



United
Women
in Faith

Western North Carolina

Blue Ridge District Newsletter
United Women in Faith

We are a community of women whose purpose is to know God and 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.

Turn It Up! With Prayer

*The Blue Ridge District cordially invites you to attend the
Prayer Breakfast.*

Saturday, April 22, 2023

Weaverville United Methodist Church

Weaverville, NC

Time: 10:00 am (service)

Cost \$10 (includes breakfast)

Guest Speaker: Tonya Lanier

Hands on Mission: Period Packs (Menstrual Kits)



Love Offering: Gift to honor the mission institutions in the Western North Carolina Conference: Alliance Center, Charlotte; Brooks Howell Retirement Home, Asheville; Bethlehem Center, Winston Salem; Pfeiffer College, Misenheimer; Bennett College, Greensboro

Unit Presidents will soon be receiving registration forms in the mail, and we ask that you respond to those as soon as possible so we can get a correct count for food.

Directions to Weaverville United Methodist Church: From I-40 East: Take exit 53B for I-240W toward Asheville, Keep left, follow signs for UNC-Asheville and merge onto 1-240W, Take exit 4A for US 19N/US 23N/US 70 W/I-26 toward Weaverville, Continue on I-26 for about 8 miles. Take exit 19B toward Weaverville, Merge onto Weaver Blvd, Turn right onto N. Main St, Church is on the left but fellowship hall is on the right. **From I-40 West:** Take exit 46B to merge onto I-240 E/I-26 W toward Asheville. Use the left lane to take exit 4A for US 19/US23/US 70W/I-26 toward UNC-Asheville/Weaverville. Follow directions above. **From 1-26 West:** Follow I-26W, Keep right at fork to stay on I 26W/Asheville/I-240, Use the left lane to take exit 4A for US 19/US23/US 70W/I-26 toward UNC-Asheville/Weaverville. Follow directions above.

**Blue Ridge District United Methodist Women
2023 OFFICERS**

<p><u>President:</u> Gwen Harris (Windom) 215 Grand View Lane Burnsville, NC 28714 (828) 682-4589 gwenaharris68@gmail.com</p>	<p><u>Vice President:</u> Lucy Earls (Oak Grove) 913 Race Path Church Rd. Ellenboro, NC 28040 (828) 453-8566 jlearls@att.net</p>	<p><u>Secretary:</u> Glenda Fuhrmann (Central) 10 Dustin Drive Swannanoa, NC 28778 (828) 337-2617 glendafuhrman@yahoo.com</p>	<p><u>Treasurer:</u> Linda Johns (Skyland) 22 North Oak Terrace Arden, NC 28704 C: (828) 712-9266 uwifbtreas@gmail.com</p>
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<p><u>Secretary of Program Resources:</u> Jeannette Byrd (St. Paul's) 203 Aurora Dr. Asheville, NC 28805 (828) 230-5308 jbyrdasheville@aol.com</p>	<p><u>Communications Coordinator:</u> Tammy Long (Moore's Grove) 240 Seasons Circle, Apt. 102 Fletcher, NC 28732 (828) 774-6010 lynntb79@gmail.com</p>	<p><u>Data Processing:</u> Carol Bryson (Grace) 14 Buckner Road Leicester, NC 28748 (828) 776-0678 csbryson64@gmail.com</p>	<p><u>Parliamentarian:</u> Betty J. Letzig (St. Paul's) 266 Merrimon Ave. Asheville, NC 28801 (828) 225-0414 MoHar1926@outlook.com</p>
<p><u>Historian:</u> Barbara E. Campbell (St. Paul's) 266 Merrimon Ave. Asheville, NC 28801 (828) 225-0414 ernestm1138@outlook.com</p>			
<u>Committee On Nominations</u>			
<p>Dorothy Johnson (Addie's Chapel) 63 Tomahawk Trail Marion, NC 28752 (828) 738-8148 (828) 460-3778 dot.johnson47@gmail.com Class of 2023</p>	<p>Susan Snell (Central) 30 Sunflower Lane Fletcher, NC 28732 (828) 551-0736 ssnell123@bellsouth.net Class of 2023</p>	<p>Shelia Cuthbertson (Rutherfordton First) 177 Carolina Paradise Rutherfordton, NC 28139 (828) 289-1281 fredpie25@gmail.com Class of 2024</p>	<p>Jackie Rio (Black Mountain) 101 Second Street Black Mountain, NC 28711 (828) 669-2885 jackierio@charter.net Class of 2025</p>
<p>Eva Farren (Piney Mountain) 14 St. Matthews Drive Candler, NC 28715-6207 (828) 231-3820 evafarren@icloud.com Class of 2025</p>	<p>Karen Anderson (Skyland) 9 Chestnut Mtn. Ridge Asheville, NC 28803 (828) 628-9385 kanderson95@gmail.com Class of 2025</p>	<p>Carol Bryson (Grace) 14 Buckner Road Leicester, NC 28748 (828) 776-0678 csbryson64@gmail.com Class of 2025</p>	
<p><u>Members at Large</u> Dixie Liggett, (Skyland), 8 Springside Park, Asheville, NC 28803, (828) 684-1831, liliggett3@charter.net Martha Phillips, (Pine Grove) P. O. Box , Linville Falls, NC 28647 (828) 467-3167, mewphillips@gmail.com</p>			
<p><u>Conference Advisor</u> Joanie Strohm (Weaverville), 111Collins Road, Marshall, NC 28753, (828) 649-1166, sjsmars@charter.net</p>			

**2023 NURTURING PARTNER for BLUE RIDGE
PLEASE ASK YOUR NURTURING PARTNER TO COME VISIT**

Nurturing Partner	Church	Nurturing Partner	Church
Carol Byson (828) 776-0678	Biltmore	Jeannette Byrd (828) 230-5308	Central Mills River
Sheila Cuthbertson (828) 289-1281	Caroleen Spindale	Barbara E. Campbell (828) 225-0414	Asbury Memorial
Lucy Earls (828) 453-8566 (828) 223-1325	First Forest City Saluda Brook's Chapel	Gwen Harris (828) 682-4589	Bald Creek Mars Hill Weaverville Addie's Chapel Thermal City
Dorothy Johnson (828) 738-8148 (828) 460-3778	Clinchfield Marion First Pleasant Grove	Leith Tate (828) 301-6028	Skyland Salem
Betty J. Letzig (828) 225-0414	Fletcher	Jackie Rio (828) 669-2885	Groce
Tracey Owens (828) 246-6006	Black Mountain Oak Grove	Martha Phillips (828) 467-3167	Spruce Pine Windom East Marion Trinity Nebo
Joanie Strohm (828) 649-1156	Alexander Clark's Piney Mountain	Karen Anderson (828) 628-9385	St. Paul's Abernethy
Jennie Greenway (828) 453-9637	Edneyville Hendersonville First Moore's Grove	Stephanie Goudreau (828) 460-2463	First Rutherfordton Gilkey Pleasant Hill-Marion Concord
Susan Snell (828) 551-0736	Sardis Oakley	Eva Farren (828) 231-3820	Grace Balfour
Glenda Fuhrmann (828) 337-2617	Montmorenci		



United Women in Faith

Mission Today—2023

United Methodist Women, Western North Carolina Conference
Make a Difference! Become a Mission Today Unit!

The purpose of promoting a Mission Today unit is to:

Energize United Methodist Women to be more involved in mission through prayer, study and action. Increase contacts between units and mission personnel and mission projects so the United Methodist Women understand where their money goes. Encourage the use of mission resources through United Methodist Women. Expand concepts of mission, including social justice as mission.

What is a Unit?

A unit is any organized group of United Methodist Women within a church or district. Some units are composed of several circles, which periodically get together for a unit meeting.

How Do We Become a Mission Today Unit?

In order to be recognized as a Mission Today Unit, (Gold, Silver or Bronze) UMW units must complete a number of the following criteria as indicated in text box to the left. Activities conducted between January 1 – December 31 of the reporting year will be recognized at annual meetings/Annual Celebration in the following year. This is an ongoing program, so strive to become a Mission Today Unit!

Mission Today Criteria:

Gold: Complete 10 criteria:
6 with asterisks (*)
and 4 other. **

Silver: Complete 8 criteria:
4 with asterisks (*)
and 4 other. **

Bronze: Complete 6 criteria:
4 with asterisks (*)
and 2 other. **

** Note: "Other" may also include items with asterisks (*).

Criteria:

- *1. The unit will make a Pledge to Mission.
- *2. The unit will use the Prayer Guide at each general meeting or circle meeting of the unit to pray for persons in mission and our mission work with women, children and youth. A new Prayer Guide is printed annually and may be ordered from the Mission Resource Center. Prayer Guide entries are posted on our UMW website and Face Book page.
- *3. The unit will use at least two programs from the Program Book during the year. A new Program Book is printed every year and may be ordered from the Mission Resource Center.
- *4. The unit or circle will conduct or participate in at least one mission study each year. Contact your district or conference Mission Coordinator for Education & Interpretation to learn what the studies are for each year. (If members of your unit attend all 4 sessions of a conference Mission u or your District Mission Study and your unit takes an action growing out of the study, Gift to Mission, ministry related to the study, etc., your unit will meet this criterion, virtual or in person).
- *5. The unit will have at least two members subscribing to **response** (1 member subscribing with units less than 15 members; local unit subscription may count as one.) Order information is printed at bottom of page 2. \$24.00 for a one-year print subscription (includes digital subscription); \$20.00 for a one-year digital only subscription.
- *6. The unit will implement the Charter for Racial Justice in at least two ways during the year. Possibilities are:
 - a. Have members read and discuss books and articles about other races and cultures;
 - b. Sponsor or attend an interethnic event between two or more units;
 - c. Intentionally recruit women of other ethnic groups to be members and officers of the unit;
 - d. Use the Resources for Racial Justice available on our conference website on the "Downloads Available" page under "Mission Resources".
 - e. Write to elected representatives to support legislation affecting issues such as immigration, affirmative action, low-income programs, civil rights, etc.

If you are a "Justice Today" unit, you have met these criteria. See "Downloads Available" on conference website.

- *7. The unit will have a program and/or complete an action addressing one of the Social Action Priorities for the current quadrennium. These are: Climate Justice and Criminalization of Communities of Color and Mass Incarceration. You may find information at www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/focus-issues.
- *8. The unit will add at least two new members (one member for units with less than 15 members) to its roll.
- *9. The unit will have one program from the Social Principles of the United Methodist Church 2017-2020. Available at www.Cokesbury.com. For \$2.59 plus tax and shipping. A newer version is not yet available.
- *10. The unit will contribute to all Five Channels of Mission Giving.
- *11. The UMW Purpose will be recited at each general and/or circle meeting, including virtual meetings.
- *12. The unit will contribute \$186.90 or more to the Legacy Fund in the reporting year.
- 13. At least one member of the unit will attend Mission u and report back to the unit on the experience, virtual participation qualifies.
- 14. At least two members (one member for units with less than 15 members) will attend the district or conference annual meeting and report back to the unit about the experience, virtual participation qualifies.
- 15. The unit will have at least one person joining the United Methodist Women's Action Network to receive and respond to legislative information at least three (3) times a year. Attach the issue and action that was taken to Mission Today report. socialaction@unitedmethodistwomen.org, download the form to circulate at UMW meetings.
- 16. Members will correspond with five persons listed in the Prayer Guide at least once a year.
- 17. The unit will co-sponsor, with the local church, a "Children's Sabbath". (This is a worship service highlighting the needs of children). Sabbath materials are on our national website: www.unitedmethodistwomen.org type Children's Sabbath in search box.
- 18. Each unit or circle meeting will include a "response moment" where an item from response magazine will be lifted up as a way to tell the mission story.
- 19. The unit will sponsor one teen member (ages 12 to 17) and /or one young woman member (ages 18 to 39) to at least one conference event during the year.
- 20. At least two members (one member for units with less than 15 members) will attend a district Prayer Breakfast, district Day Apart, conference Spiritual Growth Retreat, or any other special district or conference event other than Ubuntu Day. Virtual participation in any of these events qualify as attending.
- 21. At least two members (one member for units with less than 15 members) will participate in an Ubuntu Day event. Units may develop their own UBUNTU event in their communities.
- 22. At least two members (one member for units with less than 15 members) will complete Plan 1 of the Reading Program and give a report to the unit on one of the books read. Type "Reading Program" in search box on website.
- 23. The unit will invite a district or conference officer, other than a member of the unit, to one of the unit meetings during the year and/or for their United Methodist Women's Sunday. May be virtual. This Qualifies as a local unit visit (LUV).
- 24. The unit will add one new teen (ages 12-17 and/or one young woman (ages 18-39) circle during the year, or one new teen member (ages 12 to 17) or one new young woman member (ages 18 to 39) during the year.
- 25. 100% of the unit's active members will make a gift of at least \$18.69 to the Legacy Fund.
- 26. The 2023 Conference Financial Goal: Each local unit increase their Mission Giving through the World Thank Offering channel by 10%..
- 27. Each unit will be responsible for supporting at least one local mission project and participate in one Conference Hands-on Mission Project during the year. The local project should be listed on your Mission Today report.

UMW Mission Resources, Website: www.umwmissionresources.org PO Box 742349, Atlanta GA 30374-2349;
 Phone: 1-800-305-9857 (toll-free); Fax: (770-280-0061; email: cs@umwmissionresources.org. **Magazine Circulation (for response**
Toll Free 1-877-881-2385 •FAX: 1-845-267-3478. Magazines with a Mission • PO Box 395 • Congers, NY 10920-0395

Conference website: www.wnccuwf.org

Updated March 2023

A Message from Your President

Spring has finally arrived (I think), and our UWF year is well underway. Those of you who attended the three-district (Blue Ridge, Smoky Mountain, Northern Piedmont) mission study will agree with me that Kim Eller did an excellent job with the book, Who Can We Be Together? I can't think of a more timely message for us as both our church and United Women in Faith are in a time of transition.

The prayer breakfast is scheduled for April 22 at Weaverville UMC. Many of you will remember Tonya Lanier, our Conference president a few years back. She is our guest speaker. Since Covid isn't as threatening as it has been the last three years, we are trusting that attendance numbers will rebound.

On a different note, I want to remind you of our District goals for 2023. Each year the District Executive Committee comes up with goals that we think will help local units and the Blue Ridge District be more impactful. Here are the goals we decided on for 2023:

1. To have each local unit increase its Mission Giving through the World Thank Offering Channel by 10% over the 2022 amount.
2. To name the Mission Walk the Barbara Campbell/Betty Letzig Mission Walk and in 2023 to exceed \$4,840.00 (their Mission Walk amount in 2021).
3. To have 75% of active units participate in one or more District event (Zoom or in person)--Prayer Breakfast, Mission Study, Annual Celebration, Leadership Development Day.

As you can see, two of our goals have to do with finances. In a time of dwindling UWF membership and revenues, we're struggling to support our national and international Mission work. Sadly, our difficulties translate into reduced services for women, children, and youth in our country and around the world. We must generate more money if those who depend on us are to thrive. Meeting these goals will make a real difference; however, increasing our Pledge amounts is the surest way to reverse the trend.

Our third goal is a participation goal. Attendance at district and conferences events will build interest in and enthusiasm for the work of United Women in Faith. To benefit from any organization, people must participate in its activities. If we can attend the District and Conference events and persuade some of our members to attend with us, I'm confident we will have better informed and more enthusiastic units.

Share our goals with your units, and let's all work together to achieve them!

Gwen Harris

Vice President

Failure to thrive is a term we sometimes hear about an infant or child that is not growing at a normal rate. This is typically due to lack of nutrition, disability, or physical cause. With the proper care, this condition is usually treatable.

Do you ever fear that your United Women in Faith unit is afflicted in this way? What could cause your unit to fail to thrive? There are several reasons. First, your unit may be losing members due to age, health, and death. There may not be enough younger women that are joining your unit. Maybe no one wants to take on the responsibility of being an officer or planning a program. You might feel like there are too many reports to complete each year. There could be conflict among some members. Your church might be considering disaffiliation. In rare cases, your pastor might not be an encourager to your unit. You might think you have too few members to be a unit.

That is all the bad news. The **good** news is that we are a connectional organization, and there are many ways to be nourished. Remember that a lot of our units are small in number. Every unit will not have a full slate of officers, and that is all right. Some units meet together. Reach out to your district officers for guidance. Use the many resources that are available through our website and publications. Ask your nurturing partner to visit your unit's meeting or attend your church service. Attend District and Conference events. I personally am always nourished by our Blue Ridge Prayer Breakfast and Conference Spiritual Growth Retreats, both of which are coming up soon. Read our Purpose again and again and let it be a reminder of why we are United Women of Faith. Know that we are all in this together and that you are loved. Most importantly, pray for the right answers and seek God's guidance for your unit.

Lucy Earls

Spiritual Growth

Mark your calendars now for the Blue Ridge District Prayer Breakfast! Our annual Prayer Breakfast is on Saturday, April 22 at Weaverville UMC in Weaverville, NC.

Check the front page of this newsletter for more details about this event. The Prayer Breakfast theme is **Turn It Up! With Prayer**. The cost for the breakfast is \$10 per person. Please pay with one check from each unit payable to Weaverville United Methodist Women for the total number attending.

Tonya Lanier, former Conference president, will be the guest speaker. There will also be a time of remembrance for members who passed in 2022. Put their names on the registration form.

Your unit president or contact person will receive a letter and registration form describing the event with all details in late March. We will have two registration times, 8:30 and 9:15. The time for your unit to arrive will be on the registration form.

Please return your registration form and check (payable to Weaverville United Methodist Women) to me by April 12 at 164 Emma Drive, Ellenboro, NC 28040.

Jennie Greenway, Coordinator

Treasurer

Happy spring to you all! We have certainly been on a roller coaster when it has come to weather during the last few months. Hopefully, we are on our way to consistent good weather.

It is important that we remember the two financial goals we have for this year. We need to keep these in mind and work toward a positive outcome by year's end. The first is to have each local unit increase its Mission Giving through the World Thank Offering Channel by 10%. This is an easy one to track. If you need to know what your unit gave for the World Thank Offering for last year, just consult with your local treasurer. If she has any questions, feel free to call me at (828) 712-99266. This increase can be done through an individual contribution or a group contribution.

The second goal is to name the Mission Walk the Barbara Campbell/Betty Letzig Mission Walk and in 2023 to exceed \$4840 (their Mission Walk amount in 2021). The District will suggest a few dates to choose from for your Mission Walk. We will miss Betty and Barbara's contribution through their walks and the rest of us must pick up the ball and run with it. Please be creative and diligent in your efforts to round up some participants and sponsors. Go for that walk and BRING IT HOME for our very precious ladies (Barbara and Betty) and for the women, youth and children we serve!

The best part of these goals is that any money raised and donated to the World Thank Offering or the Mission Walk will go toward our pledge. We are currently at approximately \$15,000 in contributions to our pledge and we have a long way to go to get to \$82,100. Let's do what we can to get a good jump start on our goal.

Thank you for all you do for United Women in Faith and for your faithful support in all ways.

Linda L. Johns

Mission Interpretation & Interpretation

Welcome to 2023!

Most units want to know about the kits for this year. Hygiene and the menstrual (period packs) kits are the two kits being collected this year. School kits are no longer needed and will not be collected. The lists for the kits are easily found – go to the WNCC UWF website and go to the bottom of the main page. Click on UMCOR at the bottom of the main page under “Other Links.” All kits are listed there.

I will be collecting the kits at the Blue Ridge District Prayer Breakfast and Annual Celebration. You are also welcome to call me at 828-246-6006, if you have any questions concerning the kits.

Remember to use the mission cards (Gift in Memory, thank you, birthday, etc.) and special recognition pins. These are perfect ways to remember someone and to also support missions.

Tracey S. Owens

Membership Nurture & Outreach

Greetings and happy spring! How are your units doing in the aftermath of COVID? If you are like most of us, you are trying to figure out how to attract women to your unit and keep them engaged. How do we make becoming active in United Women in Faith a goal for more of our church members? Unfortunately, I do not have a one size fits all solution to these questions. I will tell you a couple of ideas that my unit has come up with—time will tell if they increase our membership and relevancy.

Flexible Meeting Times

We used to meet once a month on Sunday afternoon at 4 pm, which some members loved and others hated. So now we “change with the time.” During Daylight Savings Time, we meet at 7 pm on the second Monday of the month. When we turn our clocks back in November, we will return to our Sunday afternoon meeting time.

Hands-on Mission Projects

Our women love mission projects! We had a fabulous response when we put together feminine hygiene kits for UMCOR at our February meeting. Even women that seldom attend our meetings donated items. Our women want to make a difference in the world, so give them lots of opportunities.

Relationship Building and FUN!

Having fun builds relationships. We always plan what we hope is a meaningful, educational program, but toward the end of our time, we try to have a fun activity. Our meeting in January fell on Elvis Presley’s birthday, so we had an Elvis trivia contest. Members worked together to answer burning (love) questions like, “What was the real color of Elvis’s hair?” (brown) and “What kind of animal was Elvis’s pet Scatter?” (Chimpanzee). Our meeting in February fell on Super Bowl Sunday, and women again worked together to identify NFL team helmets. After our Call to Prayer program in March, two women from our church that do not normally attend UMF meetings taught us the basics of mahjong.

I encourage you to try fresh strategies to attract new members and keep the enthusiasm going in current members. Be flexible, be hands-on, and most of all, have FUN!

Stephanie Goudreau, Coordinator

Historian

Lent is a reminder of significant spiritual disciplines: Bible study, fasting and prayer, and retreats. United Women in Faith plans annual Prayer Breakfasts and Spiritual Growth Retreats. Blue Ridge District Prayer Breakfast will be in Weaverville, April 22; the Conference Retreat, June 8-10 at Lake Junaluska.

Spiritual Growth has been central in the woman's missionary societies since their founding. Many early societies grew out of organized Bible classes. Spiritual disciplines undergirded their mission activity.

Beginning in 1940, and continuing in unbroken line, a Bible study/spiritual growth study book has been prepared especially for Woman's Society, United Methodist Women, and now, United Women in Faith.

Based on the strong belief that laywomen could be capable study leaders, where possible, women were secured to author the textbooks. Women were recruited as study leaders in Schools of Christian Mission and for local study groups. The premise: Laywomen did not need to be dependent on clergy leadership for theological study and reflection! The 1940 textbook was entitled, Jesus and Social Redemption. The first by a woman (1948) was Newness of Life by Estelle C. Carver. (Books cost less than \$1.00!)

In 1947 the newly formed Evangelical United Brethren Women's Society of World Service also emphasized Bible study/spiritual growth. Their 1968 Reading List included Disciplines of the Christian Life by Georgia Harkness.

Both Societies (Methodist and Evangelical United Brethren) believed all program and activity – mission study, giving, social justice advocacy - should deepen the spiritual life of each member.

The March 18 and 20, 2023, Joint Blue Ridge, Northern Piedmont, and Smoky Mountain District Mission Study, Who Can We Be Together? A Biblical exploration of Luke 13, exemplifies the hopes and traditions of our foremothers. The text was written by Candance Simpson: the study leader is Kim Eller.

Barbara E. Campbell

The Legacy Endowment Fund



In March 1869, the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society was founded. In March 2019, United Methodist Women turned 150 years old. In March 2022, United Methodist became United Women in Faith. Join in celebrating our past and future by giving to the Legacy Fund, a permanent endowment to ensure the mission of United Women in Faith continues for 150 years and beyond. Visit unitedmethodistwomen.org/150 or call 800-278-7771.

(March/April *response* Magazine, p.45)

Social Action

Rosa Parks Transit Equity Day, February 4, 2023, was the first Climate Justice Social Action Event our Skyland United Women in Faith Unit has held. It was a national day of action to honor the birthday of Rosa Parks, a civil rights advocate, who refused to give up her seat on the bus to demand an end to segregation in the Montgomery, Alabama, transit system.

On behalf of Grace Circle United Women in Faith members from Givens Gerber Park, Betty L Thompson, Chair, requested Asheville City Mayor Esther Manheimer to sign a proclamation naming Saturday, February 4, 2023, as Rosa Parks Transit Equity Day and to celebrate Rosa Parks' birthday. Jan Whiteman, Grace Circle member and Skyland Unit Treasurer, along with the Skyland UWF Unit President Kathy Woods, attended the Asheville City Council January 24 meeting to receive the Proclamation signed by Mayor Esther Manheimer, declaring Rosa Parks Transit Equity Day in Asheville.

It urged “the City of Asheville to remember and celebrate the work of Rosa Parks and be inspired to find ways and means to create better conditions for all people to live in our community, country, and world” by securing ways for all to have equal access to public transit.

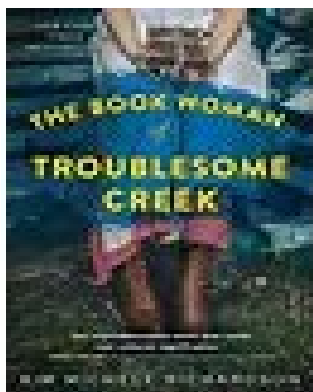
Through this local action, Grace Circle joined other United Women in Faith circles and units, civic and labor organizations, and cities in many states on Transit Equity Day. The circle had a display at Givens Gerber Park (where Grace Circle members live) for residents, staff and visitors to see and learn about this national day of action that commemorated the birthday of Rosa Parks by declaring that public transit is a civil right. This is an example of love taking action!

Betty Thompson, Grace Circle Chair, Skyland UWF



Asheville City Clerk Maggie Burleson reads the proclamation designating February 4, 2023, as Rosa Parks Transit Equity Day to Jan Whiteman (left) and Kathy Woods (right), officers of Skyland UWF

Program Resources



Happy Spring!

I hope you have all been reading The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek in preparation for our second Blue Ridge District Book Club meeting on May 27. Leith Tate will be our leader for the event, which will start at 10 am on Zoom. Hopefully, registration will be available through the Conference District Events 2023 site soon. We have also been asked to review this book during a breakout session at the June Spiritual Growth Retreat in Lake Junaluska. A reminder: in 2023,

we plan to have four book club meetings. Future dates will be **September 16 and November 4**. Please, if you have ideas of books for review at future meetings or if you would like to be a leader, let me know.

Eligible books this year range from the 2018-2023 Reading Program lists. Remember to watch Faith Matters and other videos/podcasts on the national UWF website. Watching three counts for reading two reading program books. Also watching the movies “Hidden Figures,” “Push-Out,” or “The Hate U Give” counts as reading books.

We will continue our donations of used reading program books to sell for Missions at live events in 2023, so save your books from 2018-2022 and bring them to the Prayer Breakfast at Weaverville UMC on April 22. HAPPY READING!

Jeannette Byrd, Secretary for Program Resources



**Blue Ridge District
United Women in Faith**

**2022 Frances Yelton Scholarship Form to Mission u and
Annual Meeting**

One scholarship to Mission u and one scholarship to the Conference Annual Meeting will be given this year. Each unit is encouraged to submit a name or names of anyone interested who will be a first time attendee. Please complete this form and return to the District President by the following dates:

Mission u: June 1, 2023 Annual Meeting: August 1, 2023

Name: _____ Church: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Adult or Youth? _____

Please check the event you are applying for. You may apply for both.

_____ Mission u at Pfeiffer University (July 13-15)

_____ Annual Celebration at Lake Junaluska (September 8-10)

Provide a short biographical sketch of yourself, including your participation in United Women in Faith.

Why do you wish to attend Mission u or Conference Annual Meeting?

Applicant's Signature _____

Date _____

Mail to District President-Gwen Harris, 215 Grand View Lane, Burnsville, NC 28714.

UMCOR Period Pack (Menstrual Hygiene Kit)

- One one-gallon size re-sealable bag
- Two 2 oz. bottle hand sanitizer
- Three 4-gallon bathroom trash bags
- One travel pack of wet ones
- 10 Tampons (5 regular and 5 super absorbency)
 - Unscented
- 10 Sanitary Napkins
 - Unscented
 - Long super ultra-thin
- Bath-size soap (3 oz. bar or larger)
 - No Ivory or Jergen's soap
 - Do not remove from packaging
- One pack of flushable wipes (42 count)
 - Unscented
- One travel sink-size laundry detergent (.25-.45 oz.)

Assembly Directions

- Start with a one-gallon resealable bag.
- Place one pack of the flushable wipes and wet wipes in the bag.
- Place four bathroom trash bags and the 10 sanitary napkins in the bag.
- Then, add the smaller items in the plastic bag, remove air, and seal.

Important Notes

- All items must be new.
- Do not wash any of the items as they will no longer be considered new.
- Do not include any personal notes, money or additional materials in the kits.
- Contents of kits or the containers of kits should not be imprinted with cartoon characters, advertisements, religious, patriotic, military or camouflage symbols.

2023 Spiritual Growth Retreat

Theme: *Women Coming to Christ*

Thursday, June 8-Saturday, June 10, 2023

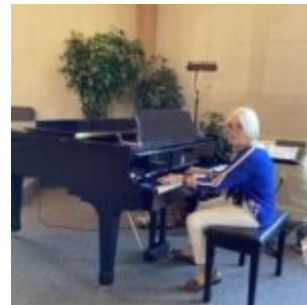
Lake Junaluska
With Live Streaming



Retreat Leader
Rev. Jan Brittain



Song Leader
Mark Barden



Musician
Catherine Ritch

Registration for the retreat is OPEN!

Blue Ridge District United Women in Faith
Tammy Long
240 Seasons Circle, Apt. 102
Fletcher, NC 28732

Mark Your Calendars for 2023

April 22 – Prayer Breakfast –Weaverville UMC – 10:00 A.M.

May 27 – BR District Book Club (Book Woman of Troublesome Creek)
Zoom – 10:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.

June 8-10 – Spiritual Growth Retreat – Lake Junaluska

July 13-15 – Mission u – Pfeiffer University