

July 2022

# Women Talk



United  
Women  
in Faith

Smoky Mountain District † United Methodist Women † Western North Carolina Conference

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

Summer is always busy. I just returned from Michigan, visiting family there that I get to see only one time a year. I hope you are nurturing your relationships with friends and family too. Before your calendar fills up completely, I encourage you to add to it: Mission u July 14-16. This will be a virtual study. The study this year is a timely one- a Bible Study on Luke 13. The title is “*Who Can We Be Together.*” This topic needs to be studied and then shared with your units as it is only by being together we can make a difference in the world. Go to [wnccumw.org](http://wnccumw.org) to register.

I attended Assembly in May in Orlando and it was an inspiring time spent with thousands of United Women in Faith sisters. We are encouraged to influence and make an impact. There will be a lot to discuss and learn in the next months about the new initiatives that United Methodist Women is sharing. Use the new name and assure your members that they do not have to change the way they meet together but look around your churches. Do you have women of any age that do not belong to United Women in Faith? Besides inviting them to your circles, what else can you offer them? Let them know about our social action initiatives – how we make a difference in our communities and what we support. Invite them to help with a community project or offer a Bible Study. Tell them about the web site [uwfaith.org](http://uwfaith.org).

There is a new emphasis on our own Soul Care and helping others with their care. We all need this as the world has buffeted us the last couple of years with the pandemic and divisiveness. Many feel alone. There are so many demands on our younger women that after children , parents, spouses and jobs, there doesn't seem time to take care of their needs. Let's talk about how we might include this.

Also, I look forward to seeing you all at our Smoky Mountain District Annual Celebration. It will be in person at Cullowhee UMC on August 13, 2022 beginning at 9:00 am. Our speaker will be Sherry Sink who has served in many conference positions. She will share about our re-branding and her experience leading youth at Mission u. Mask wearing will be optional.

Looking ahead, add our Conference Annual Celebration to your calendars. It will be in person at Lake Junaluska on September 9-11. This is a family celebration too as we gather together as sisters in Christ. Come and be energized as we have fun together and celebrate being part of our amazing organization. Register on our web site. We ARE the women's mission arm of the United Methodist Church.

In Service to Our Christ,  
Debbie Ray, President

[wsray@charter.net](mailto:wsray@charter.net), 828-400-3499

569 Country Club Drive, Waynesville, NC 28786



## 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—Words from our Spiritual Growth Coordinator and the Legacy Fund.

Page 4—Smoky Mountain District Annual Celebration!!! JOIN US!

Page 5—Words from our Mission, Nurture & Outreach Coordinator and Ubuntu Days of Service.

Page 6—United Women in Faith: In Mission with Ukraine.

Page 7—The 2022 SMD UMW Executive Team Listing.

Page 8 + 9—WNCC United Women in Faith 49th Annual Celebration—TURN IT UP!

Page 10—WNCC & SMD Calendar of Events

**Those who bring sunshine to the lives of others  
cannot keep it from themselves.**

\* \* \* \* \*

*“Be not deceived; God is not mocked; for  
whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.”*

*-- Galatians 6:7*



## 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.

## Words from our Spiritual Growth Coordinator:

It has been wonderful to finally meet and worship with some of you, first at District Day Apart, and then at the Conference Spiritual Growth Retreat. I think that was the comment I heard the most, that it was wonderful to finally be together in person again. Unfortunately, as you may know, we will not be able to meet in person for Mission U (July 14-17). The good news is that it allows those unable to travel to Pfeiffer University an opportunity to take part in one or more of the classes. As District Spiritual Growth Coordinator, I recommend at least taking the spiritual growth study "Who Can We Be Together: A Biblical Exploration of Luke 13." Assuming you get this newsletter in time, you can register at [wnccumw.org/events/missionu](http://wnccumw.org/events/missionu). If you are unable to attend, you can still order and read the study book from [umwmissionresources.org](http://umwmissionresources.org) or Amazon for Kindle.

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



## 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.



# SMOKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT ANNUAL CELEBRATION

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 13, 2022**

**9:00 AM—12:00 NOON**

**CULLOWHEE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**416 Central Drive, Cullowhee, NC 28723**

(On the campus of Western Carolina University  
behind the new Noble Residence Hall/Retail Building.)



**JOIN US!**

Here's another chance for us to get together personally, this time to approve our Proposed Slate of SMD Officers for 2023 (see below) and our Proposed Budget for 2023. In addition, we will hear from Sherry Sink who has served in many conference positions and also address other district business. Hope to see you there!

## **Smoky Mountain District Officers for 2023**

President – Lisa Bacon (Cullowhee)

Vice President – ?

Secretary – Joann Black (Cullowhee)

Treasurer – Dianne Mills (Elizabeth Chapel)

Mission Coordinator for Spiritual Growth –

Mission Coordinator for Mission Education and Interpretation –

Mission Coordinator for Social Action – Jan Lemasters (Waynesville 1st)

Mission Coordinator for Membership, Nurture and Outreach – Debbie Ray  
(Waynesville 1<sup>st</sup>)

Communications Coordinator – Nancy Jo Willis (Murphy 1st)

Secretary for Program Resources – Nancy Watkins (Waynesville 1<sup>st</sup>)

Committee Nominations:

Chair Person – Velma Zeek ( District At-Large)

Class of 2023 – Sheila Snow (Murphy 1<sup>st</sup>)

Class of 2023 – Louise Pressley (Cruso)

Class of 2024 – Erlinda Rogers (Long's Chapel)

Class of 2024 – Gail Powell (Elizabeth Chapel)

Class of 2025 - Esther Manchester (Murphy 1<sup>st</sup>)

Class of 2025 -

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Appointed Officers:

Historian –

Parliamentarian – Ellyenne Stonebraker

Nurturing Partner Coordinator – Debbie Ray

## MEMBERSHIP, NURTURE & OUTREACH:

Sometimes I feel like we have become too serious in our sisterhood of “United Women in Faith.” We often spend too much time “taking care of business,” and not enough time taking care of THE BUSINESS OF CARING FOR EACH OTHER, of getting to know each other, of sincerely valuing each other as sisters.

I will share with you a story: A few years ago I was invited to participate in a Bible Study with women from various denominational backgrounds, namely Baptist, Methodist, Catholic, Presbyterian, and Anglican faiths. Most of these women had been in the study group for a long time. They had studied the Bible, chapter by chapter all the way from Genesis to Malachi.

I joined the group at the beginning of the study of Matthew. We meet weekly for at least two hours in each other’s homes. We painstakingly study the Bible, verse by verse. We don’t always agree. We laugh. We cry. We share our stories. We listen to each other. We pray! I confess, I am not a very patient person and those two hour sessions were just too much for me at first. But along came COVID-19, and we did not meet for a long time. During that time I was given the opportunity to reevaluate the importance of that group of women in my life and I came to realize the time spent with them was of such value to me that I would take the time to enjoy all the blessings they could offer.

What does this have to do with our local UWF (UMW) Units? Everything!  
Maybe we can find a different way to conduct our business (for it is important) and more time learning about missions, near and far. Maybe we can simply practice the art of sisterhood, of being together.

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)



Ubuntu Days of Service

“I am because you are.”

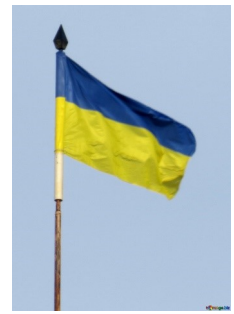
October 1, 8, & 15

Across the Conference



## United Women in Faith: In Mission with Ukraine

Our still-new national website ([uwfaith.org](http://uwfaith.org)) states, “We serve. We advocate. We make a difference.” Even as we were transforming to United Women in Faith, we were still responding to needs in Ukraine. We are agile; we are flexible; we are informed. As our national website says, “Education can transform women. Educated women can transform the world.” UWF members are well-educated in the needs of women, children, and youth. As transformed women, we strive to transform the world.



In April, the UWF podcast “[Faith Talks](#)” was Women in Peacemaking. Topics include the impact of war in Ukraine on marginalized groups and peace efforts by women of faith. This podcast is available at [uwfaith.org/resources/podcasts](http://uwfaith.org/resources/podcasts).

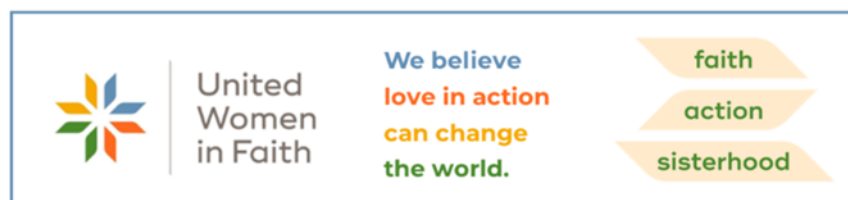
In March, UWF announced its first emergency grant of \$10,000 to a women’s center in Kyiv. The center supports women who are implementing the United Nations Resolution on Women, Peace, and Security. The resolution promotes leadership in the areas of peace, security, and humanitarian aid. This emergency grant is possible only because of your faithful giving. It is possible only because most of our mission giving is undesignated. Just three weeks after Russia invaded Ukraine, UWF announced the emergency grant. They didn’t have to wait to make an emergency appeal for funds. The money was there because UWF members understand designated dollars have limited use. We understand money can better meet urgent needs when we don't restrict its use.

Money is understandably and appropriately pouring into Ukraine. But we know Ukraine is not the only place with desperate needs. UWF can meet needs in 34 countries and all 50 states because we support undesignated giving.

The July/August issue of [response](#) magazine includes an article about our efforts in Ukraine (United Women in Faith International Ministries). Our mission magazine is available in print and online. Check it out!



-- Lisa Bacon, SMD Executive Team



**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)  
388 Echo Ridge Road  
Whittier, NC 28789  
Cell Phone: 828-331-9700  
Email: [circusgirl120@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:SK.Kotila@morrisbb.net)

**Spiritual Growth:**

Carol Harper (South Macon)  
101 Everett Rd.  
Franklin, NC 28734  
Cell Phone: 828-349-3228  
Email: [cgh2arper@gmail.com](mailto:cgh2arper@gmail.com)

**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)



## Annual Celebration Registration:

(Begins June 21, 2022)

- All registration is online. There will be no on-site registration.
- All attendees must be fully vaccinated and up to date on COVID boosters. Go to [www.wnccumw.org](http://www.wnccumw.org) for more details
- Get a DISCOUNT! Register early! Online registration, June 21 through August 15 is only \$25.00 per person! August 16 through September 7, registration is \$40 per person. Use the online registration link on our website at [www.wnccumw.org](http://www.wnccumw.org).
- Registration fees are non-fundable and, because of our COVID 19 safety measures, registration fees are also non-transferable
- Register yourself AND others! Our online registration is for one person at a time, but one person can do multiple individual registrations using the same email address. Thanks for helping other members of your local unit to register online — especially those who may not use a computer!
- Contact us if you have a question about registration.

# UNITED WOMEN In FAITH

## Western North Carolina Conference

- What:** 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebration  
**Celebrating 153 Years in Mission**
- When:** September 9-11, 2022  
Registration begins 2pm; Program 6:45pm
- Where:** Lake Junaluska, Harrell Center

### *Keynote Weekend Speaker:*

**Tamara Clark**, Treasurer and CFO, United Women in Faith



### *Mission Speaker: Tracey*

**Owens** Deaconess serving at Brooks-Howell



### *Musician: Richard Ramsey*

**Hands-On Mission:** Gift in Memory/Gift to Mission Cards and UMCOR Hygiene Kits

### *Turn It Up! Saturday Afternoon :*

UWFaith Choir led by Richard Ramsey  
New Wineskins led by Molly Welch  
Jazzercizing 4 Jesus led by LaDonna Butts  
Flexibility in the Midst of Change led by Tamara Clark

### *Turn It Up! Highlights:*

- Hosting Missionaries for Lunch
- The Celebration Continues...- Saturday Night Entertainment
- UWF Choir on Sunday
- Inspiration Point, Rose Walk, Susanna Wesley Garden, Biblical Garden, Corneille Bryan Native Garden, 2.3-mile Lakeside Walking Trail

**Hostess District: Blue Ridge**

Complete information about Annual Celebration is available on our website:

**[www.wnccumw.org](http://www.wnccumw.org)**

**Mark your calendar!**

### **Contact Persons:**

#### **Annual Celebration Program**

Lynda Morris, Vice President  
lfmorrisap@aol.com  
704-619-2013

#### **Questions about Online Payments**

Nancy Reigel, Conference Treasurer  
nancy@reigelridge.com  
828-268-0637

#### **Questions & Assistance Online Registration**

Lynne Gilbert, Webmaster  
lgilbert.umw@gmail.com  
336-207-3479





**Lake Junaluska**  
Conference & Retreat  
Center, P. O. Box 67  
Lake Junaluska, NC 28745

**Reservations Phone #:**

1-800-222-4930 (Toll Free)

**Lake Junaluska**

**Reservations:**

**Housing Reservations**

**Open June 21, 2022**

To book Lake Junaluska  
lodging for  
Annual Celebration

Group Code : 86319

- Call the Lake Junaluska reservations department at 1-800-222-4930.
- Then select 1 for the Reservations Department, and the next available agent will be glad to assist you. The Lake Junaluska reservations team is on duty from 8:00 am until 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday.



United  
Women  
in Faith

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

Visit our Website:

[www.wnccumw.org](http://www.wnccumw.org)

Visit us on

**facebook**

[www.facebook.com/wnccumw](http://www.facebook.com/wnccumw)

**2022 Annual Celebration**

September 9-11, 2022 - Lake Junaluska, North Carolina

**Lake Junaluska Accommodations & Rates**

**The Terrace or Lambuth Inn\***

(Private baths, heat, air conditioning, TV, phone, mini fridge, coffee maker, elevator, free WI-FI) Room tax is 11%

Rates are per room, per day, room & meals, before applicable taxes

	The Terrace Room per night	Lambuth Inn Room per night	Weekend 5-Meal Package*
Single	\$125.00	\$120.00	+\$75.00
Double	\$125.00	\$120.00	+\$75.00
Triple	\$145.00	\$135.00	+\$75.00
Quad	\$165.00	\$150.00	+\$75.00

\*Lake Junaluska operates The Terrace and Lambuth Inn on an American Plan, and meals are required with the room.

**NOTE: NO SUNDAY Lunch will be provided in this package!**

**Apartments (meals optional)**

(Private baths, heat, air conditioning, TV, phone, free WI-FI, Plus 1 roll-away bed)

Rates are per room, per day, no meals, before 11% applicable taxes.

Single	\$95.00
Double	\$95.00
Triple	\$105.00
Quad	\$115.00

**NOTE: PHOTO ID and CREDIT CARD required for EACH PERSON at Check-In Payment by Credit Card or Cash....NO CHECKS!**

**Lake Junaluska Lodging Information:**

Event lodging reservation deposit is equal to the first night's lodging and is due at the time of reservation. Any rooms not reserved with a Lodging Reservations Deposit will be released into general availability 30 days prior to an event. Individual lodging reservations deposit refund policy: 15 days or more before an event receive a full refund minus \$15 processing fee; 14 days or less before an event will not receive a refund.

**EXPRESS CHECK-IN:** To expedite check-in time, pay room in full at time of reservation or when contacted via email in advance of meeting and make any roommate changes.

**CHECK IN TIME for all facilities is 4:00pm; check out is 11:00am. Photo ID and CREDIT CARD for each person for incidentals required at Check-In. For those who do not have a credit card, the Lake suggests purchasing prepaid credit card prior to arrival.**

**Meal Information:**

**NOTE: NO Sunday Lunch in this package!**

The room rate that shows on your confirmation letter is the room rate only, meals are an additional cost. Meals are optional for Apartments. Guests staying in Apartments may purchase package at \$75.00 per person for 5 consecutive meals. Children 4 through 11 years of age receive meals at half price, 3 years of age and under eat free. **A 5-meal package of \$75.00 per person will automatically be added for each person staying in The Terrace or Lambuth Inn (dinner on Friday, breakfast, lunch & dinner on Saturday, breakfast on Sunday).**

(7% NC tax and 8% gratuity will be added to all meal charges)

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



United  
Women  
in Faith

## **WNCC UMW CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

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**

Aug. 13	SMD Annual Meeting—Cullowhee UMC; 9am-12noon
Nov. 19	Leadership Training—9:00 am—12:00 noon; Location TBD