



Conference Gram

2021

Volume 70, Issue 3



Mission u 2021

There's Far More Here

THAN MEETS THE EYE

*[Even] though on the outside it often looks like things are falling apart on us, on the inside, where God is making new life, not a day goes by without [God's] unfolding grace... **There's far more here than meets the eye.** The things we see now are here today, gone tomorrow. But the things we can't see now will last forever. [2 Corinthians 4:16-18, The Message (MSG)]*

We have known and felt what it is like when “things are falling apart on us.” We have experienced a great unraveling that has shifted, quite literally, everything. Could there be, as 2 Corinthians put it, “far more here than meets the eye”?

Mission u, like many activities in our lives, has moved online. While virtual, we are still creating spaces for spiritual community, lifelong friendships, lessons that change us and our communities, and spiritual practices that arrive when we need them most. In a time when it looks like things are falling apart on us, **God's grace is still unfolding and life is being made new.**

Indeed: There's far more here than meets the eye. Will you join us?

At our upcoming [Mission u](#), we will examine the culture of violence that impacts children in and out of schools, and how we as God's people can deepen our moral witness and respond faithfully.

Lynn Alexander

Dean, WNCC UMW Mission u / Lynn.Alexander@qorvo.com / 336-456-6686

- Meet your Mission u Study Leaders on page 2.
- Check out the many options for attending our virtual Mission u on the back page.
- Order study books online at umwmissionresources.org or smile.amazon.com.
 - ◆ Bearing Witness in the Kin-dom: Living into the Church's Moral Witness through Radical Discipleship
 - ◇ paperback smile.amazon.com or umwmissionresources.org or call 800-305-9857;
 - ◇ Kindle smile.amazon.com
 - ◆ Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools
 - ◇ Paperback or Kindle smile.amazon.com
- **Registration for Mission u is open now at wnccumw.org/events/mission-u-2021/.**

Spiritual Growth Study—Bearing Witness in the Kin-dom: Living into the Church’s Moral Witness through Radical Discipleship



Rev. Amy Coles serves as the Assistant to the Bishop. She is an active participant with the Connectional Table, Board of Rural Faith Development CDC, and Thriving Rural Communities Initiative at Duke. Rev. Coles is the guardian of her nephew, Specialist Brandon Estrada, who serves in the United States Army, and she also cares for her niece, Mae.

Social Issue Study—Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools

Laquetta Barbee has served United Methodist Women in the Northern Piedmont District in many ways. She is a member of Collins Grove UMC. Laquetta is married to John, and they are parents to two adult sons. She enjoys her grandchildren and traveling. Laquetta previously served as a Mission u study leader in 2018 for What About Our Money? A Faith Response.



Kathy FitzJefferies is a member of the National UMW Racial Justice Charter Support Team and is the UMW Mission Coordinator for Social Action in the Northern Piedmont District. Kathy is a Licensed School Social Worker who has worked in several school districts in North Carolina. Kathy is married to Rev. Dr. Donnell FitzJefferies and is a member of St. Matthews UMC in Greensboro, NC.

The Honorable Denise S. Hartsfield was first elected to the bench in 2002 and has remained an active member of the Forsyth County District Court Bench. She is a certified Juvenile Judge. Judge Hartsfield serves on the boards of Carter G. Woodson School of Challenge and H.O.P.E. (Help Our People Eat) as well as other outreach programs. At the St. Paul UMC, she leads the Children’s Church for children ages 6-12. Judge Hartsfield is a certified Lay Servant.



Renee Hayes is a UM deaconess and a lifelong member of Trinity Memorial UMC in Trinity. She serves as WNCC UMW Mission Coordinator for Membership Nurture & Outreach. Renee is a Nationally Board Certified teacher who is retired from Randolph County Schools. She served several years as a Mission u youth study leader. Renee is a lay representative on the NC Council of Churches Board of Governors and serves as vice-chair of the WNCC Justice & Reconciliation team.

Joyce Irby is the mother of three adult children and the grandmother of four. She and her husband Edward have been married for 27 years. Joyce taught more than 25 years in the public school system. She has spent over 40 years in children’s ministry. Joyce serves as the Lay Leader at Saints Home UMC, President of her UMW Local Unit, and Social Action Mission Coordinator for Yadkin Valley District.



Rev. Leon Morrow is a UMC elder serving Hickory Grove UMC in Greensboro. Prior to his call to ministry, he worked for the NC Division of Prisons as a staff psychologist. Rev. Morrow was the warden of Western Youth Institution for ten years. That facility was responsible for housing the youngest of adult offenders in NC. He and his wife enjoy biking and fishing. Rev. Morrow has two adult sons.

Carolyn Payne is a member of Saint Andrews UMC in Winston-Salem, where she serves as chair of the Church Council and President of UMW. She is a Certified Lay Servant and serves as the District Director of Lay Servant Ministry. Carolyn is a member of Yadkin Valley District Laity Board. She is Social Action Mission Coordinator for WNCC UMW. Carolyn is married to Reginald; they have three children, five grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.



Time to hit Reset?



Yes, **2020 took us for a ride.** What began as a “normal” year for giving suddenly took a sharp downturn. First-quarter Mission Giving came in at an expected level...then the bottom fell out. Yes, giving did continue. You—Western NC UMW members—remained faithful in your giving, but the scarcity of Local, District, and Conference gatherings took a toll. Amazingly, because of our careful stewardship of funds, bolstered by the sacrificial giving that did come in, **we were able to meet our 2020 Pledge and receive recognition from the National Office.**



Now our outlook is so much brighter. We are seeing glimmers of in-person gatherings on our planning calendars. Time to grab onto this opportunity with zeal while incorporating some of the new strategies and tactics we developed in overcoming recent challenges.

Looking at 2020 through the lens of a treasurer, what did we learn, what did we gain?

Clearly, many of us are more comfortable giving “in person” at gatherings, whether they are Circle or Unit meetings, District or Conference events. But as the year unfolded, we saw many members grow increasingly comfortable [giving online](#). Some members enjoyed the ease of giving without the need to write a check and put it in the mail. We saw that online giving was safe and totally secure. Our online donations were accurately credited in terms of the giver’s designation (one of the Five Channels of Giving, Prayer & Self-Denial, the Legacy Fund, etc.) and membership (Local Unit and/or District).

We learned that many meetings, especially those to plan or conduct “business” can be successfully carried out remotely, thus reducing the time, stress, and costs associated with travel. By taking advantage of these less expensive yet still effective options, we were able to send more funds to Mission, our primary goal, clearly a GAIN for Mission.



I close by sharing a hope that although this past year has forced many changes on us, we will come out of it stronger and more resilient, taking full advantage of new opportunities while reembracing those past traditions that have sustained us from our beginning.

Peace,
Nancy Reigel, WNCC UMW Treasurer
nancy@reigelridge.com / 828-268-0637

Please read this before ordering that Special Mission Recognition pin!

What hasn’t changed: the SMR pins and certificates themselves

What has changed: how the certificates are delivered to you



In the past, certificates were generated by the fulfillment house that handled the pins and were shipped with the pins. This has changed. Starting earlier this year, District treasurers became responsible for printing and mailing these certificates. **This means the certificates will arrive separate from the pins.** The pins and certificates have not changed, only the process of getting them to you. We hope this information minimizes any confusion.

...and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ...

... to develop a creative, supportive fellowship...

Legislative Day, April 14, 2021

UMW Climate Justice

100% Renewable Energy • Clean Transportation • Just Transition

United Methodist Women members representing the Blue Ridge and Yadkin Valley Districts and the Western North Carolina Conference were among the more than 300 members and other interested parties who participated in 80 meetings with their elected officials (or a representative of the official) in almost 40 states across the nation concerning climate justice.

The Zoom meeting with Harrison Walker (Sen. Thom Tillis' Legislative Correspondent) and the conference call with John McDonaldson (Sen. Richard Burr's

Energy, Environment, and Transportation Senior Representative) were concerted efforts to present scientific evidence, as well as personal anecdotes, in the hope that Senators Tillis and Burr will commit to legislation that would reduce and eventually eliminate harmful practices that have disastrous effects on our planet and its inhabitants.

This campaign is just the beginning of what promises to be an uphill journey with many hurdles to overcome. Nonetheless, we are not without resources, and history has proven we are up to the challenge.

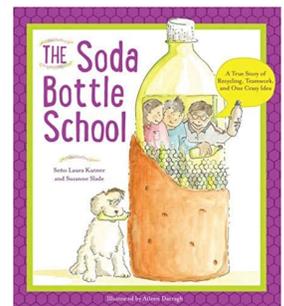
Carolyn Payne, WNCC UMW Mission Coordinator for Social Action
carolynp8g@yahoo.com / 336-766-5568 h / 336-972-5489 c



Top row (l to r): Betty Thompson, Deborah Britt, Annette Wright.
Middle row: Joanie Strohm, Kathy Kennedy, Elizabeth Lee;
Bottom row: Carolyn Payne, Harrison Walker and intern Caroline Farr,
(on the phone) Karlah Burton

Legislative Day 2021 is over—what now?

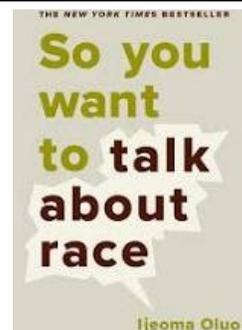
- ◆ Track legislation in Congress related to climate justice at <https://www.govtrack.us/>. You can find information about the status of bills as well as how to contact your representative and senators.
- ◆ Track climate-related bills in the NC Legislature: <https://www.ncleg.gov/Legislation>.
- ◆ Read one or more of the climate-related books from our UMW Reading Program:
 - ◇ [Love in a Time of Climate Change](#) by Sharon Delgado
 - ◇ [Hospitable Planet: Faith, Action, and Climate Change](#) by Stephan A. Jurovics
 - ◇ [Snake-Oil—How Fracking's False Promise of Plenty Imperils Our Future](#) by Richard Heinberg
 - ◇ [The Soda Bottle School – A True Story of Recycling, Teamwork, and One Crazy Idea](#) by Laura Kutner and Suzanne Slade



...and to expand concepts of mission through participation...

On Kathy's Reading List...

Here's hoping all of you are still in "reading mode" and keeping healthy and safe from the COVID-19 virus. I want to remind you about a book I've highlighted before from the United Methodist Women Reading Program 2020 list called, "So You Want to Talk About Race?" by Ljeoma Oluo. It is a Bonus Book, so it counts as two books in the Social Action category. I have read this book, and it is one that makes you think about all the attitudes about race in our country, and how they impact our interactions.



As described in the March/April 2021 issue of [response](#) magazine, this book was used as a virtual book study by four UMW members in the Baltimore-Washington Conference. The book study began the first week with a Bible study on Exodus 1:6-14. The participants were divided into four groups: Pharaoh, slave masters, Egyptians, and Israelites. Each group was asked to respond to three questions:

- 1: How do you view yourself in the community?
- 2: How do others view you in the community?
- 3: What are your fears?

You may read about their other activities in the **response** article.

There is also a free online class on the book, which you can access from United Methodist Women. The course uses the Bridge learning app, so you will need to create a Bridge account to access the class. You may find the link as well as other racial justice resources at <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/racialjustice>.

Blessings in Jesus' name,
Kathy Chadwell, WNCC UMW Secretary of Program Resources
k.sc2008@hotmail.com / 336-475-1261

Legacy Endowment Fund Day of Giving Update



From the National Office of United Methodist Women: "Thank you all for a very successful Day of Giving Live Event on March 23rd! We appreciate the efforts each of you made towards making Day of Giving 2021 a success. Besides the many who participated and joined us on that day for the 6+ hours of live programming, now over 4,500 have viewed the [recording of the event through the UMW Facebook page](#). We feel blessed to have been able to share with you the highlights of the UMW work. We are also excited to share with you the 2021 Day of Giving total of **\$303,224**. 2021 truly is **Our Year of Hope!**"

Learn more about how you can support our Legacy Endowment Fund at the National site www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/150 or at www.wnccumw.org/legacyfund, our Conference website.



2021 Mission Collections for Spiritual Growth Retreat and Mission u

Virtual Spiritual Growth Retreat

Please pack items in boxes and label contents on the outside of the box. Remember to report the estimated value of items to your District Education & Interpretation Mission Coordinator. Checks should be made to UMW with the name of the center on the memo line and sent to your District Treasurer. Districts should designate drop-off sites, possibly by county or by missional network. The collections for each District should be delivered to the center by one or two designated people to minimize interruptions to the center's operations.

Bethlehem Community Center in Winston Salem –

(Appalachian, Northern Piedmont, Uwharrie, and Yadkin Valley Districts)

Needs: #2 pencils, colored pencils, washable markers, jumbo pencils, jumbo crayons, construction paper, washable paints, glue sticks, craft sticks, gift cards, checks.

336-722-6264 / <https://www.bethlehemchildcarews.com/>



Alliance Center for Education in Charlotte (formerly Bethlehem Center) –

(Blue Ridge, Catawba Valley, Metro, and Smoky Mountain Districts)



Needs: Puzzles (25-100 pieces), glitter pens, glitter glue, sidewalk chalk, painting kits, small unfinished wooden jewelry boxes & frames (\$1 at dollar stores), board games (ages 6 - 18), first aid kits, disinfectant wipes, gift cards, checks.

704-375-1417 / <https://www.ac4ed.org/>

Brooks-Howell Home (All Districts)

Needs: Checks and gift cards

Gift cards can be delivered or mailed to Brooks-Howell: Deaconess Tracey Owens, Activities Director, 266 Merrimon Avenue, Asheville, N C, 28801. (Please report value of gift cards to your District Education & Interpretation Mission Coordinator.)

Checks should be made to UMW with "Brooks-Howell" on the memo line and sent to your District Treasurer.



Virtual Mission u

Project AGAPE #2 pencils, colored pencils, hand-held pencil sharpeners, erasers, school scissors. **Remove packaging from all items.** Pack supplies in plastic shoeboxes and put the shoeboxes into larger corrugated cardboard boxes. Report the estimated value of items to your District Education & Interpretation Mission Coordinator. Checks should be made to UMW with "Project AGAPE" on the memo line and sent to your District Treasurer. Districts may designate drop-off sites throughout the District, possibly by county or by missional network. Collections for each District should come to



one or two designated people who will deliver them to the Mission Response Center by appointment (704-714-2340) or units may take the items to the nearest fall drop-off location for the Mission Truck for pick up. The sites and pick-up dates will be listed on the wnccumc.org website. Items may also be brought to the Mission Resource Center on UBUNTU Day, October 9.

Meet Yajaira Chavez, a [WNCC UMW Scholarship Program Recipient](#)

Growing up, I was deeply involved with my community and I loved helping people. I especially loved being a part of The United Methodist Church family. I enjoyed volunteering, being a part of a youth group, and going on mission trips. Being so involved at church made me realize how passionate I was about helping others. I knew I wanted to make change, but I didn't know how. I just knew education and God would be a big part in helping me achieve my goals.



When I decided to attend Brevard College in 2016, I knew it was the right choice for me. As a first-generation college student, I had to figure things out on my own with few resources since my parents were new to the whole process as well and had a hard time understanding English. **The possibilities of my attending college were getting increasingly narrow until my pastor told me about the United Methodist Women's scholarship program.** She encouraged me to apply and thought I would be a great candidate. It was one of the best decisions I have made. The interview process was amazing. As soon as I walked into the room, I felt the love and support from every committee member. They cared about me, my education, and my relationship with God. It was one of the best interviews I've ever experienced. The help I received through the UMW Scholarship Program has opened many doors for me by allowing me to participate in internships and help communities in need.

I graduated in May 2020 with a bachelor's degree in Health Science with a minor in Biology. I am currently working in a pediatrics office in Asheville and will be applying in late July to Physician's Assistant (PA) school.

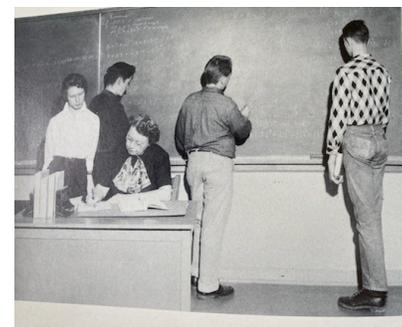
I am very grateful for the members of United Methodist Women, because without their assistance I wouldn't have been able to reach past goals and work toward new goals. I am so thankful to have experienced love, hope, and family through The United Methodist Church and UMW.

Spotlight on the Fannie Mit Case Scholarship

Yajaira received support from the Fannie Mit Case Scholarship, part of our [WNCC UMW Scholarship Program](#). This scholarship fund was established in 1962 after Mrs. Case's death. Her husband had died two years earlier in a car wreck coming home from the Copperhill Golf Course. They had no children, so her estate sold all of their belongings after Mrs. Case died, and the proceeds were used to start the scholarship.



Mrs. Case and her husband were members at Murphy First UMC. Mrs. Case taught math at Murphy High School for many years. According to one yearbook, "The aim of her classes is to develop accuracy and speed in computation, to teach the principles of arithmetic and algebra and the application of these principles, to inspire students with aptitude in this field to continue the study of mathematics, and to prepare them for such courses.



She also strives to help her students develop those character and personality traits attributed to a real person. Mrs. Fannie Mitt Case has taught 26 years at various places such as Albemarle, Bryson City, and Waynesville, among others. She got her A.B. degree at the Woman's College of the University of North Carolina."

(Many thanks to Esther Manchester, Martha Palmer, Sheila Snow, and Nancy Jo Willis of Murphy First UMW for providing this information.)

**Western North Carolina Conference
United Methodist Women**

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Sylva, NC 28779-6539
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

BEARING WITNESS IN THE KIN-DOM

July 15 – 18, 2021

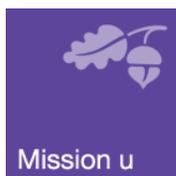
July 15: 6 pm – 8 pm

July 16: 6 pm – 8 pm

July 17: 10 am – 1 pm

July 18: 3 pm – 5 pm

(Led by Rev. Amy Coles)



PUSHOUT

Full time classes (choose one)

July 19 - 22: 6 pm - 8 pm

(Led by Rev. Leon Morrow & Carolyn Payne)

**July 23 - 25 – Fri: 6 pm-8 pm, Sat: 10 am-2 pm,
Sun: 3 pm-5 pm**

(Led by Hon. Denise Hartsfield & Renee Hayes)

One day overview classes (choose one)

July 31: 10 am – 2:30 pm

(Led by Kathy FitzJefferies & Joyce Irby)

August 1: 3 pm – 7:30 pm

(Led by Laquetta Barbee & Renee Hayes)

All Mission u classes will be online via Zoom.
Additional information may be found on the front
page and on page 2.