

January 2022



From Your President:

I just listened again to a sermon by Rev. Terry Bevill from January 2, 2021 at First Methodist Waynesville. He remarked that the people of Cruso who were devastated by the flood in August of last year would have to determine what kind of future they wanted; build again or sell out and move. He reminded us that God is always with us and can do mighty acts of power, either through His hand or through His people. It struck me that United Methodist Women is also facing a future of change and decisions. The decision to adapt our model has been made and in the future we will learn more about what it means to make new wineskins. There will be new initiatives but if you like your unit then you can decide what changes you want to make. I hear it often; how can we encourage new members? The changes are for those women who are looking for something more or something different. We can continue to cling to the way things have always been done or we can look forward with excitement believing that God will lead us in His way.

I commend you all for staying strong in your units, taking care of your communities and sisters. We are all tired of distancing ourselves but realize it is still necessary in order to keep women safe. We will have our mini-Mission u study virtually again with Blue Ridge. The dates are March 26th in the AM and March 28th in the PM. Please plan to attend. The study is from the book *Pushout*, which was an excellent book on the Reading list and the subject of our conference Mission u last year. More details can be found in this newsletter. I encourage more of you to participate. Invite a young woman in your church to attend with you. You will have some interesting discussions and learn. Let me know if you need help with how to register.

The calendar is in this newsletter but I would remind you that locations may still have to be determined as well as virtual vs in person options. United Methodist Women certainly have a need to be flexible. Isn't it wonderful that we always have been?

Stay well. Remember mission giving can still continue even if you are not meeting in person. Call or email me if I can help you in any way.

In His Service,

Debbie Ray, (acting) SM District 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—Mini MISSION u for 2022 and “Any address updates?”

Page 4—Eyes on Mission Education & Interpretation, plus the Legacy Fund.

Page 5—The Spiritual Growth Arena and A Note from Our Treasurer.

Page 6—The 2022 SMD UMW Executive Team Listing.

Page 7—Ways to Help with the WNCC United Methodist Women Scholarship Funds.

Page 8—UMW Conference & District Events Calendar

Page 9—WNCC UMW 2022 Conference Events.

Page 10—WNCC United Methodist Women 2022 Vision & Goals and 2022 Financial Goals.

Page 11—Assembly 2022 TURN IT UP! Information

Page 12—The Word of God.



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.



Mini MISSION U 2022 (via Zoom)

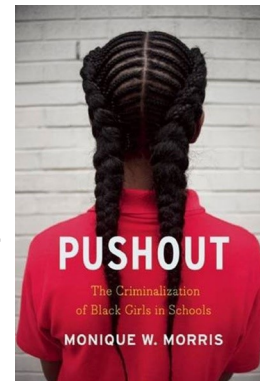
Presented by Smoky Mountain & Blue Ridge Districts of UMW

Saturday, March 26th (10:00 am—12:00 noon)

and Monday, March 28th (6:30-8:30 pm)

TOPIC: "PUSHOUT" - The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools

Despite increased attention to the mass and over-incarceration of Black men, the plight of criminalized Black women and girls is overlooked, underreported and under-analyzed. 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 challenge the rest of us to do the same. Written by Monique W. Morris. (The book can be ordered at your local Bookstore or order it from UMW Mission Resources at 972-905-0827.)



LEADER: Renee Hayes who taught this course at our 2021 Mission U.

REGISTER: go to [District Events | WNCC United Methodist Women \(wnccumw.org\)](https://www.wnccumw.org) and select either Smoky Mountain District or Blue Ridge District to register. This component is not yet active but will be soon so check the webpage periodically until you can register. (You only have to register once for both days of the study.) Remember that you must participate in all four hours in order to get credit for the study.

***"Be brave and don't lose heart,
because your work will be rewarded!"***

— 2 Chronicles 15:7

Can You Hear Me?

Any address, phone or email changes? Please let me know.

This publication can be helpful to all your members so forward it to your entire group or make copies and pass it out. If you have any questions or feedback, don't hesitate to contact me by email: smdcommcoor@gmail.com or by phone: (850) 428-3636.

Thanks! Nancy Jo Willis, SMD Communications Coordinator



MISSION EDUCATION & INTERPRETATION:

Greetings to all!

First of all, let me draw your attention to the Mini MISSION U announcement (on the previous page). This will be a great mission study so you'll want to mark your calendars now and register when possible.

Update on PROJECT AGAPE—from Nara Melkonyan, Director, from the December newsletter:

“Over the past 12 months, Project Agape reached about 900 displaced families/over 4500 persons who are still struggling to overcome the postwar nightmare. Those families were provided with all the first necessity items—clothing, shoes, bedding, hygiene, school, sewing, household and kitchen supplies, thousands of new underwear and new socks, plus 3 Christmas Boxes per child.

From the bottom of our hearts, we extend our gratitude to you for your continued support of Project Agape in such a challenging year following the recent war. With your help we can continue to impact thousands of lives in Armenia and Artsakh.

May the spirit of giving bring you good health and happy tidings, festive celebrations with your family and friends, and new opportunities for success in 2022. PROJECT AGAPE Family wishes you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Nara”

I answered Nara's letter and sent a Christmas Greeting and New Year's wishes; She emailed me right back that she had lost her dear Mother on December 14th from colorectal cancer. Her Mother was 82 years old and was a retired OBGYN with 50+ years experience. Please continue to keep them all in your prayers!

Beverly Bard, Asst. Coordinator of Mission Education & Interpretation
1892 Plott Creek Road, Waynesville, NC 28786
828-646-7558 or bevandroq52@gmail.com

Sonya Kotila, Coordinator of Mission Education & Interpretation
583 Hillcrest Street, Sylva, NC 28779
828-507-0298 or SK.Kotila@morrisbb.net



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.



OUR SPIRITUAL GROWTH ARENA

Greetings and a Happy New Year! I know everyone is frustrated that we continue to be living in a new normal that we wish to be over, but we all must continue to persevere to do the best we can in the circumstances to live out our purpose as United Methodist Women.

Plans are being made for both district and conference events in Spiritual Growth. The first event will be our District Day Apart on Saturday, April 30th. Our District Superintendent, Dr. Jae Lee has agreed to be our keynote speaker. I have heard him speak, and I think you will be blessed by his participation. The Conference Annual Spiritual Growth Retreat at Lake Junaluska will be held from Thursday evening, June 9th, through Saturday noon, June 11th. There are currently plans for workshop sessions as well as times of worship. Further details will become available for both events as those details become complete, but please put these dates on your calendar.

Let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. — Galatians 6:9 (NRSV)

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



A NOTE FROM OUR TREASURER:

Greetings to UMW units in our District, I am pleased to serve as your new District Treasurer. I have two grown children — a daughter in League City, Texas, and a son in Canton, NC, and four grandchildren. I have been a member of Elizabeth Chapel UMC and UMW in Waynesville for at least 25 years.

Now is the time for us to continue our work for 2022. If you have not submitted the information card, please send your 2022 Pledge and Treasurer information to me (a pink card sent to you in your 4th Quarter remittance letter from last year).

Remember that to be a Mission Today Unit, you must make and meet your pledge. We must also give in all five channels: (1) Pledge to Mission, (2) Special Recognition Pin, (3) Gift to Mission cards, (4) Gift in Memory cards, and (5) World Thank Offering.

We need to thank God for the opportunity to be a part of UMW's mission around the world.

Dianne Mills, SMD District Treasurer
311 Grandview Circle, Waynesville, NC 28786
Cell: 828-550-2229 OR Email: dnmills@hotmail.com



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

**United Methodist Women
2022 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:

Dianne Mills (Elizabeth's Chapel)
311 Grandview Circle
Waynesville, NC 28786
Cell Phone: 828-550-2229
Email: mailto:dnmills@hotmail.com

Social Action:

Janice LeMasters (Waynesville First)
223 Methodist Drive
Lake Junaluska, NC 28745
Phone: 912-580-2592
Email: lemastersjanice@gmail.com

Education & Interpretation:

Sonya Kotila (Love's Chapel)
583 Hillcrest Street
Sylva, NC 28779
Cell Phone: 828-507-0298
SK.Kotila@morrisbb.net

Beverly Bard (Assist. 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: ehm1@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 Cassady Lane
Murphy, NC 28906
Cell Phone: 850-428-3636
Home Phone: 828-837-4931
Email: smdcommcoor@gmail.com

Parliamentarian:

Ellyne Stonebraker (Franklin 1st)
135 Shady Oaks Drive
Franklin, NC 28734
Phone: 828-524-8787
Email: jumperlady21@gmail.com

Historian (Acting):

Lisa Bacon (Cullowhee)
1028 Old Cullowhee Road
Sylva, NC 28779
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:

[Open]

Nominations:

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

Erlinda Rogers (Long's Chapel)

83 Hill Street
Waynesville, NC 28786
Phone: 828-454-5394
Email: erlindarogers1@bellsouth.net

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

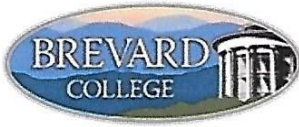
Conference Liaison & WNCC

**UMW Communications
Coordinator:**

Lisa Bacon (Cullowhee)
1028 Old Cullowhee Road
Sylva, NC 28779
Phone: 828-586-8399
Email: lisabacon304@gmail.com

(Revised 1/22/22)

Here is another way we can help the young folks of today:
(1) By making them aware of WNCC United Methodist Women Scholarships for which they can apply. (2) By donating to the Scholarship Funds!



SUPPORT THE WNCCUMW SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Do you know a student who 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 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

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

2022 UNITED METHODIST WOMEN CONFERENCE & DISTRICT EVENTS

WNCC UMW CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 9 – 11	Spiritual Growth Retreat – Lake Junaluska
July 14 – 17	Mission U – Pfeiffer University
Sept. 9 – 11	WNCC UMW Annual Celebration – Lake Junaluska
Oct. 1, 8, 15	Ubuntu Day of Caring – multiple locations
Oct. 22	District Leadership Development

All events may be virtual – watch for further information.

SMD UMW CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Feb. 19	District Team Executive Meeting – Virtual at 9:30 am
March 26 & 28	Mini Mission U – Virtual – 26 th (10:00 am – 12:00 noon) and 28 th (6:30 – 8:30 pm)
April 9	District Team Executive Meeting – Virtual at 9:30 am
April 30	Day Apart – Location TBD
July 9	District Team Executive Meeting – Virtual at 9:30 am
Aug. 20	SMD Annual Meeting – Location TBD
Sept. 17	District Team Executive Meeting – Virtual at 9:30 am
Nov. 19	Leadership Training – 9:00 am – 12:00 noon; Location TBD

Western North Carolina United Methodist Women 2022 Conference Events

Spiritual Growth Retreat
"Come to the Water"

June 9-11

Lake Junaluska



Mission u
"Luke 13"

July 14-17

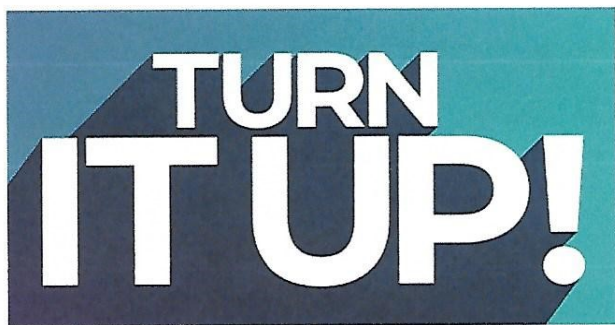
Pfeiffer University



Annual Celebration
"Turn It Up!"

September 9-11

Lake Junaluska



Ubuntu Days of Service
"I am because you are."

October 1, 8, & 15

Across the Conference





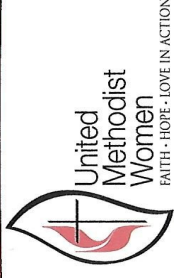
Western North Carolina Conference

2022 Vision & Goals

Turning faith, hope, and love into action on behalf of women, children and youth around the world

- **Raise awareness about United Methodist Women New Wineskins**
- **Raise awareness and promote personal advocacy for our two United Methodist Women priority issues: *Climate Justice and Criminalization of Communities of Color & Mass Incarceration***
- **Support, encourage, and build relationships with our local units and members, in living out the Purpose throughout the pandemic and beyond.**
- **Encourage local units to build relationships and support the United Methodist Women mission institutions in our conference: *Alliance Center for Education Charlotte, Bethlehem Center Winston-Salem, Brooks-Howell Home, Bennett College, and Pfeiffer University***
- **Achieve our 2022 Conference Financial Goal: Each unit will meet or exceed its pre-pandemic Mission Giving.**
- **Continue to put faith, hope, and love into action as we live out our Purpose as United Methodist Women in Mission!**

Sincerely,
Your WNCCL UMW Team



Western North Carolina Conference

2022 FINANCIAL GOAL

Each unit will meet or exceed its pre-pandemic Mission Giving.

Ideas for Interpretation:

- Tell the story of Mission Giving...stories about what our Mission Giving does around the world to make a difference in the lives of women, children, and youth.
- Encourage people to be able to talk from personal knowledge about 2 or 3 mission projects / national mission institutions that we support...so you can tell the story when asked.
- Read response magazine. Use the Prayer Calendar.
- Use the UMW Handbook finance resource about local giving
- Make it fun to learn about what our Mission Giving does. Make a puzzle, link one thing to the next, simple quiz, facts to fill in from choices, word search, etc.
- Continue to add people to our conference email list where we share examples of "Where the money goes".

Sincerely,
Your WNCCL UMW Team

Assembly 2022

Turn It Up!

Orlando Convention Center
Orlando, Florida
May 20 - 22, 2022

(With pre-conference events May 19)



United Methodist Women assemble every four years to celebrate, to lift up, to learn, and to return to their communities better equipped for mission.

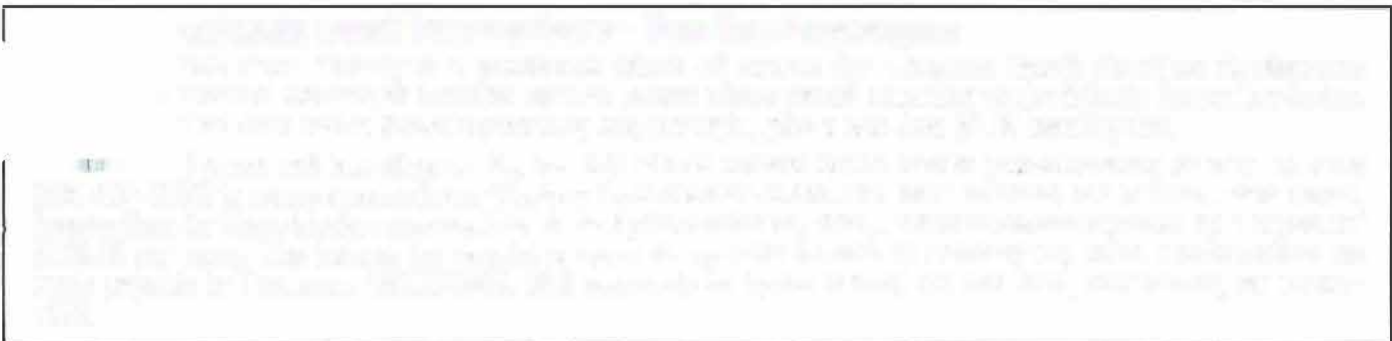
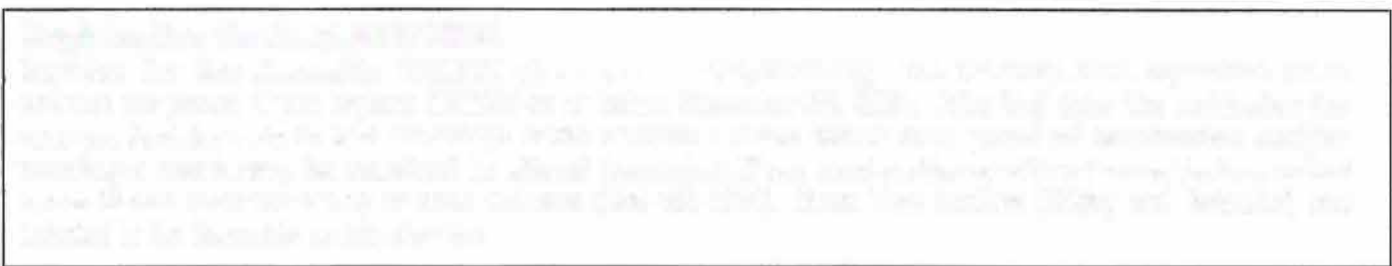
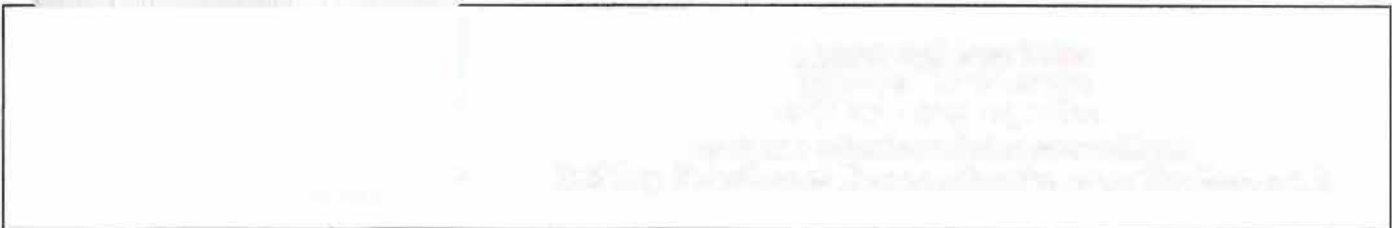
United Methodist Women Assembly 2022 is a time for fellowship, it is also an opportunity to empower faithful women to be stronger discipleship leaders in their communities. Now more than ever, women need to come together to reflect on today's challenges and find comfort and strength to move forward finding ways for faith-filled women to make a difference in the world. At Assembly 2022 we will TURN IT UP for spiritual healing and renewal. We will TURN IT UP for rebirth in a new time. We will TURN IT UP for women leaders. We will TURN IT UP for justice for women, children and youth.

It is an exciting experience to be part of this large gathering of United Methodist Women. Make plans to join us in Orlando!

Learn more about
Assembly 2022 at:
www.assembly2022.org

Look there for:

- Registration Information
- Assembly Schedule
- Worship & Experience Hall
- Pre-conference Events
- Promotional Resources to share with your local unit
- YouTube Videos...And More!



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



**God never asks about our ability or our inability
-- just our availability.**

* * * * *

"I heard the voice of the Lord, saying,
Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?
Then said I, Here am I; send me."
-- Isaiah 6:8