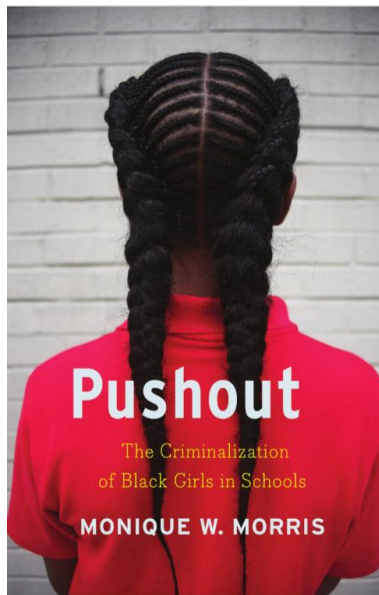




## Blue Ridge District Newsletter United Methodist Women

*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.*



### HERE WE ARE, LORD! SEND US TO LEARN.

Blue Ridge & Smoky Mountain Districts UMW 2022 Mission Study

By Zoom Meeting

*PUSHOUT: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools*

By Monique W. Morris

Led by Deaconess Renee Hayes

Saturday, March 26, 2022, 10:00am – 12:00 noon

Monday, March 28, 2022, 6:30pm – 8:30pm

Register on the WNCC UMW Website under the Blue Ridge District UMW

You only have to register once for both days.

**BLUE RIDGE DISTRICT UNITED METHODIST WOMEN  
2022 OFFICERS**

<p><b>President:</b> Gwen Harris (Windom) 215 Grand View Lane Burnsville, NC 28714 (828) 682-4589 (828) 208-4589-C <a href="mailto:gwenaharris68@gmail.com">gwenaharris68@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>Vice President:</b> Lucy Earls (Oak Grove) 913 Race Path Church Rd. Ellenboro, NC 28040 (828) 453-8566 <a href="mailto:jlearls@att.net">jlearls@att.net</a></p>	<p><b>Secretary:</b> Glenda Fuhrmann (Central) P.O. Box 861 Swannanoa, NC 28778 (828) 337-2617 <a href="mailto:glendafuhrmann@gmail.com">glendafuhrmann@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>Treasurer:</b> Linda Johns (Skyland) 22 North Oak Terrace Arden, NC 28704 (828) 684-9366 (828) 712-9266-C <a href="mailto:lljturtle58@gmail.com">lljturtle58@gmail.com</a></p>
<p><b>Spiritual Growth:</b> Jennie Greenway (Oak Grove) 164 Emma Drive Ellenboro, NC 28040 (828)453-9637 or (828) 289-1642 <a href="mailto:jengreenway@bellsouth.net">jengreenway@bellsouth.net</a></p>	<p><b>Education &amp; Interpretation:</b> Tracey Owens (Marion First) 249 Fleming Ave. Marion, NC 28752 (828) 246-6006 <a href="mailto:traceybhh@gmail.com">traceybhh@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>Social Action:</b> Leith Tate (Black Mtn.) PO Box 208 Montreat, NC 28757 (828) 669-5564 <a href="mailto:tateleith@gmail.com">tateleith@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>Membership Nurture &amp; Outreach:</b> Thelma McGraw (Skyland) 90 White Pine Drive Fletcher, NC 28732 (828) 684-7106 <a href="mailto:vtmcgraw@broadriverrehab.com">vtmcgraw@broadriverrehab.com</a></p>
<p><b>Secretary of Program Resources:</b> Jeannette Byrd (St. Paul's) 203 Aurora Drive Asheville, NC 28805 (828) 230-5308 <a href="mailto:jbyrdasheville@aol.com">jbyrdasheville@aol.com</a></p>	<p><b>Communications Coordinator:</b> Tammy Long (Moore's Grove) 240 Seasons Circle Apt. 102 Fletcher, NC 28732 (828) 774-6010 <a href="mailto:lynnb79@gmail.com">lynnb79@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>Data Processing:</b> Carol Bryson (Grace) 14 Buckner Road Leicester, NC 28748 (828) 776-0678 <a href="mailto:csbryson64@gmail.com">csbryson64@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>Parliamentarian:</b> Betty J. Letzig (St. Paul's) 266 Merrimon Avenue Asheville, NC 28801 (828) 225-0414 <a href="mailto:MoHar1926@outlook.com">MoHar1926@outlook.com</a></p>
<p><b>Historian:</b> Barbara E. Campbell (St. Paul's) 266 Merrimon Avenue Asheville, NC 28801 (828) 225-0414 <a href="mailto:ernestm1138@outlook.com">ernestm1138@outlook.com</a></p>			

**Committee of Nominations**

<p>Jo Pyatt, Chair (East Marion) PO Box 1621 Marion, NC 28752 (828) 803-0363 <a href="mailto:pyattjo@gmail.com">pyattjo@gmail.com</a> Class of 2022</p>	<p>Donna Anderson (Central) 7 Duncannon Street Weaverville, NC 28787 (828) 484-8763 <a href="mailto:danderson45@charter.net">danderson45@charter.net</a> Class of 2022</p>	<p>Dorothy Johnson (Addie's Chapel) 63 Tomahawk Trail Marion, NC 28752 (828) 738-8148 (828) 460-3778 <a href="mailto:dot.johnson47@gmail.com">dot.johnson47@gmail.com</a> Class of 2023</p>	<p>Susan Snell (Central) 30 Sunflower Lane Fletcher, NC 28732 (828) 551-0736 <a href="mailto:Ssnell123@bellsouth.net">Ssnell123@bellsouth.net</a> Class of 2023</p>
<p>Shelia Cuthbertson (Rutherfordton First) 177 Carolina Paradise Rutherfordton, NC 28139 (828) 289-1281 <a href="mailto:fredpie25@gmail.com">fredpie25@gmail.com</a> Class of 2024</p>	<p>Denise Radford (Nebo) 30 West Glenview Street Marion, NC 28752 (828) 652-9214 <a href="mailto:marvinanddenise@hotmail.com">marvinanddenise@hotmail.com</a> Class of 2024</p>		

**Members at Large**

Dixie Liggett, (Skyland), 8 Springside Park, Asheville, NC 28803, (828) 684-1831, [liliggett3@charter.net](mailto:liliggett3@charter.net)  
Martha Phillips (Concord), PO Box 49, Linville Falls, NC 28647, (828) 467-3167, [mcwphillips@gmail.com](mailto:mcwphillips@gmail.com)

**Western North Carolina Conference District Advisor for the Blue Ridge District**

Joanie Strohm, (Weaverville), 111 Collins Road, Marshall, NC 28753, (828) 649-1156, [ssjsmars@charter.net](mailto:ssjsmars@charter.net)

*2022 Calendar for Blue Ridge District United Methodist Women-Revised January 8*

***January 8 – Zoom District Executive Committee Meeting-10:00 A.M***

January 15 – Presidents/Treasurers Workday

***February 5 – BR District Book Club – Zoom – 10:00 A.M.-11:30 A.M.***

February 12- Finance/SG/LDD/Program/etc. Committee Meetings

February 13 – Conference Executive Committee Meeting

***March 26 (10:00-12:00) and March 28 (6:30-8:30) --District Mission Study-Zoom with Smoky Mountain***

March 26 – Scholarship Committee Meeting

***April 2 – Zoom District Executive Committee Meeting – 10:00 A. M.***

***April 30 - Prayer Breakfast – Marion First – 10:00 A. M.***

May 14 – Mission u/Program Committee Meetings

May 20 -22 – Assembly 2022, Orlando, Florida – ALL UMW MEMBERS

June 9 – 11 – Spiritual Growth Retreat, Lake Junaluska – ALL UMW MEMBERS

June 17 -19 – WNCC Annual Conference – Lake Junaluska

***June 25 – BR District Book Club – Zoom - 10:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.***

July 14-17 – Mission u – Pfeiffer College – ALL UMW MEMBERS

***July 9 – Zoom - District Executive Committee Meeting-10:00***

July 15 – Executive Committee Meeting

August 6 – Finance/SG/LDD/Program, etc. Committee Meetings – Zoom

August 7– Conference Executive Committee Meeting – Zoom

***August 20 – District Annual Celebration – TBA – 9:30 A.M.***

August 29-September 6 – General Conference – Minneapolis, MN

September 9 – 11 – Annual Celebration - Lake Junaluska – ALL UMW MEMBERS

***September 17 – BR District Book Club - Zoom***

***September 24 – District Executive Committee Meeting – Zoom- 10:00 AM***

October 1, 8, & 15 – Ubuntu Days of Service – Various Locations – ALL UMW MEMBERS

October 22 –Conference Leadership Development Day (LDD) - Zoom

***October 29-District Leadership Development (LDD)-Zoom or Day Conference Sets***

November 11 – Orientation for New Conference Officers

November 12 – Conference Committee Meetings

November 13 – Executive Committee Meeting

**2022 NURTURING PARTNERS (SHEPHERDESSES)**  
**PLEASE ASK YOUR NURTURING PARTNER TO COME VISIT**

<b>Nurturing Partner</b>	<b>Church</b>	<b>Nurturing Partner</b>	<b>Church</b>
Carol Byson (828) 776-0678	Avery's Creek Emma	Jeannette Byrd (828) 230-5308	Central
Sheila Cuthbertson (828) 289-1281	Caroleen Spindale	Barbara E. Campbell (828) 225-0414	Abernethy Biltmore Asbury Memorial
Lucy Earls (828) 453-8566 (828) 223-1325	First Forest City Providence Saluda Mundy's Chapel Brook's Chapel	Gwen Harris (828) 682-4589	Bald Creek Mars Hill Weaverville Addie's Chapel Wells Spring
Dorothy Johnson (828) 738-8148 (828) 460-3778	Clinchfield Ebenezer Marion First	Leith Tate (828) 301-6028	Grace Oakley Salem
Betty J. Letzig (828) 225-0414	Balfour Fletcher Mills River	Thelma McGraw (828) 684-7106	Groce Windom
Tracy Owens (828) 246-6006	Black Mountain Snow Hill Morganton Skyland	Martha Phillips (828) 467-3167	Spruce Pine East Marion
Joanie Strohm (828) 649-1156	Alexander Clark's Piney Mountain	Donna Anderson (828) 484-8763	St. Paul's
Jennie Greenway (828) 453-9637	Edneyville Hendersonville First Moore's Grove	Jo Pyatt (828) 652-2530	First Rutherfordton Gilkey Kistler's Chapel Nebo Oak Grove Pleasant Grove Pleasant Hill-Marion
Susan Snell (828) 551-5475	Bethel Sardis	Denise Radford (828) 652-9214	Concord East Marion
Glenda Fuhrmann (828) 337-2617			

## **A Message from Your President**

As I'm tabulating information from your reports, I'm encountering unsettling issues that our Blue Ridge District is facing in 2022. COVID continues to wreak havoc with our plans. How can we live out our purpose and vision when we can't even meet on a regular basis? Our units are facing shrinking membership numbers and the aging of members. We can't entice younger women to join.

The only help I have to offer is Frances Womack Yelton's example. She attended Gilboa UMC, a small rural church in Rutherfordton County, North Carolina. When I Googled her name, all I found was her obituary. There didn't seem to be anything special except that "she was a loyal member of United Methodist Women" ([www.mcmahanfuneralhome.com](http://www.mcmahanfuneralhome.com)).

Frances obviously belonged to one of those units whose numbers are shrinking and whose members are getting older. In fact, Frances's unit shrank until she was the only member left! Our president at the time, Joanie Strohm discovered around 2015 that Frances (in her 90's by then) was a one-woman unit. Joanie called Frances who said she intended to keep the Gilboa UMW unit going as long as she was able. She also intended to make a pledge and contribute to the Five Channels of Mission Giving. She was going to do what she could. She didn't quit until she died in 2019 at the age of 95.

UMW faced difficult times in Frances's lifetime, also, times when members felt they surely couldn't or didn't want to continue. They faced polio, not as deadly as COVID but probably just as scary because its target was children. Women became liberated and much more outspoken than Frances's generation. Don't you imagine that many in Frances's age group were unhappy when these "feminist" upstarts infiltrated their ranks and wanted to take over? Her generation faced the turmoil of sexual revolution and the violence of the Civil Rights Movement. I imagine that some of these issues caused people to leave UMW or want to give up.

My point is we're not the first generation of UMW members to face difficulties that seem overwhelming. We must remain passionate, loyal members, as Frances Yelton did, and we must do what we can.

Whatever happens, let's not lose hope, and let's not convince ourselves that we can't do anything because we can't do everything.

**Gwen Harris, President**

### **Secretary**

This is my first time as secretary in UMW, although I've been a secretary for various organizations at different periods of my life. Jo Pyatt, past District secretary, graciously got me oriented. As I looked at the records of the Blue Ridge District, I realized how much has taken place to keep UMW alive, well, and continuing to be in mission for women, children, and youth. It's an amazing record, and I owe a debt of gratitude to previous secretaries who have kept these records in good order. It's now my privilege to keep minutes, correspondence, reports, and official items for the District UMW. I'm excited about the task and the year ahead.

**Glenda Fuhrman, Secretary**

## **Vice President**

Hello Friends.

As I begin writing this, I am reminded that we are beginning another year of COVID-related experiences. I don't think anyone would have thought that our limitations would have extended past a few months and here we are beginning 2022. All of us have been touched by and seen our lives be different because of this terrible virus.

What is the good news with all this? United Methodist Women has once again proved that it is able to meet the challenges. In other places in this newsletter, you will see how we have been faithful to carry on our mission of giving. We have found creative ways to have meetings via ZOOM. Our work with women, youth, and children has continued. Praise God for that.

Please read your newsletter carefully. We have many exciting opportunities coming up soon. Our first Blue Ridge District Book Club will be February 5 and our Mission Study will be March 26 and March 28. Both these meetings will be via ZOOM. We are hopeful that we can have an in-person Prayer Breakfast on April 30. The year will hopefully present opportunities for us to again come together in praise and worship.

Please know that your Blue Ridge officers are very willing to help you in any way with your unit work. Please reach out to your nurturing partner for a visit, program idea, or just to let them know how things are going in your unit. We want to be available to you. Blessings and prayers for our new year together.

**Lucy Earls, Vice-President**

## **Committee of Nominations**

Since this is the first newsletter of the year, I have little to share except to emphasize that talking to prospective officers and filling positions is the responsibility of the Nominating Committee but that the Committee needs the help of everybody, especially members of the Executive Committee. They come from different units in different sections of the District and visit many other units as Nurturing Partners. They have knowledge of potential officers that some of the rest of us won't have. They see ladies with skills and talents that might be specific to certain offices. So I am asking each person who receives this newsletter to put on their "thinking cap" so that when we begin, in earnest, to compile a list and begin recruiting, you might have someone in mind that we can approach. I might add here that it is never too early to start on this by giving members of the Nominating Committee names they can call on later. Another thing that is needed from everyone on the Executive Committee is their tenure sheet. My prayer for each of you as we begin this New Year is that God will give us the ability to fulfill our Purpose, to stay healthy, and to enjoy love and laughter each day.

**Jo Pyatt, Chair of Nominations**

## Treasurer

Hello to all the women of the Blue Ridge District!

Welcome to 2022 and a new year of working for women, youth and children. The ladies of Blue Ridge District outdid themselves during last year. Our pledge was \$82,100 for the year and the Blue Ridge District's contributions in undesignated giving totaled \$83,073.81. Yes, we not only made our pledge, but we exceeded it by over a thousand dollars. We have kept our pledge at the same level as the last pre-pandemic year. With so many difficulties we have lived with during the past year, it shows how remarkable and determined our ladies are in giving to missions. Congratulations to you all!

There is more good news. The Western North Carolina Conference pledged \$500,000. Our Conference sent in \$504,943 which was \$4,943 over our Conference pledge, meaning our Conference goal was also met and exceeded.

Now we are embarking on a new year. We are in the third year of the Covid pandemic and will continue to have to navigate all that entails with flexibility and a trace of humor. It will continue to require flexibility and possibly learning new skills.

While we strive to live with Covid and remain healthy, many women, children and youth have so much more to worry about, such as having drinkable water, earning an income, caring for children, having health care and much more. We give to Mission to help them. The needs of the children, youth and women cry out to be met. Their needs are a calling we work to meet year after year. Let's get off to a great start for 2022.

It is that time of year for each unit to decide its pledge for this year. It is important to have a pledge because your unit cannot qualify for a Mission Today Unit without it. If a pledge is not made, it cannot be met. The pledge can be provided with the first quarter remittance by your unit treasurer. These pledges help the District Officers with planning for the year.

Please keep in mind when you send in a check to me for a Love Offering, Cards, a special fund raising, or something else, you make it out to "Blue Ridge District Treasurer," not to me personally. The bank would like to have the checks made out with the name of the position of the person on the account.

Online giving continues to be an option. Go online at the Conference's website ([wnccumw.org](http://wnccumw.org)) and click on GIVE NOW! in the upper right hand corner. At the National Office's website (<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/>) click on the Give Now button on the top right.

I look forward to a year of learning and doing for women, children and youth with each of you.

**Linda Johns, Treasurer**

## Spiritual Growth

**For I am about to do something new.  
See, I have already begun! Do you not see it?  
I will make a pathway through the wilderness.  
I will create rivers in the dry wasteland.” Isaiah 43:19 NLT**

Greetings to all of you and Happy New Year! For all of us the new year is a time to look back on the past and look forward to the future. Some of us may have a bleak outlook for the coming year while others may be looking forward to bright and sunny times ahead.

The new year starts a 365-day chapter for new opportunities to worship, praise, and serve God. Make a goal to involve yourself in as much as you can. Pray continually and use each day to grow closer to God through worship, Bible study, and service. Is God calling you to do something new this year?

Here are a few dates to add to your calendar. The Prayer Breakfast is currently scheduled to be an in-person event and will be held Saturday, April 30 at Marion First at 10:00 am. Also, the Spiritual Growth Retreat is scheduled at Lake Junaluska on Thursday (June 9) through Saturday (June 11). More information on these events will be forthcoming.

**Jennie Greenway, Spiritual Growth Coordinator**

### Mission Education & Interpretation

Once again because of the COVID pandemic, the Blue Ridge District UMW has chosen to have its Mission Study by ZOOM. We will join the Smoky Mountain District UMW again this year. Since it is required for the study to be 4 hours, it will take place on two days (Saturday, March 26, from 10:00am – 12:00 noon and Monday, March 28, from 6:30pm – 8:30pm). Deaconess Renee Hayes, former Social Action Coordinator for the WNCC UMW, will be leading the study on *PUSHOUT: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools*.

You will need to register through the WNCC UMW website under the Blue Ridge District UMW. If you have any problems registering, please contact me by email [traceybhh@gmail.com](mailto:traceybhh@gmail.com). The National UMW website describes this study with these words: “*PUSHOUT* shows how even with obstacles, stigmas, stereotypes and despair, black girls still find ways to breathe remarkable dignity into their lives in classrooms, juvenile facilities and beyond, and challenges the rest of us to do the same.” I look forward to an intriguing study.

Blessings in the New Year,

**Tracey S. Owens, Mission Education & Interpretation Coordinator**

**Blue Ridge Theme for 2022**

**Here we are, Lord! Send us!**



## Social Action

Hi everyone!

I have the privilege of serving as your Blue Ridge District Social Action Coordinator for the next four years, and I am so glad to be back on board with all the other district officers! I know it goes without saying that we are all looking ahead to a new year of hope, resiliency, and the courage to rise above whatever challenges and obstacles that lie before us.

Our UMW Social Action priorities continue to be **Mass Incarceration/Criminalization of Communities of Color**, with a particular focus on Interrupting the School to Prison Pipeline, and **Climate Justice**, with a particular focus on the Just Energy 4 All campaign. Please promote these campaigns through your meetings, the reading program books, **response** magazine, and the fabulous resources online at [www.unitedmethodistwomen.org](http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org), including monthly webinars, workshops, and Faith Talks. I plan to attend the **Women on the Move: Equity & Climate Justice in Public Transit** webinar Jan. 19, at <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/news/just-energy-for-all-monthly-webinar-women-on-the-move>. I hope you can join me, and that you'll be able to attend the webinars in the months ahead. And please remember, I am more than happy to help you with whatever resources or programs you'd like to access.

As we all launch ahead into the new year of opportunities, I have borrowed from and paraphrased theologian and civil rights leader Howard Thurman's beloved poem "The Work of Christmas:"

"...now that the wise men & shepherds are home, and the sheep are back in their fields, the work of Christmas begins: to find the lost, to heal the broken, to feed the hungry, to release the prisoner, to rebuild the nations, to bring peace among the people, to make music in the heart."

Let's get on with the work ahead of us. I so look forward to working with you all.

### **Leith Tate, Blue Ridge District Social Action Coordinator**

#### **Blue Ridge Goals for 2022**

Each unit will meet or exceed its 2019 Undesignated Giving. (This includes the Pledge, World Thank Offering, Special Mission Recognition pins and contributions, Gift to Mission cards, Gift in Memory cards, and Walk for Mission.)

The Blue Ridge District will sponsor a fundraising event to help meet its pledge.

## Membership Nurture and Outreach

I am your new Membership Nurture and Outreach officer for the Blue Ridge District this year. Keeping in touch during the pandemic takes thought and different actions adjusting to this unique situation. As UMW we are resilient and resourceful – we can do this together and with God’s help.

A good place to begin is with your Nurturing Partner. The Nurturing Partners list in this newsletter provides the name and contact information for your Nurturing Partner. When you have questions, call her. If she doesn’t have the answers, she will work with you to find them. Invite her to visit with your group as soon as possible. Recognize her for the resource she is. She will be glad to do a program for your unit.

Using the same resources is a good way to stay connected, and UMW provides resources at the District and Conference levels, as well as at the National level:

1. If you use technology our Conference website [wncumw.org](http://wncumw.org). offers a wealth of valuable information. Be aware of those in your group who do not use internet and share information with them. Be supportive.
2. A subscription to **response** will provide information from our national leaders and interesting articles about institutions we support.
3. There are videos on our UMW YouTube channel.
4. Of course, there are our Blue Ridge District meetings, either in person or on Zoom.
  - a. February 5 – District Book Club (10:00-12:00 noon) --We are studying the book *She Came to Slay: The Life and Times of Harriett Tubman* by Eric Armstrong - Zoom
  - b. District Mission Study – March 26 (10:00 a.m. – 12noon) and March 28 (6:30 – 8:30 p.m.) – Zoom
  - c. April 30– Prayer Breakfast-Marion First – 10:00- In person, if possible
  - d. ASSEMBLY - Orlando, FL – May 20 – 22 – available online or in person.

We stay connected as we study the same materials and attend the same meetings. These help us to become that blessed “community of women” our purpose talks about.

### **Thelma McGraw, Membership Nurture and Outreach**

**Western North Carolina Conference UMW Financial Goal for 2022**

Each unit will meet or exceed its pre-pandemic mission giving.

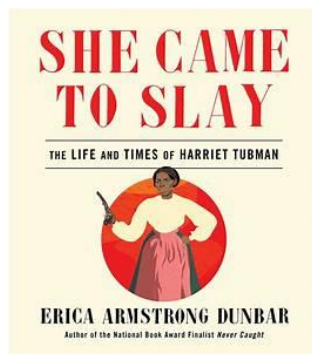
**Western North Carolina Conference UMW Love Offering**

A Gift to Mission in recognition of United Methodists Women’s Advocacy for Justice and Reconciliation for Women, Children and Youth

## Program Resources

*"I have heard their groans and sighs, and seen their tears, and I would give every drop of blood in my veins to free them."*  
Quote by Harriet Tubman

February is "Black History Month." I hope you have registered and plan to attend the "book club" on February 5 when we will discuss the book, **She Came to Slay**, led by Dr. Sandra Williamson.



Here are some other resources for celebrating that you and your unit might enjoy. Read the books **Where Do We Go from Here**, by Dr. Martin Luther King, (2019); **Hidden Figures**, the true story of the four African-American Women who helped the US launch into space, (2021-22); **Rise! From Caged Bird to Poet of the People**, the story of Maya Angelo, (2021-22); or **Pre-Post Racial American – Spiritual Stories**, (2017).

Some other helpful books on the "Reading List" include **Do All Lives Matter?**, (2019), **So You Want to Talk About Race**, (2018), **Liberating Black Church History** (2017), **Pushout**, (which will be our mission study in March), and many others. (Remember, you can go back to the 2015 Reading List).

You might also "google" [Black History Month](#) and [Black History Facts](#).

There are several videos available on the UMW website or on You Tube: "Significance of Juneteenth," "The Hate you Give," "Just Mercy," and be sure to look for the video "Looking Back and Moving Forward," with Clara Ester.

And don't forget to watch "Faith Works" on the UMW website. Watching three videos counts for reading two program reading books.

Looking forward, we will have two more "book club" meetings this year on June 25 and September 17. We hope to have news on which books to read in the next District newsletter.

In Christian Love,

**Jeannette Byrd, Secretary for Program Resources**

## **Historian**

*“Love, Justice and Service: Answering the Call”* is the theme of the 2022 Call to Prayer and Self-Denial to be observed in the coming weeks. Its special offering supports education, training and ministries of deaconesses and home missionaries. A special program is included in the 2022 Program Book and a packet of resources was recently mailed to all churches. Schedule your celebration soon!

### **A Look Back...**

A look back 130+ years (1887) reveals many changes from the original “calls to prayer” celebrations of our predecessor home and foreign missionary societies:

**Timing:** Recommended meeting times have been in December, around Thanksgiving, in the Spring, and now, as “each Unit decides.”

**The Observance:** The original plan celebrated a *“Week of Prayer & Self Denial”* with daily meetings Monday-Thursday with the all-day “Quiet Day” service on Friday. The themes were meditation, mission education, intercession and sacrificial giving. The “Quiet Day” worship service culminated with an offering (and/or pledge.) Today, program time is half-an-hour at best; “sacrifice” and “self-denial” are not contemporary concepts. Offerings are often budgeted.

**Name Change:** “A week” (of prayer and self-denial) implies an event with purpose; a “call to prayer” seems a nebulous invitation. The change reflected the reality of changing times. Did the change unwittingly change our perception of the importance of this annual observance?

**Offerings:** The purpose of the offerings varied among the societies, but was usually for a program/project beyond budget capacity such as a new building. (In 1954 an Asheville building near Berry Temple Church was constructed with a Call to Prayer grant.) Offerings have declined drastically over the decades from just under a million dollars in 1985 (\$996,673) to \$434,844 in 2020.

The Call to Prayer and Self-Denial, after all these years and changes, remains a significant observance of United Methodist Women!

**Barbara E. Campbell, Blue Ridge District Historian**

### Communications Coordinator

Happy New Year, my church family and sisters in Christ! This year I have made it my own resolution that I am going to make Christ the center of my life for 2022. I know we should always make Him the center, but how many of us do? I know personally I have work, kids, family things, and also so many activities outside Christ that I am part of, and I always seem to put Jesus and God on the back burner. We all do this. So this year of 2022 I am making it God 2022 Year for my home. I am making time to stop every morning and pray and read in His Word and working to make my life a little bit more like His.

I would like to let everyone know that they are also welcome to make that decision in their lives today, too.

- Just another note: God NEVER leaves you; you are the one who walks away-

This year we will have our quarterly newsletter and we will make a true effort to get our newsletters articles out no later than the 15<sup>th</sup> of January, April, July and October 2022.

In God's Love,

**Tammy Long, Blue Ridge Communication Coordinator**

### Community Outreach Projects

**All churches are welcomed to send articles and pictures to share.**





### **SUPPORT THE WNCCUMW SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

Do you know a student who is a member of one of the WNC 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 2022?

Then they are eligible to apply for a WNCCUMW scholarship!

Applications should be requested by contacting the scholarship committee

chairperson: Jatana Royster

8227 Laurel Oak Court

Harrisburg, NC 28075

704-451-3816 (cell)

Email: [jatanaroyster@gmail.com](mailto:jatanaroyster@gmail.com)

Applications are due to the committee by **March 1, 2022**. Interviews will be conducted on Saturday March 26, 2021.

YOU can support our scholarship program by:

Referring students.

Praying for our students and conference institutions.

Contributing to the general scholarship fund as districts, units, circles and individuals.

Please contact me if you need additional information.

Blessings,

Jatana Royster

WNCCUMW Scholarship Committee Chairperson

**TURN  
IT UP!**

# ASSEMBLY 2022

MAY 20 – 22, 2022  
ORLANDO CONVENTION CENTER  
[WWW.ASSEMBLY2022.ORG](http://WWW.ASSEMBLY2022.ORG)

In 2022 we will reflect on today's challenges and together find comfort and strength to move forward, building new ways for faith-filled women to make a difference in our communities and the world. We will recommit to our purpose, but also more. For such a time as this we will **TURN IT UP!**

**TURN IT UP!** for spiritual healing and renewal  
**TURN IT UP!** for rebirth in a new time  
**TURN IT UP!** for women leaders  
**TURN IT UP!** for justice for women, children and youth



Blue Ridge District United Methodist Women  
Central United Methodist Church  
27 Church Street  
Asheville, NC 28801-1218

## **Mark Your Calendars for 2022**

**May 20 – 22 – Assembly –Orlando, Florida**

### **Conference Events 2022**

June 9-11 – Spiritual Growth Retreat – Lake Junaluska, if possible

July 14-17 – Mission u – Pfeiffer College, if possible

September 9-11 – Annual Celebration – Lake Junaluska

October 1, 8 & 15 – Unbuntu Days of Service – Various Locations

October 22 – Leadership Development Day – Zoom

### **District Events February-June**

February 5 – BR District Book Club – Zoom – 10: 00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.

March 26 – Disrtict Mission Study – (10:00 – 12:00); March 28 – (6:30-8:00)

Zoom, with Smoky Mountain

April 30 – Prayer Breakfast –Marion First – 10:00 A.M.

June 25 – BR District Book Club – 10:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.





## WNCC United Methodist Women Spiritual Growth Retreat

Thursday, June 9 thru Saturday, June 11, 2022

Lake Junaluska

See you at the Lake! Complete information at [www.wnccumw.org](http://www.wnccumw.org)

### Housing Information

Make hotel reservations by calling the Lake Junaluska reservations department at 1-800-222-4930. Ask for the UMW group rate using our **group code: 85759**

Terrace Hotel (2 nights lodging, 5 meals, taxes included) **Per Person:**  
**Single \$369.00 Double \$229.00 Triple \$197.00 Quad \$166.00**

Lambuth Inn Renovated (2 nights lodging, 5 meals, taxes included) **Per Person:**  
**Single \$346.00 Double \$217.00 Triple \$186.00 Quad \$170.00**

Lambuth Inn Economy/Junaluska Apartments **Per Person Per Night**, taxes extra:  
(No meals included but meals may be added):  
**Single \$90.00 Double \$45.00 Triple \$35.00 Quad \$30.00**

### Retreat Registration

[www.wnccumw.org/events/spiritual-growth-retreat-2022/](http://www.wnccumw.org/events/spiritual-growth-retreat-2022/)

**Retreat Registration Fee (In-Person): \$25 per person** thru May 9, 2022. **\$40 per person** from May 10, 2022 thru June 7, 2022. **Registration is online only**; there will be **no on-site registration**, and registration will close on June 7, 2022.

*The health and safety of our members and attendees is a top priority for United Methodist Women. **ALL participants are required to be fully vaccinated and up to date (boosted) per CDC Guidelines and to provide proof of vaccination as part of our online registration. Attendees will also be required to confirm a commitment to follow our COVID-19 Safety Measures.***