

April 2021



From Your President:

Wow! I just finished our mission study with Barbara Campbell about UMW 150 years in mission. I have been a UMW member for about 37 years and learned something new. It was recorded so if you were not able to participate I encourage you to check it out when it becomes available. You will find it by going on the wnccumw.org web site. UMW has a long and rich history. We stand on the shoulders of those women who were not afraid to step out and stand up for women. It had to be difficult but they felt God calling them. Are you answering God's call on your life?

Next up for the district will be our Day Apart on May 1st from 9:30 am to noon virtually. We're getting good at this. I want to remind you that even if you do not have a computer **you can join us by using your phone.** Lisa Bacon or I can send you the phone number so you can link up with us. You will be spiritually uplifted by Martha Efird as our speaker. You will also want to be present to remember our sisters who have gone on to their reward.

Remember to send your pledge amount to Judy Bromley our district treasurer. I hope as the weather improves that your unit will consider meeting together even if it has to be outside. Have a picnic or just bring your lawn chairs so you can fellowship together. Let's be creative but let's meet with each other in person - safely but together. We are all missing these relationships that are so important to us. The national office wants to remind us to fill out the survey on our units. Go to unitedmethodistwomen.org and click on the census button. These are questions anyone in your unit can answer but provides information about where your interests lie. Deadline is March 30th.

I want to remind you that there are many different ways to educate ourselves about the issues we are facing today. We can not make a change if we do not know what the facts are. United Methodist Women national office offers webinars called Faith Talks on a variety of topics. Faith Talks is on our wnccumw.org site as well as a series on climate justice called Just Energy For All. Under Mission Resources you can click on social action and find information on our focus issues. I am reading books on our reading program list and attending small group discussions about racial injustice. You can see the webinar series that Murphy First is presenting. They are recording it and I can send you the link to the first two sessions if you would like. It will be available on the church's web site too. Ann Miller Woodford is an African-American author and artist who knows about our Western North Carolina history. You may also remember Ann as our speaker at Day Apart a few years ago. All of these are helping me understand the issues of today.

Challenging times are not new to United Methodist Women. Let's continue to rise to the challenge and stand up and speak out for the women in our communities and the world. Our love for Christ calls us to love all our neighbors.

Seeking to Serve Him,

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



WHAT'S IN THIS NEWSLETTER THAT I'D BE INTERESTED IN?

Page 1—A message from our District President, Debbie Ray.

Page 2—A Table of Contents...so you can find the things you really want to find first!...plus our PURPOSE.

Page 3—Information about our Spiritual Growth “DAY APART.” On Saturday, May 1st, from 9:30 am to 12:00 noon via Zoom, with a memorial service, virtual communion and thoughts shared by Martha Efird; and a prayer.

Page 4—Eyes on Mission Education & Interpretation.

Page 5—A listing of our 2021 Smoky Mountain District United Methodist Women’s Executive Team with contact information (Revised/updated 3/28/21).

Page 6—2021 Nurturing Partners/Shepherdess Assignments

Page 7—Words from our SMD Treasurer and a spotlight on the newest member of our SMD Executive Team.

Page 8—Notes on Membership, Nurture & Outreach.

Page 9—Our 2021-2024 Social Action Focus.

Page 10—The Evolving World of Program Resources and Notes on the Legacy Fund.

Page 11—2021 Conference Events

Page 12—Calendar of events/activities/studies in 2021.



PURPOSE OF UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

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.



OUR SPIRITUAL GROWTH “DAY APART”

Saturday, May 1, 2021

9:30 am—12:00 Noon

Via ZOOM

Guest Speaker: Martha Efird, former WNCC
Spiritual Growth Coordinator

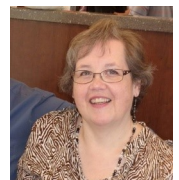


“Day Apart” is always a very special event and you won’t want to miss it. We will hold a memorial service for those we lost in 2019 and 2020. In addition, we will share in a virtual communion service. We will also be blessed to have Martha Efird as our guest speaker. Below is a short biography on Martha so that you may know her a little better.

Martha is a life-long Methodist and has lived in the Charlotte area most of her life. After graduating from UNC-Charlotte, Martha joined Piedmont Airlines working in personnel management, where her job allowed her to travel nationally and internationally. She left the airlines to attend law school at Campbell University and currently practices with the firm of Moore & Van Allen in Charlotte. Since childhood Martha has attended Mouzon UMC in Charlotte. Through the church, Martha has become a certified lay-servant (lay-speaker) and an active member of United Methodist Women. Martha enjoys serving in both local church and United Methodist Women leadership roles. She just completed a four-year term as our UMW Spiritual Growth Mission Coordinator for the Western North Carolina Conference. She loves traveling across the conference to share in UMW events. Outside of work and United Methodist Women, Martha enjoys being outdoors with her two dogs at her Lake Norman home. She also enjoys gardening and traveling to Montana and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan where she loves to shoot photography that captures the beauty of God’s handiwork.

You will need to register to participate in this event. Go to www.wnccumw.org. Then click on “Districts” at upper right. In the drop-down box, click on “District Events 2021” Then find the box for Smoky Mountain District Events and click on “SM Zoom Registration Link” under Spiritual Growth May 1st. Hope to see you on May 1st!!

Carol Harper, Spiritual Growth Coordinator
828-349-3228 or cgh2arper@gmail.com



PRAY:

Giving God, Thank you so much for all you have given us. We tend to take our blessings for granted rather than appreciate them as we should: A warm house, food to eat, many ways to experience the wonders of your world, a church with friends, ways to communicate when we can’t be together. All of these come from you. We know many around us are hurting, especially in this time of pandemic. Many have lost jobs and are fearful of losing their housing. Lines at food banks are longer than they have ever been. People are afraid of getting sick or losing loved ones. Many have already died and have left grieving families. **Help us be your hands and feet in the world. Show us how to be creative and show your love to others in both old and new ways. Help us to serve you.** Amen.

—Diane Jackson, President, UMW, First United Methodist Church of Santa Rosa, CA
(reprinted from *response*, January/February 2021)

MISSION EDUCATION & INTERPRETATION:

MISSION TODAY! The new MISSION TODAY 2021 is out with reduced criteria due to Covid-19. #1 Criteria is: THE UNIT WILL MAKE A PLEDGE TO MISSION. If your unit hasn't made a Pledge, please let our District Treasurer, Judy Bromley, know what your pledge is from your unit.

This year Mission u will be Virtual on July 15-18. Information will be coming shortly from the UMW Conference. The 2 Studies will be: "Pushout" - The Criminalization of Black Girls in School. The other Study will be "Bearing Witness in the Kin-dom" - Living into the Church's Moral Witness through Radical Discipleship. You may purchase these books from your local Bookstore or Amazon. Also, your Public Library may carry these books.

This past week I attended a Virtual Meeting about Sager Brown in Baldwin, LA, so I will tell you a little history about Sager Brown. Sager-Brown rose from the ashes of the Civil War in 1867, serving as an orphanage for African-American children. Known as "The Orphan-Home," Sager-Brown developed into an elite school for African-Americans, teaching cooking, farming, and basic literacy. As the school began to struggle financially, Dr. Godman, a Methodist missionary, gathered several of the young ladies and began a tour of the northern states as "Jubilee Singers." This group so impressed Mrs. Sager and Mrs. Brown that they purchased the school and they ran it a few years and gave it to what is now the United Methodist Women in 1921. The school was renamed Sager-Brown Orphanage and Godman School, and continued operating until the doors were closed in 1978.

The property was put on the market and never sold. Hurricane Andrew hit that area in 1992 and caused widespread property damage in the area. The property is five feet above sea level. The property suffered little damage and the General Board of Global Ministries and UMCOR recognized that the property was a place to coordinate UMCOR relief efforts, and it became a relief center. Volunteers came and did repairs in the community and relief efforts went on for 3 years. UMCOR realized a need for a permanent facility to respond to natural disasters. So a 48,000 sq. ft. Depot was built in 1995. UMCOR owns the Depot (where our relief kits are sent), but the United Methodist women owns the property (25 acres) that it sits on and 12 buildings.

My husband and I were long term volunteers at Sager-Brown for 18 months over a 3 year period. While we were there, there was always an ongoing maintenance of the buildings and grounds. I remember on two different occasions that the Women's Division Treasurer came and made inspections of the property.

UMCOR Sager-Brown, Baldwin, LA: 2021 Domestic Shipments as of 3/16/21

Hygiene Kits - 13,706 @ \$12 each = \$164,472.

School Kits - 3,902 @ \$11 each = \$42,922.

Cleaning Kits - 4,368 @ \$75 each = \$327,600

Total Kits - 21,976 @ Total Kit Cost = \$534,994.

Please let me know if Sonya or I can be of any assistance to your Unit.

Beverly Bard, Acting Mission Coordinator for
Education & Interpretation

1892 Plott Creek Road, Waynesville, NC 28786

828-646-7558 OR bevandrog52@gmail.com



**Jesus is a friend who walks in
when the world has walked out.**

* * * * *

These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace.

In the world ye shall have tribulation; but be of good cheer;

I have overcome the world. -- John 16:33

DON'T HESITATE TO CONTACT US IF YOU NEED ANYTHING!

**United Methodist Women
2021 Smoky Mountain District Executive Team**

President (Acting):

Deborah Ray (Waynesville 1st)
569 Country Club Drive
Waynesville, NC 28786
Cell Phone: 828-400-3499
Email: wsray@charter.net

**Vice President:
[Open]**

Secretary:

Jo Ann Black (Cullowhee)
388 Echo Ridge Road
Whittier, NC 28789
Cell Phone: 828-331-9700
Email: circusgirl120@gmail.com

Treasurer:

Judy Bromley (Canton Central)
336 Maple Leaf Lane
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Home Phone: 828-627-1100
Cell Phone: 828-734-5512
Email: judithbromley7@gmail.com

Social Action:

Janice LeMasters (Waynesville First)
223 Methodist Drive
Lake Junaluska, NC 28745
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Education & Interpretation:

Sonya Kotila (Love's Chapel)
583 Hillcrest Street
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Cell Phone: 828-507-0298
SK.Kotila@morrisbb.net

Beverly Bard (Acting Mission Coord)
1892 Plott Creek Road
Waynesville, NC 28786
Phone: 828-646-7558
Email: bevandrog52@gmail.com

Spiritual Growth:

Carol Harper (South Macon)
101 Everett Rd.
Franklin, NC 28734
Cell Phone: 828-349-3228
Email: cgh2arper@gmail.com

Membership, Nurture & Outreach:

Esther Manchester (Murphy First)
PO Box 256
Brasstown, NC 28902
Cell Phone: 828-226-7481
Email: ehml@yahoo.com

Program Resources:

Gail Powell (Elizabeth Chapel)
129 Paige Lane
Clyde, NC 28721
Home Phone: 828-627-6154
Cell Phone: 828-507-4556
Email: gailpowell@bellsouth.net

Communications Coordinator:

Nancy Jo Willis (Murphy First)
310 Cassidy Lane
Murphy, NC 28906
Home Phone: 828-837-4931
Cell Phone: 850-428-3636
Email: smdcommcoor@gmail.com

Parliamentarian:

Ellyne Stonebraker (Franklin 1st)
135 Shady Oaks Drive
Franklin, NC 28734
Phone: 828-524-8787
Email: stmarks82265@gmail.com

Historian (Acting):

Lisa Bacon (Cullowhee)
1028 Cullowhee Road
Sylva, NXC 28778
Phone: 828-586-8399
Email: lisabacon304@gmail.com

Shepherdess: (honorary)

Bobby Payne (Elizabeth Chapel)
78 J.F. Morris Drive
Waynesville, NC 28786
Cell Phone: 828-550-4489
Email: None

Nominations Chairperson:

Erlinda Rogers (Long's Chapel)
83 Hill Street
Waynesville, NC 28786
Phone: 828-454-5394
Email: erlindarogers1@bellsouth.net

Nominations:

Dee Dee Clark (Elizabeth Chapel)
196 James Loop
Waynesville, NC 28786
Phone: 828-452-0888

(Open)

Imme. Past Pres. & Legacy Liaison:

Julie Leatherwood (Shady Grove)
392 Winterjohn Cove
Waynesville, NC 28785
Home Phone: 828-926-1641
Cell Phone: 828-421-1913
Email: leatherwoodjulie@gmail.com

Conf. Nominations Liaison:

Velma Zeek (South Macon)
P. O. Box 360
Otto, NC 28763
Home Phone: 828-369-5782
Email: vzeek56@frontier.com

Conference Liaison & WNCC

UMW Communications

Coordinator:

Lisa Bacon (Cullowhee)
1028 Cullowhee Road
Sylva, NC 28778
Phone: 828-586-8399
Email: lisabacon304@gmail.com

(Revised 3/28/2021)

Nurturing Partner/ Shepherdess Assignments 2021

Deborah Ray	Canton Central, Long's Chapel, Shady Grove
Judy Bromley	Clyde Central, Maple Grove
Esther Manchester	Ranger, Robbinsville, Oak Forest, Tomotla
Gail Powell	Sylva, Love's Chapel, Beaverdam
Reatha Cabe	Canton First, Fincher's Chapel
Julie Leatherwood	Cullowhee, Maggie Valley, Piney Grove
Bobby Payne	Crabtree, Waynesville First
Beverly Bard	Rockwood
Carol Harper	Bryson City, Hayesville
Velma Zeek	Andrews, Franklin First, Murphy First
Sharon Cooper	Elizabeth Chapel
Treva Upton	Plains, Cruso

3/28/2021



A NOTE FROM OUR TREASURER:

We are so blessed to be a part of this group of women.

United Methodist Women is the largest denominational faith organization for women with approximately 800,000 members whose mission is fostering spiritual growth, developing leaders and advocating for justice.

Our Vision is: Turning faith, hope and love into action on behalf of women, children, and youth around the world.

We have as a group raised 56% of the money that was set as a goal for the legacy fund. The goal is set at \$60,000,000, and I think that we have made great progress even though we haven't been able to meet in our groups in over a year.

When we read of all that UMW has done for the nation and the world, I am very happy that I can be a part of such a great group of women.

We as the Smoky Mountain women have started this year out strong. It is my hope that as we begin to have our small groups later in the year we will get stronger.

Thank you for helping to make this a great organization.

Judith Bromley, SMD Treasurer (judithbromley7@gmail.com)



WELCOMING OUR NEW EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER

We are happy to welcome Janice LeMasters to the Smoky Mountain District Executive Board as the new **Social Action Coordinator**. Janice has been a new resident of Lake Junaluska for the past three years. She has been a UMW member for six years, and held the position of UMW President at her previous church in St. Simons, Ga. She is now the Spiritual Guidance Coordinator and Executive Board member at the First Methodist Church in Waynesville. Janice is also a choir member and the social team leader of her Sunday school class.

Her service commitment extends to the community of the Lake Junaluska's Board and is the Secretary of the Junaluska's Woman's Club as well as the secretary of the Haywood County Master Gardeners. To her list of civic duties, she includes the Presidency of the Mountain View Club as well as general volunteer work in her community.

In her role as the UMW Social Action Coordinator, she plans to focus on addressing the needs of the homeless women and children and women in prison. She has been corresponding for three years with a woman in prison. She said, "These women, including the homeless, need nonjudgmental ears to hear their story." Her hope is that UMW communities will join together to offer listening ears, friendship with the expression of Jesus' LOVE

She states, "I trust God will lead us all on our social action journey to become the stewards of His gifts." She hopes to gain personal spiritual growth that will incorporate the Fruit of the Spirit in her life.

Her enthusiasm is infectious, and we are looking forward to working with Janice. Again, we say Welcome and Thank you for answering God's Call.

... Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit; says the LORD of host "

Zech. 4:6

Erlinda G. Rogers, Nominating Committee Chair

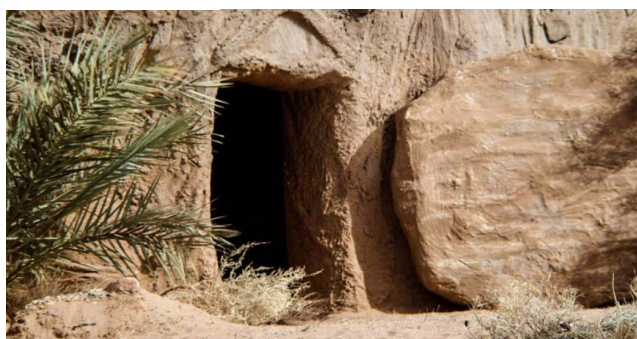
MEMBERSHIP, NURTURE AND OUTREACH

On March 16, 2020 the circle I belong to at Murphy First UMC canceled all scheduled, in-person meetings until further notice due to the Covid-19 pandemic that was holding the entire world hostage. For the first few months we kept thinking, "maybe next month," "maybe three months from now we can be together again," and on and on. It did not happen. Now, one year later, if all goes well, with most of us having had our second immunizations against this dreaded and often deadly disease; we will don our face masks, wash our hands, keep a safe distance and be together apart on March 23rd 2021. Thanks be to God.

What has this time taught me? It has made me realize how much I miss the times we shared together as United Methodist Women at the local level, on the Smoky Mountain District and the Western North Carolina UMW Conference. I have missed you and longed to be with you, to be encouraged and uplifted spiritually by you. You have taught me that even when we cannot be together the blessed work of UMW continues as you stayed in contact with each other, fed the hungry, provided clothing and other necessities for people you do not know and will never have the privilege of knowing. You have given money to sustain programs here at home and around the world as they too were struggling to serve women, children and youth. All of this as you continued to serve your own families and neighbors. You have truly been the hands and feet of Jesus. As United Methodist Women you took seriously John Wesley's warning to "do no harm" by staying home and following the advise of those whose life's work has been studying the effects of such a pandemic as Covid-19.

As a group of women we have been led in to the twenty first century of technology (albeit some of us kicking and screaming). But, what a blessing it has been to those of you who were courageous enough and determined enough to get on board with zoom and attend UMW meetings or at least the Leadership Team meetings of your units. Many of you have attended Spiritual Growth Retreats at the district and conference levels, Mission u. Mission u, Annual Meetings and District Leadership Team Meetings. Here after, when I hear someone say, "Get Involved with something greater than yourself," I will be thinking of you, the members of United Methodist Women and the example you have been as you stayed faithful and kept your resolve "To be a "Community of Women whose purpose is to know and serve God."

Esther Manchester
Membership, Nurture & Outreach Coordinator
828-226-7481 or ehm1@yahoo.com

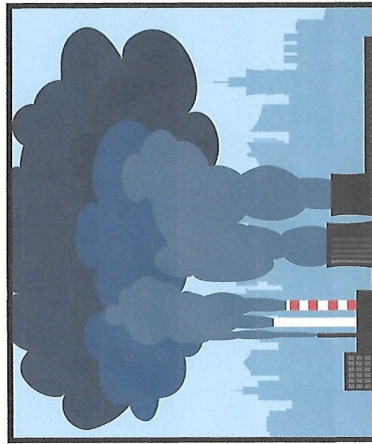


Christ
is
Risen!

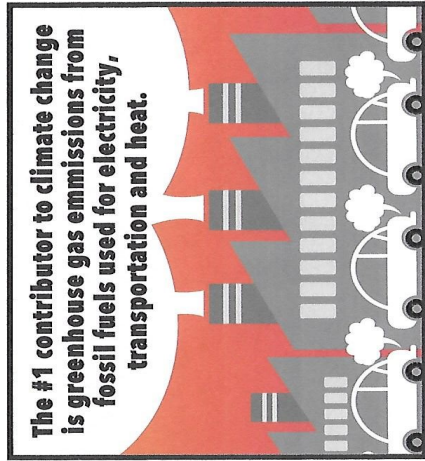
Climate Justice

CAMPAIGN: JUST ENERGY FOR ALL

Be stewards of God's creation: Work with companies and governments for clean, renewable energy through a just and equitable transition.



A major contributor to air pollution is the BURNING of fossil fuels.



The #1 contributor to climate change is greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuels used for electricity, transportation and heat.

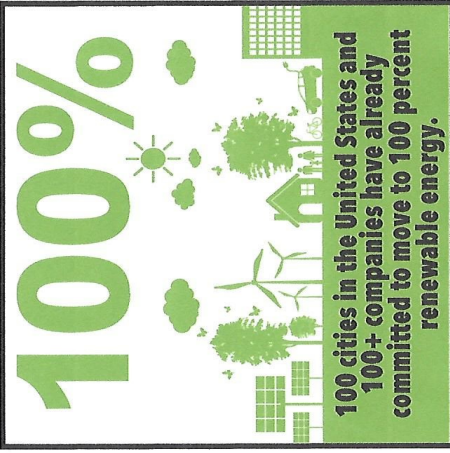
U.S. Stats

500,000 school days missed

SCHOOL



annually by U.S. children are due to ozone pollution from fossil fuels.



100%

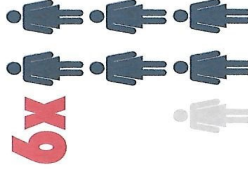
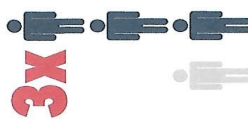
100 cities in the United States and 100+ companies have already committed to move to 100 percent renewable energy.

Criminalization of Communities of Color and Mass Incarceration



CAMPAIGN: INTERRUPT THE SCHOOL-TO-PRISON PIPELINE

Move local decision makers to address the criminalization of children and youth of color and reduce racial disparities in school discipline.



31% of children and youth experiencing school-based arrests and law enforcement referrals are African American, though they make up only **15%** of total school enrollment.

Native American/ Alaska Native students make up 1% of enrollment in schools and 2% of school-based arrests and referrals to law enforcement.



United Methodist Women
FAITH · HOPE · LOVE IN ACTION

TAKE ACTION:
unitedmethodistwomen.org/climate-justice



United Methodist Women
FAITH · HOPE · LOVE IN ACTION

TAKE ACTION:
unitedmethodistwomen.org/racialjustice

THE EVOLVING WORLD OF PROGRAM RESOURCES:

As Program Resources Coordinator, I still have these books for purchase or you can borrow and pass them around the district:

Education for Mission

WHEN OTHERS SHUDDERED: EIGHT WOMEN WHO REFUSED TO GIVE UP (\$13.99)

Leadership Development

VITAL VOICES—THE POWER OF WOMEN LEADING CHANGE AROUND THE WORLD (\$15.99)

WHICH WAY, LORD? (\$9.99)

Nurturing for Community

GLORY HAPPENING, FINDING THE DIVINE IN EVERYDAY PLACES (\$16.99)

THE LIFE AND MINISTRY OF MARY WEBSTER (\$17.99)

#RU HOOKED, TEENS AND SOCIAL MEDIA (\$6.99)

OWEN AND ELEANOR MOVE IN (Children's Book) (\$7.99)

Social Action

SIX BY TEN, STORIES FROM SOLITARY (\$17.99)

WE KISS THEM WITH RAIN (Youth Book) (\$14.95)

Spiritual Growth

40 DAYS WITH WESLEY (\$14.99) (I'm using this book during Lent and will be glad to pass it on after Easter.)

THE MAGNIFICENT STORY, UNCOVERING A GOSPEL OF BEAUTY, GOODNESS & TRUTH (\$22.00)

The list of books I have ordered for 2021-22 were in the January issue of *Women Talk*. This is the first time that the Reading Program will span for two years instead of one. Remember the purpose of the Reading Program is to better understand and participate in God's mission today. Happy Reading for the rest of 2021! Contact me at gailpowell@bellsouth.net or 828-627-6154 or 828-507-4556 (cell).



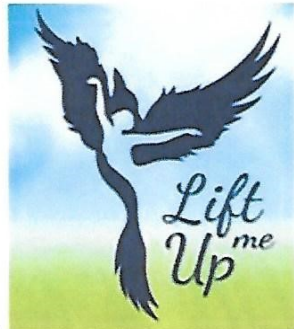
Gail Powell, Program Resources Coordinator

Ways to Give to the Legacy Fund

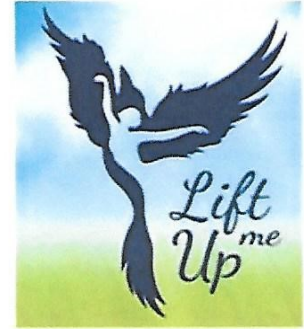
- ◇ Make a gift to the Legacy Fund through your local unit United Methodist women treasurer.
- ◇ Use our Western North Carolina Conference Legacy Commitment Form, available on our website at www.wnccumw.org/legacyfund.
- ◇ Online on the national office website at unitedmethodistwomen.org/legacyfund.
- ◇ **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.



Western North Carolina United Methodist Women 2021 Conference Events



Spiritual Growth Retreat
"You Lift Me Up"
June 18 - 19
Virtual Event



Bearing Witness in the Kin-dom:
Living into the Church's Moral Witness
through Radical Discipleship

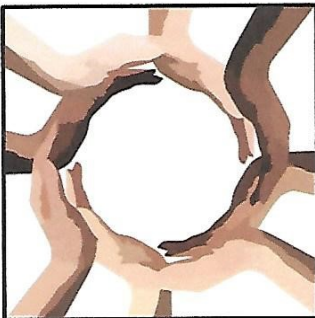
Mission u
July 15 - 18
Virtual Event



Pushout:
The Criminalization of
Black Girls in School

Annual Celebration / September 11 - 12 / Virtual Event

Light Up Our Spirits
with Faith & Hope so Love IS Action



Ubuntu Days of Service
"I am because you are"
Saturday, October 2 and 9
Across the Conference



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



2021

SMD UMW CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

May 1	"Day Apart" – Virtual by Zoom; 9:30 am—12:00 noon
August 28	SMD Annual Meeting – Virtual by Zoom; 2:00—4:00 pm
November 20	Leadership Training/Missions Festival – TBA; 9 am – 12 noon

WNCC UMW CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

June 18-19	Spiritual Growth Retreat – Virtual by Zoom
July 15-18	Mission u - Virtual by Zoom
September 10-12	WNCC UMW Annual Celebration – Virtual by Zoom
October 2 & 9	Ubuntu Day of Service at various locations
October 23	Leadership Development - TBD