

February 2023

Women Talk



United Women in Faith

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



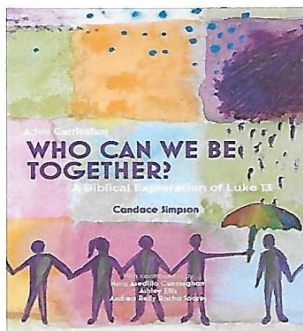
Who Can We Be Together?

Building Communities of Hope and Joy

Tri-District Mission Study via Zoom

March 18 (10:00 AM – Noon) and March 20 (6:30 PM – 8:30 PM)

Study Leader: Kim Eller



It is easy to feel isolated in today's world, what with a global pandemic, divisive political rhetoric, and the rift within our own denomination. Yet, Christ calls us to unity. Who can we be together?

We will join with our United Women in Faith sisters in Blue Ridge and Northern Piedmont Districts as we explore Luke 13 and apply the parables of Jesus to our longing for community.

The study book is available on Kindle and in paperback at smile.amazon.com. A paperback copy may also be purchased by calling 888-409-8137.

Kim Eller has served as a Mission u and district 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) Kim has served in a variety of offices and was most recently Chair for the WNCC Committee on Nominations.



Kim

Don't forget to register for this great study by going to:

[District Events | WNCC United Women in Faith \(wnccumw.org\)](https://www.wnccumw.org)



United Women in Faith

We believe
love in action
can change
the world.

faith

action

sisterhood

WHAT'S IN THIS NEWSLETTER THAT I'D BE INTERESTED IN?

Page 1—Join us for “Who Can We Be Together?”

Page 2—A Table of Contents...so you can find the things you really want to find first!...plus our Mission Statement.

Page 3—“From Our President” and “A Note from Our Treasurer.”

Page 4—2023 Vision and Goals.

Page 5—Two Virtual Events in 2023...Why? And “Hey There, Let’s Talk!”

Page 6—Smoky Mountain District 2023 Events

Page 7—Nurturing Partners for 2023 and the Legacy Fund

Page 8—The 2023 SMD UWF Executive Team Listing.

Page 9—WNCC Spiritual Growth Retreat & WNCC UWF SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.

Page 10—SMD & WNCC Calendar of Events

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.

**True faith and courage are like a kite --
An opposing wind raises it higher.**

* * * * *

*“But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew
their strength; they shall mount up with
wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be
weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.*

— Isaiah 40:31

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT:

Inspire. Influence. Impact. These are keywords for United Women in Faith. The Holy Spirit in-spires us to respond when Jesus calls us. Our faith influences how we live. Our love in action im-pacts women, children, and youth in our communities and around the world.

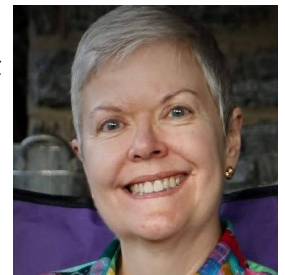
Our district theme for 2023 is, "Jesus Calls Us." Like many of you, I grew up singing a hymn about Jesus calling us "o'er the tumult." Recently, however, I came across a hymn called, "Jesus Calls Us Here to Meet Him."

Both hymns remind us of reasons we need Jesus:

- To quiet the tumult in our hearts.
- To protect us from the "idols" that would keep us bound.
- To be with us in both joys and sorrows.
- To praise the God who keeps promises.
- To tell the story that leads to life.
- To join us all in a common search for truth.

When Jesus calls us, United Women in Faith show up. We take action. We get it done. Come be in community with us in our tri-district mission study and learn Who We Can Be Together.

Peace and all good things,
Lisa Bacon, SMD President
lisabacon304@gmail.com / 828-226-2433



A NOTE FROM OUR TREASURER:

Greetings to UWF units in our District. Now is the time for us to continue our work for 2023. If you have not submitted the information card, please send your 2023 Pledge, President, and Treasurer information to me for my records.

Remember that to be recognized as a ***Mission Today Unit***, you must make and meet your pledge. We must give in all five mission channels: Pledge to Mission, Special Recognition Pin, Gift to Mission cards, Gift in Memory cards, and the World Thank Offering. Our **2023 Conference Financial Goal** this year is to increase our giving to the World Thank Offering by 10%.

Our Pledge for 2022 was \$41,500 and our giving was \$34,575.95—a drop of \$6,924.05. Our Pledge for 2023 is \$39,000. Let's set a goal that we will meet this Pledge this year.

Let us thank God for the opportunity to be a part of UWF'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



**We believe love in action
can change the world.**

Faith. Action. Sisterhood.



United
Women
in Faith

Western North Carolina

2023 VISION & GOALS

- **Raise awareness about our Purpose as United Women in Faith**
- **Raise awareness and promote personal advocacy for our two United Women in Faith 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**, emphasizing the safety and wellness of ALL of our members as they participate in meetings and gatherings. Consistently lean into the first of John Wesley's General Rules, "Do no harm," in everything we do.
- **Encourage local units to build relationships with and support the United Women in Faith mission institutions in our conference:** Alliance Center for Education Charlotte, Bethlehem Center Winston-Salem, Brooks-Howell Home, Bennett College, and Pfeiffer University
- **Achieve our 2023 Conference Financial Goal:** Each local unit increase their Mission Giving through the World Thank Offering channel by 10%.
- **Turn faith, hope, and love into action on behalf of women, children, and youth around the world as we live out our Purpose as United Women in Faith!**

Our Purpose:

The organized unit of **United Women in Faith** 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.

In love and action,

Your WNC United Women in Faith Team

Two Virtual Events in 2023? Why?!

"I thought the pandemic was over! Why are two of our four district events virtual?"

Good question, and one with several answers.

No travel time is required, so women on a tight schedule can participate.

Women with children or other responsibilities at home can participate.

Virtual meetings support several of our 13 Steps to Sustainability: accessibility, affordability, carbon footprint, and waste reduction.

We can connect with United Women in Faith members in other districts, strengthening bonds across the conference.

We can invite speakers and other event participants from all over the country (or world!).



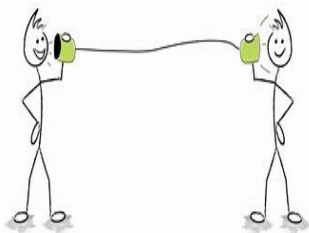
"OK, but I still really like in-person gatherings. Nothing beats the energy of United Women in Faith members gathered in the same space, and I enjoy hands-on activities."



We agree, and that's why our Spiritual Growth and Learn & Lead events will be in person. We hope to see you online and in person in 2023!!



We cannot discover new oceans unless
we have the courage to lose sight of the shore.

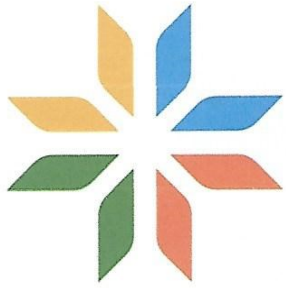


HEY THERE...LET'S TALK:

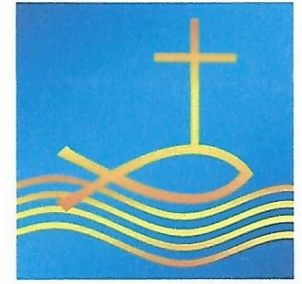
We try to send this newsletter out to officers (and other interested individuals) of all SMD UWF units, using email wherever possible, and snail mail for the rest. If one of your officers is not receiving this document, please let me know so I can correct that. This publication can be helpful to all your members so please remember to 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
310 Cassady Ln, Murphy, NC 28906





Smoky Mountain District
United Women in Faith
2023 Events
“Jesus Calls Us”

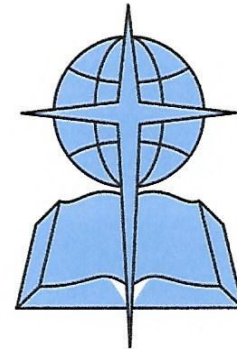


Tri-District Mission Study
Who Can We Be Together?
Virtual via Zoom
March 18 — 10:00 AM – Noon
March 20 — 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM



Spiritual Growth Retreat
Jesus Calls Us Here to Meet Him
May 6 — 9:30 AM to Noon
Oak Forest UMC, Hayesville

Annual Celebration
Jesus Calls Us: “Be My Witness”
Virtual via Zoom
August 12 — 10:00 AM – Noon



Influence & Impact Event: Learning and Leading!
Jesus Calls Us to Each Other
November 4 — 9:00 AM to Noon
Location TBD

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

SMD NURTURING PARTNERS FOR 2023

NURTURING PARTNER	UWF UNITS
Lisa Bacon	Love's Chapel, Sylva First
Debbie Ray	Crabtree (w/ Nancy W), Long's Chapel, Canton Central, Bryson City
Gail Powell	Beaverdam, Clyde Central, Fincher's Chapel
Velma Zeek	Franklin First, Andrews
Esther Manchester	Oak Forest, Ranger, Tomotla, Robbinsville
Ellynn Stonebraker	Cullowhee, Hayesville, Murphy First
Julie Leatherwood	Maggie Valley, Plains
JoAnn Black	Webster
Judy Starnes	Cruso, Elizabeth Chapel
Erlinda Rogers	Waynesville First, Maple Grove
Reatha Cabe	Rockwood
Nancy Watkins	Crabtree (w/ Debbie R), Piney Grove
Judy Bromley	Canton First, Shady Grove



Ways to Give to the Legacy Fund

- ◇ Make a gift to the Legacy Fund through your local unit United Women in Faith treasurer.
- ◇ Make a one time donation or consider becoming a Legacy Builder by giving a monthly gift of \$18.69 or more.
- ◇ 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 <https://uwfaith.org/give/legacy-fund/>
- ◇ **By phone:** 800-278-7771 (8 am—6 pm EST, M-F)
- ◇ **By check:** note "Legacy Fund" in memo and mail to: United Women in Faith, Attn: Legacy, 475 Riverside Drive, Suite 1500, 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.



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

United Women in Faith 2023 Smoky Mountain District Executive Team

President:

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

Vice President:

[Open]

Secretary:

JoAnn 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:

[Open]

Education & Interpretation:

[Open]

Spiritual Growth:

[Open]

Membership, Nurture & Outreach:

[Open]

Program Resources:

Nancy Watkins (Waynesville 1st)
46 Flint Street
Waynesville, NC 28786
Phone: 828-550-5927
Email: nmhwatkins@gmail.com

Communications Coordinator:

Nancy Jo Willis (Murphy First)
310 Cassidy 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:

[Open]

Nurturing Partner Coordinator

Debbie Ray (Waynesville 1st)
569 Country Club Drive
Waynesville, NC 28786
Phone: 828-400-3499
Email: wray@charter.net

Nominations Chairperson:

Velma Zeek (South Macon)
P. O. Box 360
Otto, NC 28763
Phone: 828-369-5782
Email: Vzeek56@frontier.com

Nominations:

Esther Manchester (Murphy First)
P. O. Box 256
Brasstown, NC 28902
Phone: 828-226-7481
Email: ehm1@yahoo.com

Gail Powell (Elizabeth Chapel)
129 Paige Lane
Clyde, NC 28721
Home Phone: 828-627-6154
Cell Phone: 828-507-4556
Email: gailpowell@bellsouth.net

Louise Pressley (Cruso)
407 Mt Crest Ln
Canton, NC 28715
Phone: 828-648-0266

Erlinda Rogers (Long's Chapel)
83 Hill Street
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Sheila Snow (Murphy First)
105 Van Horn Street
Murphy, NC 28906
Phone: 828-361-6009
Email: sheilagsnow@gmail.com

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

**Conference Liaison & Member of
WNCC UWF Committee On**

Nominations

Debbie Ray (Waynesville 1st)
569 Country Club Drive
Waynesville, NC 28786
Phone: 828-400-3499
Email: wray@charter.net

(1/30/23)

*WNCC United Women in Faith
2023 Spiritual Growth Retreat
Thursday June 8 - Saturday June 10*



Online Registration
Coming Soon!

Retreat Leader
Rev. Jan Brittain

Musician
Catherine Ritch

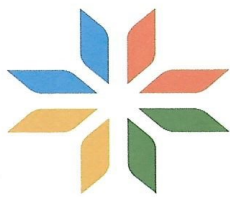
Song Leader
Rev. Mark Barden

Lake Junaluska Accommodations
Reservations Open February 22, 2023, Call 800-222-4930

Room rates per night.

Hotel Lodging	Single	Double	Triple	Quad	Meals (5)
Terrace Hotel	\$135.00	\$135.00	\$155.00	\$175.00	\$82.50
Lambuth Inn	\$135.00	\$135.00	\$150.00	\$165.00	\$82.50
Lake Junaluska Apartments	\$105.00	\$105.00	\$115.00	\$125.00	Meal plan not included.

United
Women
in Faith



WNCC United Women in Faith SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Do you know a student who is a member of one of the WNCC United Methodist Churches? Will they attend one of the United Methodist supported institutions in our conference (Bennett College, Breward College, Greensboro College, High Point University, Pfeiffer University) for the fall semester 2023?

Then they are eligible to apply for a WNCC United Women in Faith 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: jatana.royster@gmail.com

Applications are due by **March 1, 2023**. Interviews will be conducted on Saturday March 25, 2023.

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

WNCC United Women in Faith Scholarship Committee Chairperson

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

TO:



United
Women
in Faith

2023 UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH CONFERENCE & DISTRICT EVENTS

WNCC UWF CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 8-10	Spiritual Growth Retreat—Lake Junaluska
July 13-15	Mission u—Pfeiffer University
Sept. 8-10	WNCC UWF Annual Celebration—Lake Junaluska
Oct. 7, 14, 28	Ubuntu Days of Service—multiple locations
Oct. 21	District Leadership Development—Virtual

SMD UWF CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Jan. 28	Planning & Revitalization via Zoom; 10:00 am-Noon
Mar. 18 & 20	Mission Study with BR & NP Districts via Zoom Saturday 10 am—Noon; Monday 6:30—8:30 pm
May 6	Spiritual Growth Retreat—Oak Forest UMC, Hayesville; 9:30 am—Noon
Aug. 12	Annual Celebration via Zoom; 10 am—Noon
Nov. 4	Influence & Impact Event: Learning and Leading! Location TBD; 9:00 am—Noon