.
4. Offer the best possible education.
5. Help everyone to feel they can make a difference.
6. Promote tolerance.
7. Promote equal treatment for women.
8. Create a society based on values not on profits and consumerism.
9. End all forms of slavery.
10. Avoid getting into wars.
11. Share the love of God with everyone.
12. Care for the environment.

Nora, Director of Project Agape in Armenia, has made a request for children's clothes. This can be new or good used clothing. She has a good supply of baby clothes so needs clothing for ages 2-18. Nora also indicated that this spring she had received enough Christmas Shoeboxes to provide gifts for the children this year.

If any units have completed UMCOR Kits of Hygiene or School Kits, you can bring them to me before September 15th so that I can deliver them to Groce UMC, Asheville, as the Response Center will be picking up the kits and items for Project Agape the last week of September.

I know that a lot of our United Methodist Women have stepped up and helped with needs in their communities. Stay connected with your UMW sisters by sending a card, picking up the phone, sending an email, or even Zooming to let them know you care. Stay Safe!

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Beverly Bard, Acting Mission Coordinator for  
Education & Interpretation  
1892 Plott Creek Road, Waynesville, NC 28786  
828-646-7558 OR [bevandrog52@gmail.com](mailto:bevandrog52@gmail.com)



## THE EVER-CHANGING WORLD OF PROGRAM RESOURCES:

I have these books that I ordered for SMD for you to purchase. Since we are still not able to have face-to-face meetings, I can meet you anywhere in Haywood County to give you a book you desire. If you live outside of Haywood Co., we'll have to talk about postage, etc.

### Education for Mission

*When Others Shuddered* (\$13.99)

*The Pilgrim Journey* (\$14.95)

### Leadership Development

*Vital Voices* (\$15.99)

*Which Way, Lord* (\$9.99)

### Nurturing for Community

*Glory Happening* (\$16.99)

*The Life and Ministry of Mary Webster* (\$17.99)

*#RU Hooked* (\$6.99; for teens and people who care about them)

*Owen and Eleanor Move In* (\$7.99; suitable for children)

### Social Action

*Midnight Teacher* (\$18.95; Lilly Ann Granderson and Her Secret School)

*Six by Ten* (\$17.99)

*We Kiss Them with Rain* (\$14.95; suitable for youth)

*Who Lynched Willie Earle?* (\$17.99)

### Spiritual Growth

*40 Days with Wesley* (\$14.99)

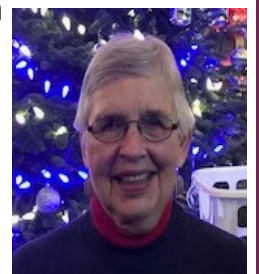
*The Magnificent Story* (\$22.00)

I also have six (6) copies of the study book *Women United for Change*, which is for SMD Mini Mission u next spring. Call or text me at (828) 507-4556 if you are interested in obtaining one of these books.

If you want to peruse the books included in the 2020 Reading Program in more detail, you can find the catalog on line at: <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/readingprogram>.

I want to share one book from this list that I have read. The book, *Who Lynched Willie Earle?*, was written by retired bishop Will Willimon. The opening chapter of the book tells of the killing of a black man who was accused of killing a white taxi driver. A group of white taxi drivers took Willie out of the jail and killed him. This happened in 1947. The killing is followed by a sermon given by a Methodist minister, Hawley Lynn, in Pickens, South Carolina. The remainder of the book is filled with ideas to guide ministers effectively in situations of racial violence. This book is a great start at helping America to be honest about race, especially those of us who deem ourselves followers of Christ.

Gail Powell, Program Resources Coordinator  
(828-507-4556 or [gailpowell@bellsouth.net](mailto:gailpowell@bellsouth.net))





# WNCC UMW ANNUAL CELEBRATION

BY ZOOM WEBINAR

September 26 & 27



The WNCC UMW Annual Celebration, scheduled for Sept. 11-13, 2020 at Lake Junaluska, has been cancelled. Our Annual Celebration will instead be a virtual event via Zoom Webinar on Saturday, Sept. 26 at 2:00 pm and on Sunday, Sept. 27 at 2:00 pm. You can visit the conference website at <https://wnccumw.org/events/annual-celebration-2020/> for more details.

## **PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:**

September 26, 2020 at 2:00 pm - Special Guest Speaker; Business Session; District Celebration

September 27, 2020 at 2:00 pm - Greetings from Bishop Leeland; President's Message; Memorial Service

ALL ONLINE - Via Zoom webinar

Theme: ***Walk in God's Light***

Special Guest Speaker: **Cindy Johnson, Deaconess**, Rio Texas Conference

Special Guest: **Bishop Paul Leeland**

President's Message: **Julia Willis**, Conference President

Memorial Service: **Darlene Gardner**, Mission Coordinator for Spiritual Growth

Music Leaders: **Tracey Owens** and **Howard Johnson**

Online Registration for our **Virtual Annual Celebration 2020** will open on September 1, 2020. This entire event will be by Zoom Webinar, and [you will need to register to join the webinar.](#)

Watch for the next issue of [Conference Gram](#), coming out in August! Share it with your friends!

Registration for our Virtual Annual Celebration will be FREE!

We invite you to participate in and give generously to our **2020 Conference Love Offering**, [A Gift to Mission Honoring & Affirming Clergywomen, past, present and future.](#)

There will be an **Annual Celebration Program Book** that you will be able to download before our virtual meeting.



Internationally,  
Mission Giving funds  
support 121 programs  
carried out by 107  
organizations in more  
than 110 countries.



Nearly 100 National Mission Institutions in the United States supported by United Methodist Women's giving are empowering women, caring for children, educating and building youth, looking after the neglected, advocating for social justice issues, creating economic opportunities and changing neighborhoods.

## 2020 Conference Love Offering

Our Conference Love Offering gifts are above and beyond District and individual pledges. Such undesignated offerings are applied toward the Conference Pledge and become part of the monies used by United Methodist Women to create and support projects around the world to better the lives of women, children and youth.

You may bring your individual Love Offering or your unit's Love Offering to our Western North Carolina Conference United Methodist Women's Annual Celebration at Lake Junaluska, or send it directly to:

**Nancy Reigel, Conference Treasurer**  
WNCC United Methodist Women  
375 Troy Norris Road  
Boone, NC 28607

Please make checks payable to:  
Treasurer, WNCC UMW

**On-Line Love Offerings** can be made on our web site, [www.wnccumw.org](http://www.wnccumw.org). Just click on the "DONATE NOW" icon in the Love Offering section by Dec 31st.

*Note: Please do not send your Love Offering to your District Treasurer.*

**Thank you for your support of the 2020 Conference Love Offering!**

## United Methodist Women Western North Carolina Conference



United  
Methodist  
Women  
FAITH · HOPE · LOVE IN ACTION

**2020  
LOVE OFFERING**  
**A Gift to Mission**  
*Honoring and Affirming  
Clergywomen:  
Past, Present and Future*

Annual Celebration  
Lake Junaluska, NC  
September 11-13, 2020

# 2020 Conference Love Offering

## Then

### Stalwart Women Refusing to Hear "No"

- 1869 Margaret Van Cott is granted a local preacher's license ME.
- 1876 Anna Oliver first woman to receive a Bachelor of Divinity degree from an American theological seminary.
- 1878 Anna Howard Shaw receives a Bachelor of Divinity degree.
- 1880 The General Conference of the ME refused to ordain Ann Howard Shaw and Anna Oliver and denies women the right to preachers' licenses. Anna Howard Shaw joins the MP and is ordained by its New York Annual Conference.
- 1884 The MP General Conference rules that Anna Howard Shaw's ordination was out of order.
- 1889 Ella Niswonger becomes first woman ordained in the UB.
- 1894 Sarah Dickey is ordained by the UB.
- 1910 The General Conference ME denies women laity rights.
- 1914-1918 First World War**
- 1920 The local preacher's license, the first step to ordained ministry officially extended to women in the *Book of Discipline* ME.
- 1924 Women in the ME are given limited clergy rights.

### 1936-1945 World War II

- 1946 Women are denied ordination by the UB.
- 1956 Women in the MC win full clergy rights. Maude Kristler Jensen is the first woman to be granted such rights.
- 1968 Merger forming the United Methodist Church**
- 1972 United Methodist Women name adopted**
- 1996 4,955 United Methodist Women ministers.



## A Gift to Mission

*Honoring and  
Affirming  
Clergywomen:*

*Past  
Present  
And  
Future*

## Today

### Stalwart Women Continuing to Answer the Call

- The United Methodist Church has about 12,300 women ministers of a total of about 83,800. (2014)
- In the Western North Carolina Conference there are 356 women in ministry. Total appointed clergy in the Conference is 1,093.
- Of the eight District Superintendents, five are women.
- On January 15, the WNCC delegation endorsed a woman, Rev. Amy Coles as their episcopal nominee.

*Does your unit know of clergywomen who have had meaningful impacts on the lives of your members?*

***Make your Love Offering in her/their honor.***

*Just add her/their names to the memo on the check or include it on a separate slip of paper when you send it in or place your offering in the basket at the 2020 Annual Celebration.*

*A full list will be made available in 2021.*

For your own records: Record her/their names here:

_____
_____
_____



Visit <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/racialjustice> to find out more.

## Because We Believe...Racial Justice

United Methodist Women is deeply committed to [the ongoing work of racial justice](#). We seek to be in right relationship with one another. We work together for the transformation of church and world, following the teaching and example of Jesus Christ. To learn more about our racial justice work:

Access the [Charter for Racial Justice](#)

Explore our [history](#)

Learn more about [mass incarceration and the criminalization of communities of color](#)

Connect with our current campaign to interrupt the [school-to-prison pipeline](#)

Meet the [Racial Justice Charter support team](#)

Download the Racial Justice Toolkit: [Tools for Leaders: Resources for Racial Justice](#)

Contact the office of Racial Justice:

**Emily Jones: Executive for Racial Justice**  
[ejones@unitedmethodistwomen.org](mailto:ejones@unitedmethodistwomen.org)

Nancy Jo Willis  
Communications Coordinator, SMD  
310 Cassady Lane  
Murphy, NC 28906



**We are apart BUT STILL TOGETHER! JOIN US for our Smoky Mountain District Annual Celebration on Wednesday, August 26th, at 7:00 pm via Zoom. It's really not difficult, and you can find details on page 2 of this newsletter. If Zoom is not your thing, call one or two of your friends and see if you can get together to participate via one computer screen. We Need YOU!**

## 2020

### WNCC—UMW Calendar of Events

Sept. 11—13	<del>WNCC-UMW Annual Celebration @ Lake Junaluska</del> CANCELLED
Sept. 26—27	WNCC UMW Virtual Annual Celebration @ 2:00 pm (see page 9 inside)
Oct. 10	UBUNTU Day of Service
Oct. 24	Leadership Development @ Hickory UMC

### SMD-UMW Calendar of Events

August 22	<del>SMD Annual Meeting @ Ranger UMC from 9am—12noon 156 Ranger Road, Murphy, NC 28906</del> CANCELLED
August 26	Virtual SMD Annual Meeting @ 7:00 pm (see page 2 inside)
November 14	SMD Missions Festival @ Franklin First UMC from 9am – 12noon 66 Harrison Avenue, Franklin, NC 28734