



United
Women
in Faith

Western North Carolina

Uwharrie District * Western North Carolina Conference * United Women in Faith * 2nd. Quarter 2023



President Sarah's Thoughts on Spring & New Things



Just recently the trees that spent the whole winter with bare branches have sprouted small, white flowers. It's truly beautiful to watch winter melt into spring. I go outside and feel the sun bring new warmth. It's familiar but new all at once.

[Isaiah 43:19](#) says, "*See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.*"

Sometimes in order to come into a new season and spring forward in faith, **we have to let go of the old season.** Isaiah 43:18 says, "*Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past.*" One of the many lessons life teaches us is to let go & let God. We can't hang on to past hurts, past struggles, and past relationships. And, sometimes this means we have to give ourselves [time to grieve](#) in order to move forward. We may have to let ourselves feel the loss, be sad for a little while, and talk to someone who cares. After we've grieved, we can pick ourselves up and start looking ahead once again.

As spring starts to surface and the trees begin to bloom, we can see God's reminder to align our hearts to the new things He's doing. Let us go to prayer, asking Jesus to help us embrace all the "new" he has in store for us: a new name: United Women in Faith, New Circles & Units, New Program Resources, New Relationships, New Offices within UWF, New Events, New Mission Walks, New Mission Activities, and much, much, more. As we carry out our missions for women, children, & youth we are reminded that we need to Let Go, & Let God and continue to be the hands & feet of Jesus in this world.

President Sarah's Thoughts on Spring & New Things

There are many new things for you to participate in this spring & summer: The Prayer Breakfast April 22nd at Central in Monroe, the Mission Walks starting in May at various locations throughout the District, & a wonderful Spiritual Growth Retreat at Lake Junaluska June 8-10th. There's no better way to become renewed and to experience God than to be at Lake Junaluska!! I hope you all will come, you definitely should not miss that great weekend of renewal, please make it a priority; you will be glad that you did!!

Dear Lord, Thank you for developing me into the person You want me to be. I have to admit to Jesus that sometimes I find it hard to let go of old things even when I know they are holding me back. Help me, Lord, to truly see this spring season for what it is: a lovely reminder of how beautiful change can truly be. As flowers begin to adorn the trees once again and fresh grass rises up from the ground, renew in me the strength to let go of the past and move forward in my faith journey with You. Amen

Sarah Lee, Uwharrie UWF President



\$\$\$ Notes from the Treasurer

We have completed Q1 collections and will submit our Q1 remittance to the Conference before March 10th. We will be sending \$6,884.50 or 17.2% of our Pledge to Mission so far, which is behind, however we hope to improve as the year goes along. Several groups have not yet started to meet in person.

Total Mission Giving paid to WNCC was \$8,835.00. No funds were collected or sent for Walk to Mission or Legacy Fund in Q1.

Local Treasurers, your Q2 Remittances are due in by May 31st. You will be receiving a letter from me in early May with additional information. And, one note to everyone; although our name has changed to United Women in Faith, our legal name remains as United Methodist Women. So, please keep your bank account names as is and please continue to make checks payable to Uwharrie District UMW for District submittals and WNCC UMW for Conference submittals.

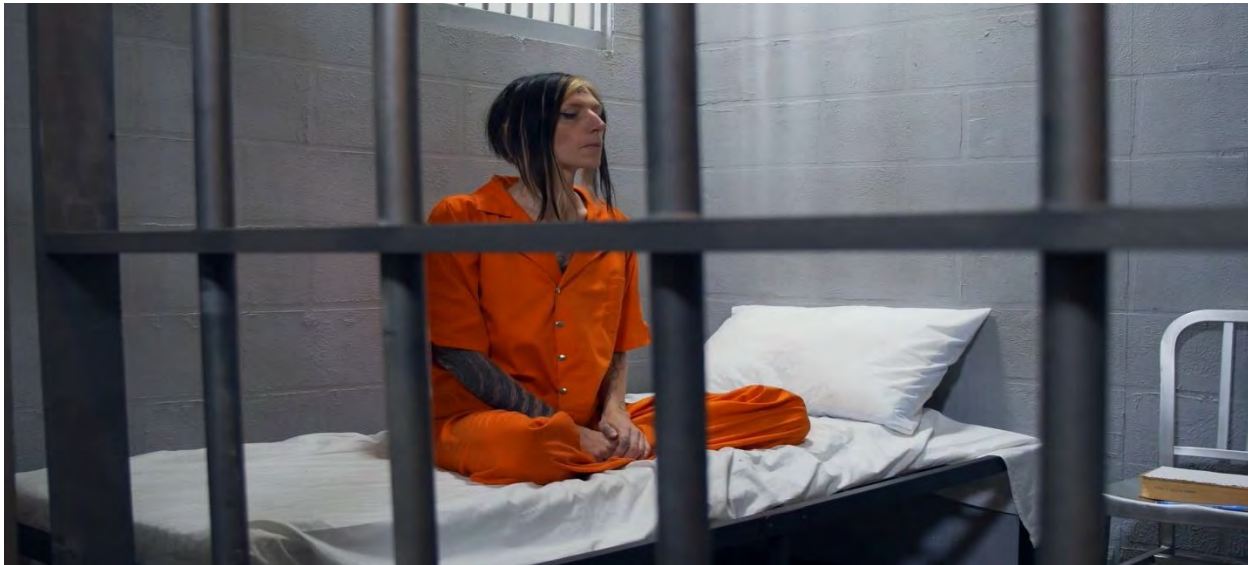
Jeanette Mixon Uwharrie District Treasurer

Criminalization of Black Women and Girls

Currently the rate of white women in prison is half that of African-American women. In 1980 there were 26,326 women in prison compared to 2020 where that number climbed to 152,854 women. That means that there are five times as many women in prison in 2020 than in 1980. Tribal girls are four times more likely to be imprisoned than white girls and African-American girls are three times more likely to be imprisoned than white girls. This increase is due to more involvement of women in crime, stiffer drug sentences and post conviction barriers. The highest state with incarcerated women is Idaho with 110 per 100,000 females. Here in North Carolina our rate is 36 per 100,000 women. In most cases criminal offenses are drug or property offenses. Typically, girls' offenses are truancy and curfew violations. More than half of all runaways are girls. Fifty eight percent of all incarcerated women have a child under the age of 18. For all these reasons the United Women in Faith are addressing this issue.

If you want to know more, I recommend the book *A Knock at Midnight* by Brittany Barnett on our 2023 reading list.

Gay Smith
Social Action



The Reading Program

A cherished tradition that brings together members, where we can explore, share and discuss books. I encourage each of you to visit the website <https://uwfaith.org/resources/reading-program> to find the 2023 booklist.

You will also find the years 2018-2022. These books may also be read. There are several reading plans to choose from. Also, check out the digitals now available in the form of "Faith Talks," which are conversations held online with other United Women in Faith. There are "Podcasts" that include audios from the Response magazine.

There are "Voices From the Field" webinars. These webinars help you learn about initiatives that benefit directly from Mission Giving. Leaders in the program tell you about their work, daily challenges, hopes and dreams. There are movies that also count toward your reading certificate. It's great to listen while you are traveling.

If you haven't subscribed to the Response Magazine, I strongly encourage you to do so.

Topics cover everything from spiritual growth, living our faith, and reports from local national, and international work.

The Reading Program addresses many issues, such as racism and climate change, Together we can build a better world by learning through books!

Carla Carrick
Program Resources





Hands on Missions for

Prayer Breakfast April 22nd. @ Central Monroe - Hygiene and Menstrual Kits – New and barely used household items .

Spiritual Growth June 8th. – 10th., - @ Lake Junaluska - As I receive information on where donations will be taken at Lake Junaluska, I will inform you by email.

I would like us to form a group on our next Mission Trip to the Mission Response Center located in Mooresville. If a group has a specific time that would benefit their schedule, please inform me and I will do my best to schedule a time we can get together for a few hours, to organize our Missions.

This is truly a rewarding experience. I would love to give everyone an opportunity to be involved with Hands on Missions.

See below a terrific example of Hands on Missions:

The United Women of Faith unit at Norwood First United Methodist church made Covid Cleaning bags with paper towels, toilet tissue, antibacterial disinfectant, dish detergent , laundry detergent, sponges & more to distribute to the needy women in the community.



UWF is Rocking in Missions,
Thank you, thank you!

Vickie Brown – Mission Education Interpretation Coordinator

Vickiebrown961@gmail.com

336-596-5523



Membership Nurture and Outreach

The Uwharrie District raised \$4,605.25 for Walk for Mission in 2022. I am sending a very special **Thank you!!** to everyone who walked with us last year.

We are planning to have 5 walks again this year.

The walk dates are: **May 6, Central UMC Denton;**
May 27, Dan Nicholas Park Salisbury;
June 3, Grimes Park Lexington;
June 24, Tawanda Park, Monroe;
and our **final walk July 29, at Randolph Mall, Asheboro**

.Each walk will be **from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.** remember to ***bring your water bottle, snacks will be provided.***

Remember the unit with the most walkers at each walk will be entered into a drawing for a Mission Recognition Pin.

The 2022 winner was Bethlehem, Waxhaw.

If you prefer to walk individually or with a group from your unit on a different day that would be great, just have your treasurer turn the money into Jeanette Mixon when she makes her quarterly remittance notating the amount for walks and how many walkers participated.

We plan to see your smiling faces as we walk for our Missions.

Carolyn Thompson,
Uwharrie Membership Nurture & Outreach

NOMINATIONS REPORT

Greetings from the Nominations Committee,
We all are blessed with Spiritual Gifts made to use and share with others. Nominations currently seeking fresh faces with new ideas and gifts to share with our Uwharrie team at the District level.
The Nominations Committee is searching for willing sisters in Christ to serve as a District officer. Please contact a District Officer or your Nurturing Partner for more information. The positions needing to be filled for 2023 are:

Secretary
MEI (Mission Education & Interpretation)

If you would like to step up, step out and share your Spiritual Gifts as Secretary or MEI Coordinator, please contact any district team member or Co-Chairs:

Gay Smith
gaysmith@fastmail.fm

or

Leigh Harris
Kharris72@triad.rr.com

You will be blessed to serve with each of your current District Team officers.

Thank you,
Gay Smith
Leigh Harris
Co-Chairs Uwharrie District UWF
Nominations Committee

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

Faith. Action. Sisterhood.



Secretary

You are one of the Great Ones and far more important than you may realize

Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever. (Dan. 12:3)

Often when I ask someone what they do in the church, they often respond by saying something like: “Oh, I’m just the church secretary” or “Oh, I just help work on the church newsletter” and similar self-deprecating statements.

Those of you doing church communications are the great ones of the kingdom of God. That bulletin you faithfully create may be the first and only piece of Christian literature a visitor has ever seen. Your care in layout, your welcome in it, your explanation of how to find the nursery, and an invitation to coffee, might cause her to listen a bit more openly to the sermon and find Jesus in it.

That flier for the youth program may be shared with a teenager living with his single mom. He might not have anybody to talk to, to struggle with through the questions and temptations all teenagers face. But that flier might bring him to an event where he can meet a church family who cares, a youth leader who will listen, and be introduced to a Father who will never leave.

That newsletter or updated website that you stayed late to put out might contain a devotion that helps a shut-in manage through another day of pain. Or it might have a schedule that brings a newly single person to a potluck and helps ease the hurt of a recent divorce.

Lives are changed for time and eternity because of what you are doing today—with that contrary computer, a crushing workload, and those impossible deadlines. Our District Team is in need of this very special person right now. Without a secretary we will not have a record of the many mission events & activities that we do. This is a new time in the life of United Women in Faith & the secretary’s position is more vital than ever! Please if you have any experience in this area, or even if you don’t but can write & take minutes then we desperately need you! You would be able to tape/record the meetings so that you would not have to worry about missing any important information.

The Lord took dust and made humanity. You follow in his image as you take words and type, images and clip art and form them into messages that come alive and minister in the world in which he’s placed you. Thank you for considering this very important & needed position.

Sit tall, smile, work encouraged today—you are one of the Great Ones in the kingdom of heaven.

If you feel you can help us in any way with the secretarial position please contact Leigh Harris

Kharris72@triad.rr.com or Gay Smith at gaysmith@fastmail.fm



Mother's Day is Sunday, May 14: Perfect **Legacy Fund** Gift Idea

Honor someone who has been instrumental in your life with a contribution to the **UWF Legacy Fund**

Mother, Grandmother, Aunt, Teacher, Pastor, the possibilities are endless. You can mail your contributions to the UWF Legacy Fund. We would love to see representation from every Church in our District.

You can mail your contribution to our Uwharrie District UWF treasurer
Jeanette Mixon, 235 Woodbrier Drive, Lexington, NC 27292

Thank you in advance.

Jane Ellickson, Legacy Fund Representative janellickson@aol.com



PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

Ground Rules for Effective Meetings

1. Set time limits before starting
2. Share all relevant information
3. Focus on Interests not positions
4. Disagree openly; issues, not personalities
5. Keep discussions focused
6. Make statements, invite questions & comments
7. Discuss undiscussable issues
8. All members participate in all phases
9. Make decisions by consensus
10. Respect each other

Donna Owens – Parliamentarian

Historian

March is known today as Women's History Month. When was this first observed in the United States? The answer to this question is 1987. While the first International Women's Day was held in 1911 in the school district of Sonoma; California participated in Women's History Week in 1979, but it was expanded by the U.S. Congress in 1987 to include an entire month. This fact and others can be found in the "Women in Methodism Quiz" on this UMC website:

<https://www.umc.org/en/content/united-methodist-womens-quiz>

Check out the entire quiz and others on the Methodist history – Mother's edition. Have a wonderful spring as God paints the landscape in colorful bloom, blue skies, and butterflies!!!!

Cheri Barker, Historian

P.S. Please send me copies of any pictures of local events so we may celebrate them and include in district archives.





Ladies, I am so thankful for your support in communicating and providing me the necessary information needed for our newsletter.

What a wonderful inspiration to learn more about our District and how we can assist in helping others in the community and around the world.

If you would like to share your thoughts in your units/circles on ways you are changing the world, please email me your story and a small picture and I will share with our outreach.

To provide you with a sample on what I need I have a story from Central - Denton. The Central unit voted to purchase books for the preschool. Central UWF continue to provide Books for Babies on several projects they have during the year for the children's events in the community.

Sharing a book with a child introduces children to the world around them.



Vickie Brown - Communications Coordinator - vickiebrown961@gmail.com

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

Faith. Action. Sisterhood.



United
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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 WNCC United Women in Faith Team

wnccumw.org • facebook.com/wnccumw • uwfaith.org



Smile its Springtime!

Let's Notice Needs by:

- Listening
- Watching and
- Acting

Proverbs 20:12 The hearing ear and the seeing eye, the Lord has made them both "Be watching and listening to those around you".

- That's what God does in our lives. He watches and listens and responds in loving care for our every need.
- Pray that God leads us to people who need encouragement, support, and prayer.
- The Blessing bags can be distributed to those in need with a prayer inside the blessing bag. This helps in giving them encouragement and to know that someone does care about them; as God cares and loves us all.

Acts 9:36 Dorcas for example was a woman of good works and charitable deeds. She nurtured widows that needed clothes and she acted upon it.

Pray to God each day for him to lead us to people in need of
Support, encouragement and prayer.

Spiritual Growth is scheduled for June 8-10 @Lake Junaluska. I pray you can all gather with us to learn and receive inspiration on how to act in making a difference in the lives of others.

Prayer Breakfast is scheduled for April 22nd @Central, Monroe. This provides us time to realize we are all Blessed to know God is with us. God is our Leader, we are not alone. God is by our side as we continue with our Mission of assisting Women, children, and youth around the world.

Psalm 37:23 Our steps are ordered by the Lord, and he lights our paths in helping, supporting, caring, listening, watching, acting, and loving others.



Spring Blessings to my UWF Sisters,
Vickie Brown - Vice President
vickiebrown961@gmail.com

Join us for Uwharrie's 2023

United Women in Faith

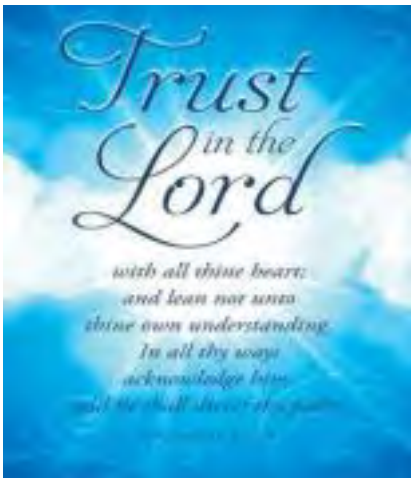
Prayer Breakfast

April 22, 2023

Central Monroe United Methodist Church

801 S Hayne St, Monroe, NC 28112

10:15am to 12:15pm



“Trust in the Lord” Proverbs 3:5-6

Registration and Light
Breakfast starts at 9:30

Guest Speaker: Laura Auten

Uwharrie District Superintendent

Registration Deadline: April 14, 2023 Cost: \$7.00

We will be collecting for our Hands on Missions: Hygiene Kits, Menstrual Kits and Household items new or barely used and includes items such as flatware/plates/pots/pans/plastic bowls, linens and glassware wrapped well with a towel or soft material.

We are excited about our Uwharrie Prayer Breakfast and being able to enjoy a light breakfast and worship with our sisters in Christ. We are called to “Trust in the Lord”.

Proverbs 3: 5-6 tells us:

Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him and he shall direct thy paths.

Our excitement continues with having our Uwharrie District Superintendent, Laura Auten leading us in worship.

So spread the word, bring your sisters from your units and circles and let's come together praising the Lord. God is so good. If we trust in him, he will direct our paths.

A Love offering will be taken for a Gift to Mission.

If you have any questions, please contact Pat Jarvis, Spiritual Growth Coordinator at 336-318- 5127. We look forward to seeing you on April 22rd. Please complete the registration form below and mail it to Jeanette by April 14th.

Registration Form

Church: _____

City / County: _____

President: _____ Phone: _____ Number

attending Prayer Breakfast: _____ x \$7.00 = \$_____ Please indicate Names of Attendees

_____ Make

Checks Payable to Uwharrie District UMW (one per unit please)

Any monies not used for the Prayer Breakfast will go toward our District Mission Pledge

Return to Jeanette Mixon, District Treasurer by April 14th

Jeanette Mixon (District Treasurer) 235 Woodbrier Drive, Lexington, NC 27292

Uwharrie United Women in Faith

2023 DISTRICT TEAM

President	Sarah Lee 40645 Mt. Zion Church Rd. Norwood, N.C. 28128	704-474-4764 / 704-984-0165 (c) First, Norwood accurse@rocketmail.com
Vice-President	Victoria Brown (Vickie) 9252 NC HWY 8 Lexington, NC 27292	336-596-5523 (c) Central, Denton vickiebrown961@gmail.com
Secretary	TBD	
Treasurer	Jeanette Mixon 235 Woodbrier Drive Lexington, NC 27292	336-798-3082/336-239-4577 (c) Bethany, Lexington mixonjx@yahoo.com
Secretary of Program Resources	Carla Carrick 649 Newsom Lane Denton, NC 27239	336-859-3346/336-250-1746 (c) Bethany, Lexington ccarrick1975@gmail.com
Spiritual Growth	Pat Jarvis 5151 Pisgah Covered Bridge Rd. Asheboro, NC 27205	336-381-3848 / 336-318-5127 (c) Pisgah, Asheboro pjarvisUMW@rtmc.net
Membership Nurture & Outreach	Carolyn Thompson 188 Joshua Court Apt. 13 Lexington, NC 27295	336-242-9685 / 336-302-6335 (c) Linwood ncthompson@ptmc.net
Social Action	Gay Smith 364 Lester Drive Lexington, NC 27292	336-479-3822 First, Lexington gaysmith@fastmail.fm
Mission Education & Interpretation Communications Coordinator	TBD Victoria Brown (Vickie) 9252 NC HWY 8 Lexington, NC 27292	 336-596-5523 (c) Central, Denton vickiebrown961@gmail.com

Nominations, Chair Co-Chair	Leigh Harris 859 Chartier Ct. Asheboro, NC 27205	336-629-0746/336-302-4636 (c) Central, Asheboro kharris72@triad.rr.com
Nominations, Chair Co-Chair	Gay Smith 364 Lester Drive Lexington, NC 27292	336-479-3822 First, Lexington gaysmith@fastmail.fm
Nominations	Wanda Craven 269 Baney Drive Lexington, NC 27292	336-236-9863/336-425-5105 (c) St. Stephen, Lexington Wandacraven269@yahoo.com
Nominations	Linda Beddingfield 2477 Danny Bell Road Asheboro, NC 27205	336-672-0014 First, Asheboro klbeddingfield@hotmail.com
Nominations	Cindy Carter 3720 Tom Starnes Rd. Waxhaw, NC 28173	1-423-612-1421 Bethlehem, Waxhaw nannyoma6@gmail.com
Nominations	Betty Hunt 1206 Ben Lambeth Rd. Asheboro, NC 27205	336-629-5300/336-964-8200 (c) New Union, Asheboro (mail correspondence please)
Nominations	Donna Owens 614 Kildee Drive Lexington, NC 27292	336-249-2664 / 336-479-6082 (c) St. Stephen, Lexington 1donna.owens@gmail.com
Historian	Cheri Barker 515 S Elm Street Marshville, N.C. 28103	704-242-4851 Central, Monroe cherib47@yahoo.com
Parliamentarian	Donna Owens 614 Kildee Drive Lexington, NC 27292	336-249-2664 / 336-479-6082 (c) St. Stephen, Lexington 1donna.owens@gmail.com
Legacy Fund Representative	Jane Ellickson P.O. Box 521 Marshville, N.C. 28103	704-624-5468/704-290-7519 (c) Marshville UMC janellickson@aol.com
Conference Representative	Darlene Gardner 5209 Bridge Pointe Drive Clemmons, NC 27012	336-766-1552 / 336-408-4364 (c) Centenary, Clemmons gardnerdarlenel@gmail.com

Uwharrie District United Women in Faith
9252 NC Hwy 8
Lexington NC 27292



Upcoming Events

April 22 Uwharrie Prayer Breakfast(Trust in the Lord)-Communion and Memorial Service
Location: Central, Monroe -801 South Hayne Street Monroe, NC
Registration 9:30,Mtg.10:15-12:15, Speaker: Rev. Laura Auten, Uwharrie District Superintendent

May 06 Uwharrie Walk for Mission 9-11 Central Denton

May 27 Uwharrie Walk for Mission 9-11 Dan Nicholas Park, Salisbury

June 8-10 Spiritual Growth Retreat "Women Coming to Christ" Lake Junaluska