



NORTHERN PIEDMONT DISTRICT United Methodist Women QUARTERLY NEWS

FIRST QUARTER 2021

Joint District Mission Study: Interrupting the School-to-Prison Pipeline

As United Methodist Women, we are called to dismantle racism. United Methodist Women are focused on the eradication of the criminalization and mass incarceration of communities of color, with particular urgency to interrupt the school-to-prison pipeline.



To gain a better understanding of this topic, **you are invited to our Joint Mission Study with the Uwharrie District, Our Call to Social Action: Interrupting the School-to-Prison Pipeline**, facilitated by Kathy FitzJefferies (NP District's Social Action coordinator), Vickie Brown (Uwharrie District's MEI coordinator) and Carol Ann Moye of St. Matthew's UMC in Greensboro. In addition to sharing vital information, participants will have the opportunity to engage in courageous conversations and discern how to respond to God's call as an advocate and activist for racial justice.

This four-hour mission study is offered in two sessions: **part I on Saturday, March 13, 10 a.m. to 12 noon, and part II on Sunday, March 14, 2 to 4 p.m. via Zoom.** In preparation for this study, please read the article "Over-Policing in Schools Is an Issue Black Students Have Been Fighting for Years" at <http://bit.ly/copsinschools>. It would also be helpful if you read *Push Out* (this book is also the focus for Mission u this summer). **Please register by Wednesday, March 10, at <http://bit.ly/NPUWpipelinereg>.** After you register, you will receive a confirmation email with the link to join the meeting. Please contact Kathy FitzJefferies at myfaithjourney@icloud.com or 704-267-9039 if you have any questions, need information or don't have internet access. We look forward to our time together!



Kathy FitzJefferies,
District Social Action

Our hands-on mission project for this event will be collecting school kits. Here is a list of local YMCA's with whom we've established contact that would appreciate your donations:

- Alex W. Spears III YMCA, 3216 Horse Pen Creek Road, Greensboro, 27410, 336-387-9622
- Hayes-Taylor Memorial YMCA, 2630 E. Florida Street, Greensboro, 27401, 336-272-2131
- Carl Chavis Memorial YMCA, 2757 Granville Street, High Point, 27263, 336-434-4000
- Hartley Drive YMCA, 150 West Hartley Drive, High Point, 27265, 336-869-0151
- Carl and Linda Grubb YMCA, 609 Trindale Road, Archdale, 27370, 336-861-7788
- Reidsville YMCA, 504 S Main Street, Reidsville, 27320, 336-342-3307

Be sure to tally your donations and send them to Rynn McGee-Pierce, our District MEI. You can coordinate a pickup with her if needed. Contact info is available on pg. 6.



District Prayer Breakfast

Hello, Northern Piedmont UMW ladies! As we move into a new and healthier year, I pray everyone is staying safe.

I would like to let you know the plans for our 2021 District Prayer Breakfast. It will be a virtual event that, as always, includes a memorial service. **The Prayer Breakfast will take place Saturday, April 10, from 10 am to 12 noon.** The theme will be "You Lift Me Up." The speaker for the event has not yet been selected.

Be sure you send me your list of the ladies we would like to remember in our memorial service. Please let me know if there is any way I can be of assistance in any spiritual growth programs for your local unit.



Blessings to all,
Donna Miller, District
Spiritual Growth

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Conference & District Calendar for 2021



March 13, 14	Joint District Mission Study: Interrupting the School-to-Prison Pipeline Program: 10 a.m.-12 noon on the 13th, 2 to 4 p.m. on the 14th Register at http://bit.ly/NPUWpipelinereg
April 10	District Prayer Breakfast: "You Lift Me Up" Program: 10 a.m. to 12 noon via Zoom
June 18-19	Conference Spiritual Growth Retreat: "You Lift Me Up," Virtual Event
July 15-18	Conference Mission u, Virtual Event
Aug. 22	District Annual Celebration, Virtual Event Program: 3-5:30 p.m.
Sept. 11-12	Conference Annual Celebration: "Lift Up Our Spirits With Faith & Hope, So Love IS Action," Virtual Event
Oct. 2, 9	Conference Ubuntu Day: "I Am Because You Are"
Nov. 20	District Leadership Development Day for Local Unit Officers, Virtual Event

Visit wnccumc.org to learn more about Conference events, and join the District email list for more info on District events; contact Lily Pierce--pg. 6.

**COMING
SOON**

the list of District officers who will serve as Nurturing Partners for your local units in 2021

Conference & District Goals for 2021

- **Raise awareness & build relationships with the United Methodist Women Mission institutions in our Conference:** Alliance Center for Education (formerly Bethlehem Center Charlotte), Bethlehem Center Winston-Salem, Brooks-Howell Home, Bennett College and Pfeiffer University
- **Raise awareness and promote personal advocacy for our two United Methodist Women priority issues:** Climate Justice and Criminalization of Communities of Color & Mass Incarceration
- **Building relationships, supporting, and encouraging local units in living out our Purpose during a pandemic and beyond**
- **Achieve our Conference Financial Goal:** Each unit will make at least one Gift to Mission of at least \$5.00, using any cards they have, in honor of one person in Mission listed in either the Prayer Calendar or a response magazine article
- **Continue to live out our Purpose as we move into the NEXT 150 years of United Methodist Women in Mission**

Do you know a student that is a member of one of the WNCC United Methodist Churches? Will they attend one of our Conference institutions (Bennett College, Brevard College, Greensboro College, High Point University, Pfeiffer University) for the fall semester 2021?

Then they are eligible to apply for a **WNCCUMW scholarship!**

Applications should be requested by contacting the scholarship committee chairperson:

Cathy McCauley
6835-A Farmingdale Drive
Charlotte NC 28212
Phone: 704-965-6566, Email: cathymc855@yahoo.com

Applications are due to the committee by March 1, 2021. Interviews will be conducted on Saturday March 20, 2021.



Upward & Onward to a (Hopefully) Better Year

United Methodist Women members of the Northern Piedmont District, let's welcome 2021! **As we put the year 2020 in our rear-view mirrors, my prayer for each of you is that 2021 will be a much better year than the pandemic one we just lived through.**

We have dealt with shelter-in-place orders, shuttered churches and worship at home, countless Zoom meetings, job losses for some, and yes, even sickness and death. And in the face of it all, **United Methodist Women in this District, like others all over the world, have continued to put our faith and trust in our Lord Jesus Christ, and to work to put faith, hope and love in action for women, children and youth.**

As I received the year-end reports from our local units, I was so encouraged by how much UMW members were able to accomplish in an admittedly difficult year. Many units found creative ways to hold their monthly meetings and even to hold fundraising events! You put together school kits and collected other needed items for local schools, as well as for UMCOR. You contributed to and worked with so many local projects in your areas. You attended our virtual District and Conference events. I did frequently see the comments, "We haven't met in person since March," or "We are a small unit," and "Most of our members are getting old." I am grateful, however, that we United Methodist Women have held true to our PURPOSE as a creative, supportive fellowship, and we have continued to support the global ministries of the church. Going forward, we can each invite other women to join us. This newsletter is jam-packed with information and opportunities to connect in mission with our sisters in this District and in the Conference. **Let's make every effort to do even better in the year ahead. I look forward to seeing you and working with you (either in person or virtually) throughout 2021.**

I'm excited to continue serving with this very talented Northern Piedmont District Mission Team (and with you, of course)! Each of us has made a commitment to United Methodist Women, but more importantly, we've made a commitment to God. I pledge that each day we will work to help you be the very best UMW member and unit you can be. We're here to help.



Blessings,
Sandra Williamson, District President



Making Plans for 2021

Hello ladies! Here we are in a new year for United Methodist Women of the Northern Piedmont District. I am so grateful that we have made it through the storm of 2020 and pray for the families of those who we lost. I feel as though I can see the end of the tunnel in the distance--perhaps because I have one vaccination shot down and one to go in two days from writing this. It gives me hope that we can finally take action and finally can say we control the outcome. It's a good thing to believe and hope for!

Your NP District is busy planning out the event dates, studies and learning opportunities for you this year. At this time, we are planning to stay virtual to continue keeping everyone safe. Please check the dates and add the events we have scheduled to your calendars. We will miss you if you are not there!

I pray that we will all move forward in this new year with a mindfulness of what we can make happen--of making the world a better place for all, making everyone feel safe, making sure we have not lost our way in a flood of falsehoods, always being conscious that God provides our power and strength to bring hope, love and caring to all those who need it. God greatly loves you all!



Jean Carter,
District Vice President



Our Purpose

The organized unit of United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

Last Year's Accomplishments & This Year's Goals

Congratulations to the following units who contributed to all five channels of Mission Giving in 2020:

Bass Chapel	Groometown	Pleasant Hill
Bethel, Archdale	Hinshaw	Pleasant Union
Bethlehem, Climax	Holmes Grove	Prospect
Centenary, Stoneville	Hopewell	Raleigh's Crossroads
Chapel Hill	Lebanon	Shiloh
Christ, Greensboro	Mayodan	St. John, Eden
College Place	Mizpah	St. Johns, Greensboro
Collins Grove	Mt. Pisgah	St. Matthews
Eden	Muir's Chapel	St. Stephen's
Fairfield	New Goshen	Tabernacle
Gideon Grove	New Salem	Welch Memorial
Glencoe	Newlyn St.	West Market St.
		Zion Hill



Our Conference's Undesignated Mission Giving last year was \$530,817, which was a drop of \$45,664 from 2019. However, **we exceeded our 2020 pledge of \$525,000 by \$5,817.** This is remarkable given the challenges we faced during the year. That outcome was made possible through a combination of continued, although depressed, giving from our members combined with significantly reduced expenditures.

Our District's total giving in 2020 was \$86,093.80, a 21% decrease from the previous year. Our Undesignated Giving totaled \$74,175.44, a 19% decrease from 2019. So now, the challenges and opportunities continue into 2021. We know that many of our gatherings will be virtual. Therefore, it's so important to know that our Conference online giving portals continue to be open if you wish to contribute: wnccumw.org/online-mission-giving.

Our Love Offering theme for 2021 will be: **"A Gift to Mission in honor of our members' Faithful Commitment to Mission Giving, through good times and pandemic times."**

Our 2021 Financial Goal is: **"Each unit will make at least one Gift to Mission of at least \$5, using any cards they have, in honor of one person in Mission listed in either the Prayer Calendar or a response magazine article."**

As the pandemic continues to affect all of us, we as United Methodist Women must continue to support the women, children, and youth through our Mission Giving. **Our giving has provided food, shelter, medical treatment, and educational opportunities for many who otherwise would not have received them.** Thanks to all of you for your continued support!



Blessings,
Margaret Hepler, District Treasurer

"Communication Has Become an Important Challenge"

Communication has become an important challenge in the last year. We realized early on that we *need* to stay in touch with loved ones to combat loneliness, boredom and fear. The same principle carries over to our work in the church and as United Methodist Women; we must stay connected with our brothers and sisters in Christ so we can find new, safe ways to carry out the Great Commission: *Follow Jesus. Make disciples. Transform the world.*

Most of us were so taken aback by the unprecedented events of 2020 that we halted in our tracks. As the pandemic unfolded, we cancelled multiple events, and my local unit didn't meet for months. But, after a while, many of us started to adapt. Conference and District events were held virtually, and my local unit finally began meeting via Zoom. Now, going into 2021, we are equipped with experience to have a fuller, more productive year.

If your unit is still on pause, I encourage you to start moving again. God is still working through His Holy Spirit. Jesus is still calling us to take up our crosses--even while we're wearing masks.



"We're Never Gonna Change the World by Standing Still"



"Do Something" by Matthew West

I woke up this morning, saw a world full of trouble now. Thought, "How'd we ever get so far down, and how's it ever gonna turn around?" So, I turned my eyes to heaven. I thought, "God, why don't You do something?"

If not now, then when will we see an end to all this pain? Oh, it's not enough to do nothing-- It's time for us to do something!

Well, I just couldn't bear the thought of people living in poverty. Children sold into slavery--the thought disgusted me.

So, I shook my fist at heaven, said, "God, why don't You do something?"

He said, "I did...I created you."

If not us, then who?

If not me and you? Right now!

It's time for us to do something!

We are the salt of the earth. We are a city on a hill.

We're never gonna change the world by standing still!

(Dropping off baby clothes to the YWCA in Dec. 2020)



Peace!
Rynn McGee-Pierce, District MEI

We can't stand still, even during COVID. So many people need our help. What can we do?

We're starting a new section for the newsletter called "Step Up & Reach Out" where we contact local charities and ask about their current needs to give units opportunities to stay in Mission throughout the year. Call to schedule donations, and call or email Rynn with donation tallies at 336-706-9116 or rynn@hottan.com.



Step Up & Reach Out



Local food pantries and outreach programs

Women's Resource Center of Greensboro

- Drop off nice clothing at the Bargain Box at 1410 Mill St. in Greensboro. Specify that it is "on behalf of the Women's Resource Center." They'll give credit toward FREE "clothing vouchers" for women in need.

YWCA Women's Resource Center 155 W. Westwood Ave. High Point, 336-882-4126

- New basic baby items

YWCA Family Shelter 1807 E. Wendover Ave. Greensboro, 336-333-0175

- Diapers size 4-6
- New or gently used twin and full-sized sheets

Rockingham County Help for Homeless 110 N. Franklin St. Madison, 336-548-9533

- Paper products
- Toiletries
- New or gently used towels and washcloths

Room at the Inn (shelter for pregnant women and their children), 734 Park Ave.

Greensboro, 336-275-9566

- New "baby shower" items
- Shampoo and toiletries for the moms

From The Conference

One of the Blessings of My Life for which I am Most Thankful... United Methodist Women

As I write this, it is actually Thanksgiving Day, and one of the blessings of my life for which I am most thankful is United Methodist Women and my part in it. I have just read and reread [Nancy Reigel's wonderful letter](#) in which she stressed that we are each "doing something" "to bring healing and hope" to the world through our giving to the World Thank Offering. I would like to add by our giving to the [Legacy Fund as Legacy Builders](#).



Did you read [Christi Campos' article about Legacy Builders on page 16 of the November/December response](#)? If you haven't read it, please do. I wonder if your first reaction to the article was the same as mine, that Christi was too enthusiastic in her praise of my recruiting new Legacy Builders. That's what I thought until my Program Advisory Group roommate from South Dakota called to congratulate me. We talked for a few minutes about our families and things, and then I asked "How many Builders have you recruited?" There was silence. Then she said "Myself". I said "You mean you are the only one?" She said "Yes. I guess I'd better get busy. Maybe I'll start by sending a letter to our conference officers."

I suggested she make it personal, as I did. I told her I had sent a personal e-mail to persons in my circle, district, and conference that I hoped to recruit, women with whom I already had a relationship. I suggested she could also make it a contest, telling people to read the response article and "not to let my WNC roommate and her conference beat us."

I do not know what she will do. I DO know what I will do: **I will continue to ask individuals to become Legacy Builders. It IS personal.** I think of Jesus as he walked by the Sea of Galilee and called Simon(Peter), Andrew, James,, and John. He called them by name, not by extending a blanket invitation. As I continue to ask women I know to join me in Legacy Builders, I encourage each of you to talk about Legacy Builders with women with whom you have a relationship. **Giving to United Methodist Women IS personal.**

Dixie Liggett

*Program Advisory Group Member (2016-2020)
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TBD

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Message From Nominations Committee

Well, sisters in Christ, **we are approaching this year trying to understand a "new normal."** I don't know about you, but I am trying to define a "new normal." Many of us may only be trying to stay safe and healthy. That should be number one for all of us.

So, why add to your plate of life? God promises to love us unconditionally, protect, and provide. **Know that your skills and a desire to be the hands and feet of Jesus will promote our Mission work in our quest to know God. Sisters, we have work to do!** We are standing on the promises of God. Do not hesitate to lead. God will guide us through this "new normal." Continue to serve as we encourage others to serve. Mentor someone to serve in your unit. Let someone know that you will be there serving with them. Our committee is here when you need us; let us know how you would like to serve.



Brenda Steadman,
District Nom. Committee Chair

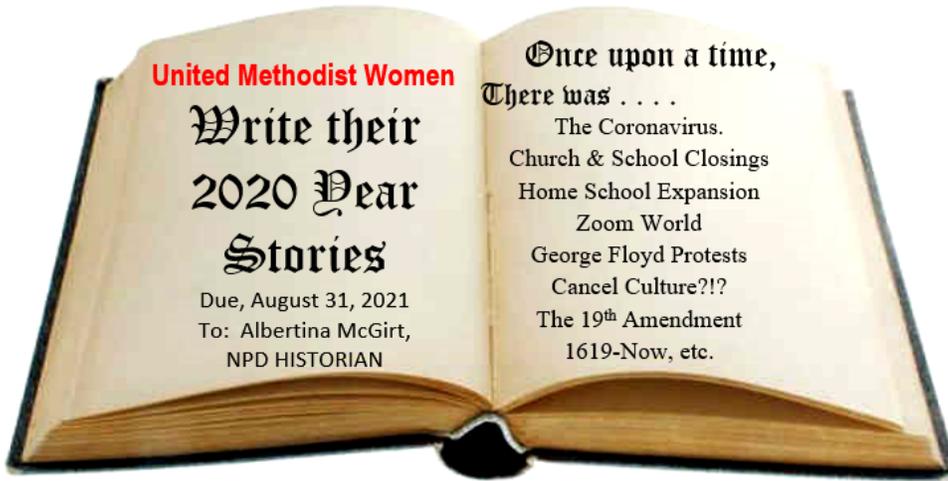
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What's Your Unit's 2020 Story?



Betty Durham, the WNCC Historian, has requested that all district United Methodist Women organizations tell our stories about year, **2020**. The Northern Piedmont District shall comply and tell about topics that impacted our lives or organization. These short stories will be submitted to her and kept at the conference archives for all times so let us lead this effort with creativity and excellence. No word limit was passed on to me; however, 2-5,000 words per topic above or of your own choosing would suffice until further notice.

KEEP THEM COMING – The number of District Annual Program books collected to date are: **15**. Years: 2003, 2004, 2005, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012-Northeast District, 2012-High Point District, 2013-First NPD book, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2019, 2020-Not printed out).

Legacy Fund Information:
 Visit our website at wnccumw.org/legacyfund




Albertina McGirt, NPD Historian
 hefavorsme7@triad.rr.com

Do You Have Leftover Yarn?



I am collecting yarn, crochet hooks and knitting needles as well as sewing notions, sewing machines and material. These items are needed for outreach projects coming this fall. **I have connected with a woman who has a sewing ministry who is willing to teach classes.** My dream is to offer FREE classes and materials to women and teens who might not otherwise be able to learn these skills. If you have items to donate, please contact me, and I will schedule a pickup (pg. 6). Thanks, Rynn McGee-Pierce, District MEI.

Faith Talks are monthly conversations with United Methodist Women. Each conversation explores themes and resources that empower us to put faith, hope and love into action. Check out interviews with United Methodist Women mission studies' authors and more: unitedmethodistwomen.org/faithtalks

Let's Read, Care, Share & Pray!

Hello! One of our goals is raise awareness and promote personal advocacy for our two United Methodist Women priority issues: Climate Justice and Criminalization of Communities of Color & Mass Incarceration. This can be done by reading, caring, sharing, and praying!

Challenge: Let's have some friendly UMW competition--each unit, circle and member can read, care, share and pray. Bonus Books count as two! Remember, we also have a wonderful selection of children and youth books. Be sure to subscribe to **response** magazine. Our Faith Talks podcast is fantastic, too.

I'm reading *Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools*, *The Unstoppable Garrett Morgan*, *Cinderella: Liberator* and *Sulwe*. Books are available at the library, bookstores and electronically. So, what are you waiting for? What are you reading? **I am new on the District Team, excited and looking forward to learning and raising awareness.** Time to turn up!



Cheryl Little,
 District SPR



These books are all part of the 2021 Reading Program; *Push Out* and the books included above are bonus books. For more info, visit unitedmethodistwomen.org/readingprogram.





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response, the magazine for United Methodist Women, includes Bible studies, opportunities for spiritual growth, mission and outreach stories, and more. It will touch your heart, stir your spirit and challenge your mind. A one year digital subscription costs \$20 for 6 issues, a one year print subscription costs \$24 for 6 issues and a one year audio subscription costs \$24 for 6 issues.

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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)