



United
Women
in Faith

Conference Gram

June 2022
Volume 71, Issue 3



mission u 2022

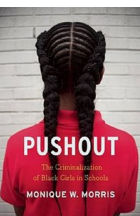
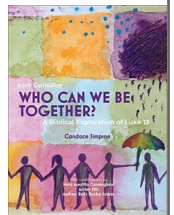
Who Can We Be Together?

Building Communities
of Hope and Joy

July 14-16, Pfeiffer University

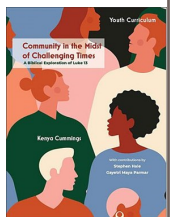
CHANGE! This seems to be the word of the day! We are all experiencing change: change to working from home, change in our name, change to gathering in person again. Mission u is also changing. Beginning this year, we have a new model of Mission u curricula. We remain committed to spiritual growth, justice, and to national and global social issues. But instead of separate studies, we are integrating these concepts into one curriculum. **Because there is just one study, we will begin on Thursday as we have in past years, but we will end on Saturday rather than Sunday.** We do plan to meet in person at Pfeiffer University!

Our study this year is a biblical exploration of Luke 13. We find ourselves in a period of disruption and uncertainty. In the midst of a devastating pandemic, a divisive political climate, unaddressed systemic racism, ecological crises, and economic turmoil, **we turn to the stories of Jesus that have anchored Christian communities for more than two millennia.** Luke 13 opens and closes with a community trying to make sense of and navigate their way through times of turmoil and tragedy.



The repeat study is PUSHOUT: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools. Author Monique W. Morris will help us examine the culture of violence that impacts children in and out of schools.

Invite youth to attend our Resident Youth Camp. Our youth will also be studying Luke 13 in "Community in the Midst of Challenging Times," by Kenya Cummings. Through this study and hands-on activities, youth will grow in their ability to interpret scripture as well as deepen community connections through inter-generational dialogue. We encourage units to assist their youth with the cost of the camp by helping with their registration fee.



Please continue to spread the word about Mission u. Invite your friends, and be sure to let your Pastor know about us. Let people know that we are coming together to dig deeper into the Word in the hopes of becoming disciples for the transformation of the world. Most districts and units have first timer's scholarships; details are available from Presidents of your district or unit.

Join us as a resident, nonresident, or overview student at Pfeiffer University. In the midst of the turmoil that is going on around us today, we need to focus on **building communities of hope and joy!**

Blessings,

Lynn Alexander, Mission u Dean

lynn.alexander@qorvo.com / 336-456-6686

Mission u 2022 Logistics

Registration is open now through July 1 at wnc-reg.brtapp.com/missionu2022

(There is no onsite registration.)

Registration costs vary with housing and student type (one-day or full-time). The fee for one-day overview students is \$35 without lunch and \$50 with lunch. Fees for full-time students range from \$70 (no meals or housing) to \$230 (all meals and private room with private bath), depending on type of accommodations.

Dates: Thursday, July 14 through **Saturday, July 16** (change from date previously announced)

Location: Pfeiffer University, Misenheimer, NC.

Study books should be ordered in advance. You may order a study book for pickup at Spiritual Growth Retreat (preferred) or at Mission u as part of the registration process. If you choose to order a book to be delivered to you (which will increase your shipping costs), you may do so at www.umwmissionresources.org

Kindle versions of adult studies are available at smile.amazon.com

Hands-on Mission: UMCOR Hygiene Kits (guidelines on assembling and packing the kits may be found at umcmisson.org/umcor-hygiene-kit/)

CEU/Advanced Lay Servant Credit: Participants can apply to receive CEU's and Advanced Lay Servant credit. Forms will be available at Mission u.

Schedule: Check-in will begin at 2:00 PM on Thursday, July 14. Mission u will open with worship Thursday evening. After worship, full-time students will meet in their classes for an introduction to the study and each other.

Morning Praise will be held Friday and Saturday mornings at 6:45 AM.

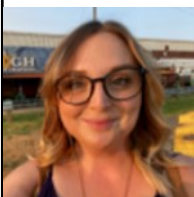
Friday will include morning and afternoon sessions of each study, followed by a variety of workshops. On Saturday full-time classes will meet in the morning, and closing worship will be held in the afternoon.

One-day overview students will have morning and afternoon sessions on either Friday or Saturday. Friday overview students will have the opportunity to participate in the Friday afternoon workshops.

First-timer Scholarships: Each District offers a \$150 scholarship for a person attending Mission u for the first time. Information and applications are available from your District President.

For everyone's safety and well-being, we will follow all CDC protocols in place at the time, including masking and social distancing.

Meet our Mission u Music Leader



Laurin

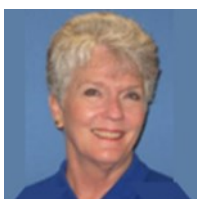
Laurin Allred is the Director of Music & Worship Arts at Muir's Chapel UMC in Greensboro. When not leading choirs, bands, handbell ensembles, or kids' drum circles, you'll likely find Laurin jamming in the band "Champagne & Kevlar" at local festivals and venues. She describes herself as an incredibly slow but dedicated runner - finding peace and God through pounding the pavement. Laurin and her husband and their two sons live in Jamestown.

Meet our Mission u Study Leaders

Who Can we Be Together? A Biblical Exploration of Luke 13



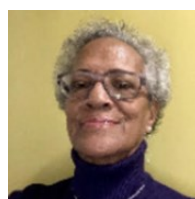
Martha



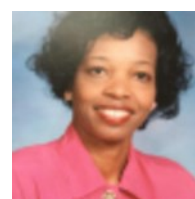
Kim



Sandy



Michelene



Eloise



Lisa Beth

Martha Efirm is a lifelong Methodist and is active in her church as lay speaker and with United Methodist Women/United Women in Faith. Martha served as Spiritual Growth Coordinator on the WNCC team for four years.

Kim Eller has served as a study leader and workshop leader several times. She is a lover and supporter of all that is United Methodist Women (now United Women in Faith) and served most recently as Chair for the WNCC Committee on Nominations.

Sandy Hieronymus is a lifelong Methodist who has held offices from local to conference levels in both United Methodist Women and The United Methodist Church. She has served as both a study leader and a workshop leader at previous Mission u events.

Michelene Mathews is a past Assistant Dean and Dean of Mission u. She has served in many District and Conference offices, including Metro District President and the WNCC Committee on Nominations.

Eloise Moore is a Deaconess in the Northern Piedmont District, and she looks forward to being consecrated at Assembly 2022. Eloise has served in United Methodist Women at the local and district levels, including on the Northern Piedmont District Committee on Nominations.

Lisa Beth White is the founder of Sister of Hope Ministries, a pastor, and a scholar. Sister of Hope Ministries provides training and retreats for volunteers in short-term mission work. **Lisa Beth will be leading the one-day overview studies Friday and Saturday.**

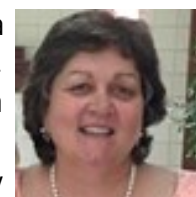
PUSHOUT: Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools



Denise

Denise S. Hartsfield is a native of Winston-Salem. She obtained a Juris Doctorate from the Wake Forest University School of Law. Denise is a certified Juvenile Judge and is actively involved in several community outreach programs.

Renee Hayes is a United Methodist deaconess. She is actively involved in mission to Lithuania through Gifts of Grace Ministries. This is her second opportunity to facilitate an adult Mission u study after several years of working with our youth camp.



Renee

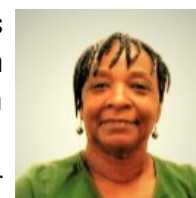
Youth Camp: Community in the Midst of Challenging Times



Sherry

Sherry Sink has served in various Conference and District offices of United Methodist Women and currently serves as a Program Advisory Group member. She has led both adult and youth mission studies, but working with youth is her passion.

Brenda Steadman taught in Alamance and Guilford County for over 25 years. She was made a member of the Order of The Long Leaf Pine Society for her significant service to education in the State. Brenda currently serves on the Conference Committee on Nominations.



Brenda

What will be YOUR Legacy?

Thank you, Western North Carolina, for your continued strong support of **The Legacy Endowment Fund! Every gift to The Legacy Endowment Fund, of any size, will make a difference!**



Ways to Give to the Legacy Fund:

- Make a gift to the Legacy Fund **through your local unit United Methodist Women treasurer.**
- **Online** on the national office website at www.uwfaith/give/legacy-fund/
- **By phone:** 800-278-7771 (8 am-6pm EST, M-F)
- **Text** Legacy150to 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
- **Be a Legacy Builder** by making a gift of at least \$18.69 per month
- **Other methods** include gifts of stock, life insurance, bequests, and other planned giving. If you are interested in making such a gift, contact the national office at 800-278-7771.

Learn more on our website at www.wnccumw.org/legacyfund/

History 101 - Future 2022



Would you believe it was over two years ago that we began to shelter in place? You could say we cocooned ourselves from the outside world; we simply did not venture from our surroundings. We didn't drive to Lake Junaluska for Spiritual Growth, we didn't gather for our Annual Celebration, and socializing at Mission u was just a fond memory. But, from the comfort of our homes, we were FINDING PEACE IN AN ANXIOUS WORLD, we discovered we

could WALK IN GOD'S LIGHT while sitting contentedly in a chair, and our Spirits were LIFTED UP even if our bodies were grounded. It was our time to "*Be Still and Know That I Am God*" (Psalm 46:10, NIV).

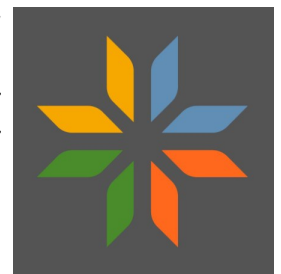
And throughout the process we managed, we prevailed, we triumphed, and we learned – God is good and in control. We connected with one another via USPS, telephone, e-mail and Zoom! (Thank heavens for Zoom and all the new technology!) We not only prevailed, we came out stronger, more vibrant, and more aware of how very precious our journey is when we can **literally** walk united with our sisters in faith.

We emerged as United Women in Faith; inclusive of all women who put their Faith in God, Hope for a better tomorrow, and put their Love into action for women, children and youth throughout the world. So, as you leave your cocoon and extend your wings, I encourage you to invite someone to join our "kaleidoscope" or "flutter" at Lake Junaluska, Pfeiffer University, or your own district and unit events. Let's make the future years be our best in history!

To infinity and beyond, Sisters!

LaDonna Butts, Conference Historian

ladonna.butts@windstream.net / 704-652-1994



Ruminations of a Treasurer



For a second year in a row, we members of the Western North Carolina United Methodist Women Conference **celebrate our success in meeting our Pledge to Mission**. In 2020 our Pledge was \$525,000. In 2021, our pledge dropped to \$500,000. In both instances we achieved our goal only by searching every nook and cranny and not withholding a single penny.

While we should celebrate, we should also pay attention to the downward trajectory of giving, which began in the early 2010's. Sometimes the yearly decline is a large drop, sometimes only a slight downturn, but they add up. For instance, our Total Conference Giving from the Districts in 2011 was \$1,003,845. Total Giving in 2021 was \$554,280, a drop of \$479,565 or 46%. OUCH! While almost 40% of that drop occurred in the past two "pandemic" years, the decline is not new. A decline that was consistent across all Channels of Giving continues into this year (so far).

What is going on? Have our members just stopped giving? A resounding NO! Our members who do give continue to give faithfully at every opportunity. Our members are incredibly faithful in support of our Mission, and we CELEBRATE that!

The issue is retention of current members and recruitment of new members who will join us in support of our Mission. Hence this new brand to reposition what is a vital Mission outreach in the world - to let its light shine in a new way so it can be seen by a community that had previously discounted its vitality.

Personally, I did not find the United Methodist Women brand compelling. But once I participated in what this organization stands for in the world - "to be the hands and feet of Christ" - I was hooked. Now we are unveiling a new appearance so that others might take a fresh look and find their own place in this vital 153-year-strong Mission outreach.

Do we expect this new look to help us rebound to the same level of giving as ten years ago? Maybe. BUT measuring success only in that way ignores other significant changes we have seen as we evolve from supporting Mission chiefly through funding to being active agents of Mission ourselves, bringing change and growth to our communities. That value cannot be measured in dollars alone.

But, after all, I AM a TREASURER and so must come back to our 2022 Giving and our 2022 Conference Financial Goal: "Each unit will meet or exceed its pre-pandemic Mission Giving." The beauty of the goal is that it is in the hands of each individual unit and can be achieved unit by unit, despite what any other unit does. This gives each of us an opportunity to gather ourselves around an achievable goal as we march forward under a new name and new colors but with the same hearts for Mission. THAT is who we are.

Peace,

Nancy Reigel, Conference Treasurer

nancy@reigelridge.com / 828-268-0637



United
Women
in Faith

Redheaded Bowlers to gather for fellowship, soul care, and hands-on action!

Sounds like fun, doesn't it? But did you wonder if those of us who aren't redheaded or who don't bowl are included? If so, you know part of the reason our name is changing to reflect our inclusive nature. We want women of faith to feel welcome at our events whether they identify as United Methodist or not. There's room for us all at the table. (Sorry, there's no known gathering of redheaded bowlers! But be watching for future [SOUL Care](#) events!)

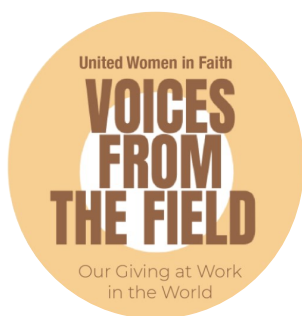
Have We Got Resources for You!



[response Magazine](#), Print, Digital, and Podcast!

According to the uwfaith.org website, “**response is the award-winning, official magazine of United Women in Faith.** We explore spiritual growth and living our faith, and report on our local, national and international work. Each issue will touch your heart, stir your soul, and challenge your mind with features such as Bible studies, opportunities for spiritual growth and development, and articles on people and projects supported by your Mission Giving.”

Free digital samplers are available online at uwfaith.org, and the entire March/April 2022 issue is also available. If you prefer print copies, you may order them at the uwfaith.org website. A print subscription includes a digital subscription at no additional cost!



[Voices from the Field](#) Podcast

“Come learn about the national and international initiatives that benefit from Mission Giving, directly through the voices ‘from the field.’ In this interactive format, you’ll hear firsthand from program leaders about their work, daily challenges, hopes and dreams.”

A special [Ukraine podcast](#) features members of the Women’s Peace Dialogue Platform reporting from Ukraine and other neighboring countries on issues specific to the crisis/state of emergency in Ukraine.



[Faith Talks](#) Podcast

“Join monthly conversations with United Women in Faith, hosted by Jennifer R Farmer. Each month, we’ll explore timely themes and resources, from expert insights on ways to live your faith to inspiring interviews with spiritual leaders.” The podcast topics are wide-ranging. Recent topics have included an introduction to United Women in Faith, Faith Leaders Work for Clean Air, On Prayer, and Including Persons with Disabilities. What’s more, **Faith Talk podcasts can be counted in the**

category of Spiritual Growth for our United Methodist Women/United Women in Faith Reading Program. Participating or listening to two Faith Talks podcasts counts as one book. If you participate or listen to three, it will be counted as a Bonus Book in the Spiritual Growth category.

Podcast? What’s that?! And where do I find one?

According to Wikipedia, “podcast” came into use as a shorthand way of referring to iPod broadcasts that could be listened to online or downloaded for later use. A podcast usually has a host (or hosts) engaged in discussion on various topics. Many podcasts are free, including all of the ones mentioned above. You can subscribe to podcasts using a podcast provider, such as Google Podcasts (Android phones) or Apple Podcasts (iPhones). You can also listen online at podcasts.google.com or www.apple.com/apple-podcasts/



United Women in Faith / United Methodist Women Reading Program 2022

The Reading Program is a cherished tradition that brings together members to explore, share and discuss books. **Reading is connecting.** The Reading Program is not meant to be completed alone or in a vacuum. Enrich your experience by doing one or several of these things:

A: Advocate for tangible change as you apply what you read to issues such as racism, climate change, and mass incarceration.

B: Boost involvement by sharing information about where to find books and by sharing the books themselves.

C: Connect with local and district groups by starting a book club, as Blue Ridge and Northern Piedmont Districts have done.

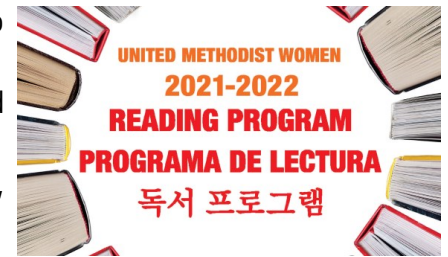
D: Display a progress chart at your meetings and in your church. Celebrate your progress as you meet Reading Program requirements. (Remember, **response** magazine and the Faith Talks podcast are part of the Reading Program.)

E: Engage in prayer. Reading Program books often raise concerns. Bring these concerns before God in your personal and group prayer times.

Blessings to all,

Kathy Chadwell, Conference Secretary of Program Resources

k.sc2008@hotmail.com / 336-475-1261



2022 Conference Love Offering

Our Conference Love Offering this year is "A Gift to Mission in recognition of United Methodist Women's Advocacy for Justice and Reconciliation for Women, Children and Youth."



Love Offering gifts are above and beyond District and individual pledges. Such undesignated offerings are applied toward the Conference Pledge and become part of the monies used by United Methodist Women/United Women in Faith to create and support projects around the world to better the lives of women, children and youth.

You may bring your individual Love Offering or your unit's Love Offering to our Western North Carolina Conference United

Women in Faith Annual Celebration at Lake Junaluska, or send it directly to:

Nancy Reigel, Conference Treasurer

WNCC United Methodist Women

375 Troy Norris Rd

Boone, NC 28607-9103

Please make checks payable to: WNCC United Methodist Women.

Online Love Offerings can be made through December 31st at

wnccumw.org/conference-love-offering2022/

Note: Please do not send your Conference Love Offering to your District Treasurer.



**Western North Carolina Conference
United Methodist Women /
United Women in Faith**

Lisa Bacon
1028 Old Cullowhee Rd
Sylva, NC 28779-6539
lisabacon304@gmail.com

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

The May/June 2022 digital issue of **response** is now ready for subscribers!



Click [here](#) for the new issue.

To log in, enter your **response** account number in *both* the login and password fields, omitting any leading zeros in the number. For example, if your account number is 00123456, enter just 123456.

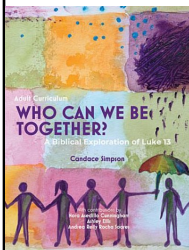
You can find your account number on the back of your magazine above your address, next to "RSP." Digital-only subscriber? Find your account number by entering your e-mail into the [customer service page](#).

If you need help finding your number, call (877) 881-2385 or e-mail response@cambeywest.com. All other inquiries can be sent to response@uwfaith.org.

In addition, the January/February and March/April 2022 archive issues are also available! You can get to them by clicking on the three lines on the top left of the digital issue page, then clicking on "archive." Or you can click [here](#) for the January/February issue and [here](#) for March/April.

Not yet a subscriber? **response** is an essential resource for all members of United Women in Faith. Subscribe today at the [United Women in Faith website](#).

Mission u 2022 Study Books available in print and on Kindle!



Remember to order your Mission u study book ahead of time. Save on shipping costs by ordering the Luke 13 study book when you register for Spiritual Growth Retreat. Then pick up your book at retreat check-in and be ready to learn **Who We Can Be Together!**

The book for the Pushout study may be ordered at smile.amazon.com.

Kindle versions of both books are available at smile.amazon.com



Mission u 2022 is **July 14-16** at Pfeiffer University.

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