

April 2022



## ***From Your President:***

Happy spring! Spring is such a time for renewal and United Methodist Women has welcomed renewal too. We are now United Women in Faith. We have had many name changes over the years but our support for women and children has not changed. There will be new opportunities for women to become engaged in the support of the missions UMW supports with our pledge. We will look for new ways to enrich our members too, especially as we struggle to move forward out of the pandemic. Spiritual growth is a part of our DNA too along with missions and social justice.

I enjoyed the district mission study that was held virtually with Blue Ridge District. Renee Hayes led us through a great discussion of the book *Pushout* about black girls in school and how they are often misunderstood and pushed out of school. The book is on our reading list.

I am so excited to know and share that our next district event will be in person. We will share our memories and celebrate those sisters who have finished the race. Our Day Apart will be on April 30<sup>th</sup> at Long's Chapel in Waynesville. We will remain flexible but I believe we can meet safely together. Wearing masks will be optional. We will follow the CDC's recommendations for masking and, if there are changes, we will inform our members.

We are invited to join with Blue Ridge district in their book study on June 25<sup>th</sup>. The name of the book is *Threading My Prayer Rug*. Watch for further information.

Please mark your calendars for our conference Spiritual Growth Retreat from June 9<sup>th</sup> – June 11<sup>th</sup>. We will be together at Lake Junaluska and I know we have missed being together with our sisters in Christ. It will be wonderful to see everyone and enjoy workshops and inspiring speakers. Come and be renewed.

In His Service,

Debbie Ray, (acting) SM District President ([wsray@charter.net](mailto: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 Mission Statement.

Page 3—Spiritual Growth “Day Apart” and United Methodist Women is now United Women in Faith.

Page 4—Eyes on Mission Education & Interpretation, Program Resources Anyone? plus the Legacy Fund.

Page 5—Words from our Mission, Nurture & Outreach Coordinator plus Nurturing Partners.

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Page 12—WNCC & SMD Calendar of Events

***Good words are worth much, and cost little.***

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*“Pleasant words are a honeycomb,  
sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.”*

— Proverbs 16:24 NASB

## MISSION STATEMENT OF UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

*United Women in Faith seeks to connect and nurture women through Christian spiritual formation, leadership development, creative fellowship, and education so that they can inspire, influence and impact local and global communities.*



Come and join us for our  
**Spiritual Growth "DAY APART"**

Saturday, April 30th

Long's Chapel United Methodist Church  
133 Old Clyde Road, Waynesville, NC

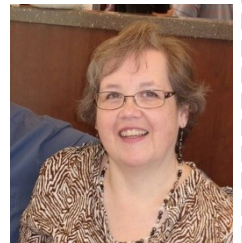
Light breakfast available at 9:00 am. Service will begin at 10:00 am.

Our guest speaker will be Dr. Jae Lee, Smoky Mtn. District Superintendent.

The service will also include a memorial for members we lost to death in 2021, and will conclude with communion

Masks and social distancing will be optional. It's been so long since we've seen each other in person. Please try to join us!

Carol Harper, Spiritual Growth Coordinator  
828-349-3228 or [cgh2arper@gmail.com](mailto:cgh2arper@gmail.com)



**United Methodist Women is now United Women in Faith.** The organization retains the legal name of United Methodist Women but the new name reflects a refreshment of the organization to better reflect the new opportunities for us and to share our new mission statement.



United  
Women  
in Faith

Our new mission statement is: *"United Women in Faith seeks to connect and nurture women through Christian spiritual formation, leadership development, creative fellowship, and education so that they can inspire, influence and impact local and global communities."*

God remains constant but things change and people change. We are creating more opportunities for engagement with more women through new programs and updates to long-standing programs that embody our core values. Faith, action and sisterhood are still our basic beliefs as we reach out to invite new women from all backgrounds and churches to find new ways to support one another and women, children and youth.

Churches may leave the denomination but women can remain a part of our organization.

All of our traditional structures on the conference, district and local levels – circles included- remain intact. However, there are additional options. You can learn more about these at [uwfaith.org](http://uwfaith.org) which will give an overview of the changes. There are templates for Soul Care retreats, innovations to Mission u and Leadership development, a national membership option and more targeted giving options.

## MISSION EDUCATION & INTERPRETATION:

Greetings One and All!

Just a couple of FYI tidbits: The District Day Apart will be April 30th and the Spiritual Growth Retreat will be June 9-11th at Lake Junaluska.

In a combined Mission Study with Blue Ridge, *PUSHOUT* gave us a better perspective of what is happening in our communities every day, what is going un-noticed. It can be a difficult topic to address and even talk about, but we need to reflect on how we can work together to become better. I would like to thank Renee Hayes for being willing to take the time to present the study to us on March 26th and March 28th. She is truly knowledgeable in the subject giving us some “food for thought” in order for us to be able to forward the information on to others. If you were unable to participate in the study, the book will make a great resource to have as well as your local representatives’ thoughts and perspectives on the topic. This would make a good unit program for those who are willing to take a leap of faith. Working Together to Become Better!

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



## PROGRAM RESOURCES ANYONE?

Hope you are reading and are able to obtain books from the local bookstores or from Amazon. At Day Apart I will have copies of books that I have ordered in the last two years for purchase. I’m not listing them here, but I hope you will be able to come to Day Apart and purchase any book that’s there that you haven’t read. I will also have copies of the last Reading Program List for those who did not have *Response Magazine*, November/December 2021. Keep reading so that you can be informed.

Gail Powell, Program Resources Coordinator  
Phone: 828-507-4556 / Email: [gailpowell@bellsouth.net](mailto:gailpowell@bellsouth.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](http://www.wnccumw.org/legacyfund).
- ◇ Online on the national office website at [unitedmethodistwomen.org/legacyfund](http://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.



## MEMBERSHIP, NURTURE & OUTREACH:

March 20th marked the first day of spring on our calendars, and new life is bursting forth all around us. With this new beginning our hope is renewed and we are moving on toward our high calling of service to women, children and youth in our local communities and around the world.

“United Women In Faith.” I like our new name and look forward to growing spiritually along with it. To me It opens wide the door of invitation to any woman who sees herself (or who would like to see herself) as a person of faith. Maybe it is a small step toward the answer to the prayer we so often pray “Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”

As we move forward in faith my prayer is that we draw nearer to God as we grow near to each other, that we welcome all women to join us as members of this great organization, that we come to know each other well enough to be present for one another when difficult times arise and that we continue to reach out in our families and across our communities to speak up and boldly work for change when change is needed.

Esther Manchester  
Membership, Nurture & Outreach Coordinator  
P. O. Box 256, Brasstown, NC 28902  
Phone: 828-226-7481 / Email: [ehm1@yahoo.com](mailto:ehm1@yahoo.com)



### NURTURING PARTNERS/SHEPHERDESS ASSIGNMENTS FOR 2022 SMOKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

NURTURING PARTNER	UMW UNIT
DEBORAH RAY	CANTON CENTRAL; LONG'S CHAPEL; SHADY GROVE
BEVERLY BARD	ROCKWOOD; CRUSO
GAIL POWELL	LOVE'S CHAPEL; BEAVER DAM
VELMA ZEEK	MURPHY; ANDREWS; FRANKLIN
RETHA CABE	CANTON FIRST; FINCHER'S (?)
BOBBY PAYNE	WAYNESVILLE FIRST; CRABTREE
SHARON COOPER	ELIZABETH CHAPEL; MAPLE GROVE
CAROL HARPER	BRYSON CITY; HAYESVILLE
ESTHER MANCHESTER	OAK FOREST; RANGER; TOMOTLA; ROBBINSVILLE
JULIA LEATHERWOOD	CULLOWHEE; MAGGIE VALLEY; PINEY GROVE
JANICE LEMASTERS	CLYDE CENTRAL; PLAINS
JO ANN BLACK	SYLVA FIRST; WEBSTER

## SOCIAL ACTION SPOTLIGHT ON:

### **Reducing Recidivism in Haywood County...How UMW can Help**

In August, 2018 Haywood Pathways Center was awarded a grant to work in the Haywood County Detention Center to address the opioid epidemic. CJ Deering, a NC Certified Peer Support Specialist with over 40 years in recovery and a wide array of life experiences, was hired to head the program for women. CJ works to reduce the rate of recidivism (return visits to jail) by addressing the women's untreated substance use and mental health issues. She facilitates in-person groups focused on recovery and positive coping skills. They learn meditation, journaling and spirituality focus as a foundation for long term recovery. CJ also acts as a liaison between area treatment facilities and inmates, getting them the help needed to reduce recidivism.

The women in this program are between 18- 40 years of age. Many have come from homes where there were illegal drugs, illegal activities and child abuse. About 80% of the women in the jail have children. These women want to strive for a better life, so they are willing to seek rehabilitation to address their substance use and mental health issues.

CJ said help can be provided in three ways; financial donations, time spent to help educate and befriend these women and providing needed goods. Financial donations go predominantly for books and materials for groups education on recovery, parenting and life skills. Recently, blankets and pillows were needed for women staying at the Swain Recovery Center. CJ was connected with Haywood Christian Ministries who provided the needed blankets and pillows. If you would like to help, please contact CJ at 828-356-2948.

### **Helping Young People Helping Themselves**

In Haywood County, and I suspect in your county too, there is an alternative high school for students that dropped out, were expelled or otherwise left high school before they earned their diploma. These alternative high schools allow students to re-enter high school and take classes at their own pace so they can earn their high school diploma.

Many of these students left high school to help earn money for their family needs, had been bullied in high school and could no longer take the pressure so left, some were expelled for various reasons. But all realized the need for completing their high school education. So they have taken it upon themselves to better their lives by earning their high school diploma and, in some cases, to go onto vocational school or college. The young people still believe in themselves and that is to be admired.

At the alternative high school in Haywood County, aka Haywood County Learning Center (HCLC), there are presently over 70 students attending virtual and in person classes. The students work at their own pace, often around their job schedule, family responsibilities or transportation to school. Because there is no cafeteria onsite, church members from local churches take lunch to the students. When those meals are not available, lunch is purchased from a local elementary school.

As District Social Action Coordinator, I would encourage your UMW to see if there is an alternative high school in your county that might benefit from your support. We are presently working with students teaching them how to garden and can or freeze food. We help with the cost of renting caps and gowns at graduation. We lead them to resources like free clothing. I think you will find it rewarding helping young people helping themselves.



Jan Lemasters, Social Action Coordinator

Phone: 912-580-2592 / Email: [lemastersjanice@gmail.com](mailto:lemastersjanice@gmail.com)

## A FINANCIAL POINT OF VIEW:

Dear Treasurers & Other Women in Faith:

Thank you for your giving in Quarter 1! We need to move forward telling the stories of our missions putting Faith, Hope and Love into action. Combine those stories of giving with the excitement we have over our new name, United Women in Faith.

This quarter our local units need to remember the Annual Celebration Love Offering. Our Love Offering Theme for 2022 is: "A Gift to Mission in recognition or United Women in Faith's Advocacy for Justice and Reconciliation for Women, Children and Youth." The 2022 Love Offering will be received during the Annual Celebration September 9-11 or can be mailed anytime to:

Nancy Riegel, Treasurer  
375 Troy Norris Road  
Boone, NC 28607

Checks Payable to: Treasurer, WNCC UWF

The Financial Goal of United Women in Faith is: "Each unit will meet or exceed its pre-pandemic Mission Giving."

Please remember that your Quarter 2 Remittance should be in to me by June 1<sup>st</sup>.

This includes:

Q2 Pledge to Mission  
Call to Prayer & Self Denial  
Gifts in Memory and Gifts to Mission  
Special Mission Recognition

Any other designation financial gifts.

Thank you for your commitment and for all the work you do for God's mission through United Women in Faith.

Dianne Mills, Treasurer

Phone: 828-550-2229 / Email: [dnmills@hotmail.com](mailto:dnmills@hotmail.com)



## JUST A LITTLE SIDE NOTE FROM DEBBIE RAY:

One of the many ways we can think more "Green" in all that we do is to make sure we always carry a reusable water bottle with us whenever we go to any meeting, event, etc. The fewer plastic water bottles we end up throwing in the trash, the better off our planet Earth and all of God's creatures will be. Looking forward to seeing you at Day Apart...with your own water bottle in hand!



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

**United Methodist Women  
2022 Smoky Mountain District Executive Team**

**President (Acting):**

Deborah Ray (Waynesville 1<sup>st</sup>)  
569 Country Club Drive  
Waynesville, NC 28786  
Cell Phone: 828-400-3499  
Email: [wsray@charter.net](mailto:wsray@charter.net)

**Vice President:**

[Open]

**Secretary:**

Jo Ann Black (Cullowhee)  
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Cell Phone: 828-331-9700  
Email: [circusgirl120@gmail.com](mailto:circusgirl120@gmail.com)

**Treasurer:**

Dianne Mills (Elizabeth's Chapel)  
311 Grandview Circle  
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Cell Phone: 828-550-2229  
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**Social Action:**

Janice LeMasters (Waynesville First)  
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**Education & Interpretation:**

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Cell Phone: 828-507-0298  
[SK.Kotila@morrisbb.net](mailto:SK.Kotila@morrisbb.net)

**Spiritual Growth:**

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**Membership, Nurture & Outreach:**

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

**Parliamentarian:**

Ellyne Stonebraker (Franklin 1<sup>st</sup>)  
135 Shady Oaks Drive  
Franklin, NC 28734  
Phone: 828-524-8787  
Email: [jumperlady21@gmail.com](mailto:jumperlady21@gmail.com)

**Historian (Acting):**

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

(Revised 4/4/22)





## **“Come to the Water”**

**WNCC UMW Spiritual Growth Retreat**

**June 9-11, 2022**

**Register online beginning in February.**

Make hotel reservations by calling the Lake Junaluska reservations department  
at 1-800-222-4930.

(Be sure you ask for the UMW group rate.)

**See you at the Lake!**

### **Housing Information:**

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**



# Mission Giving Award 2021

This certificate is presented to the

**Western North Carolina Conference**

in recognition of reaching

## 101% Mission Giving for 2021!

Your giving has supported connecting and nurturing women, children, and youth through Christian spiritual formation, leadership development, advocacy, and education. Together we all inspire, influence, and impact our local and global communities!

With Gratitude,

Harriett Jane Olson,  
General Secretary/CEO



United  
Women  
in Faith

Blessings,

Tamara Clark,  
Treasurer/CFO

*Dear Western North Carolina,*

*Thank you for exceeding your pledge and for being our top conference in giving!*

*In 2021 our national office received your \$507,323 in Mission Giving. Our national and international missions were supported. Grants and scholarships of over \$4 million were awarded. Our transformative work continued including mission training and the emphasis on our social justice priorities of Climate Justice and Racial Justice. Our connectional work included cultivation opportunities for new members, training events, and building relationships through our work at the Church Center for the United Nations and the Deaconess and Home Missioner Office which works with lay people called by God to serve in ministries of love, justice and service.*

*We were able to do these things and much more because of you! Congrats on reaching your pledge and we pray that you continue to lead and give in this way in 2022.*

*Blessings...*

*Your national treasurer*

# 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

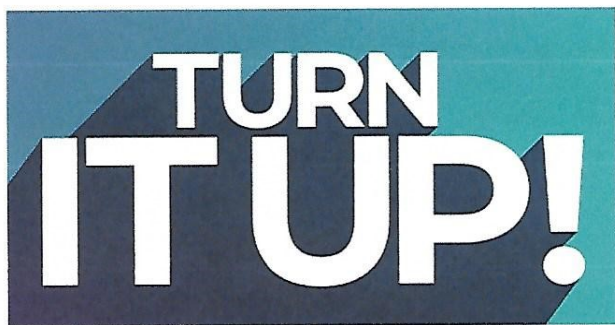


Annual Celebration

"Turn It Up!"

September 9-11

Lake Junaluska



Ubuntu Days of Service

"I am because you are."

October 1, 8, & 15

Across the Conference



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



United  
Women  
in Faith

## **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

Some events may be virtual—watch for further information

## **SMD UMW CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

April 30	Day Apart—Long’s Chapel-Waynesville; 9:00 am to 12:00 noon
Aug. 20	SMD Annual Meeting—Location TBD
Nov. 19	Leadership Training—9:00 am—12:00 noon; Location TBD