



## Spiritual Renewal Gathering: "Celebrate the Small Stuff"

Happy spring, ladies! Don't you love the warmer, longer days? It is a nice change after these last few months of winter. *Just like we yearn to be renewed by the spring season, our souls yearn to be renewed by the grace of God. We need to be together to grow together.*

With that said, please remember **our Spiritual Renewal Gathering will take place this year on Saturday, May 6, 10 a.m. to 12 noon at Gideon Grove United Methodist Church, 2865 Gideon Grove Church Road in Stokesdale.** Doors open at 9 a.m., so ladies can begin to arrive, register, eat and fellowship with each other. Then, our worship service and memorial service will take place from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. **[Click here to register.](#)**



Our speaker -  
Rev. Tammy  
Ingram

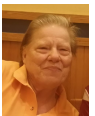
I am so excited to share that we will have a fantastic, dynamic speaker this year - Rev. Tammy Ingram, current pastor of Bass Chapel UMC and Raleigh's Crossroads UMC. Those who've heard her speak at prior United Women in Faith events can attest that she always brings an impactful message with a riveting delivery to boot.

I chose the theme "Celebrate the Small Stuff." A couple of months ago, I slipped on a sidewalk, fell and broke my hip, which caused me to need total hip replacement surgery. Since then, I have been recovering. *As I slowly but surely regained my abilities, I realized how easy it is to take our small blessings for granted, like making coffee, putting on socks or making breakfast. Therefore, I am learning to celebrate the little victories along the way.*

I hope to see as many of you as possible, and one more thing - **be sure to register as far in advance as possible! Our host unit needs to know how much food to provide!** Breakfast will cost \$6 per person. If you can't click the registration link, email me at [dmmiller94@yahoo.com](mailto:dmmiller94@yahoo.com) or call me at 336-681-8559.

Please make sure I have ALL the names of the women whom your unit would like to be memorialized at the service by April 15.

Donna Miller  
District Spiritual  
Growth



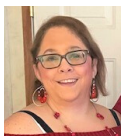
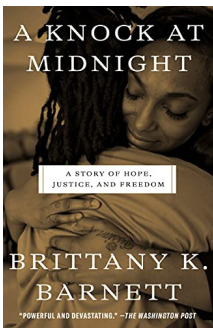
## Book Study Led By Our New District President

As we embrace and embark on a new name - United Women in Faith - I'd like to embrace and incise you to attend our book study on *A Knock At Midnight* by Brittany K. Barnett, led by yours truly. It will take place **Saturday, June 3, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. [Here's the link to attend.](#)**

This memoir illustrates the life of two different people and how they in essence share similar traits. It is a story where an individual took the opportunity to embrace herself and challenge the justice system and the effects of that system. **It tackles the subject of the war on drugs and the effects it can take not only on the individual but also their family.** Join me June 3 at 10 a.m. for fellowship and discussion. *Reading of the book is not required.*

According to the national website, "While working several years as a corporate attorney, Brittany was committed to pro bono representation of clients buried alive in federal prison under draconian drug laws. Her work has freed numerous people serving fundamental death sentences for federal drug offenses. As the daughter of a formerly incarcerated mother, Brittany knows first-hand that mass incarceration devastates families and entire communities." Check out the Faith Talks podcast "When Mom's in Prison" which features the author! [uwfaith.org/resources/podcasts](http://uwfaith.org/resources/podcasts)

*The hands-on mission for the Spiritual Renewal Gathering is to collect shower gels, lotions & nice hygiene products in honor of Mother's Day. Rynn will deliver the items to places that help mothers on the Step Up & Reach Out list. [No candles please]*



Kelli Smith,  
District President

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Try downloading the Libby app to check out books from the library virtually!



# Tentative Conference & District Calendar 2023

|                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| May 6<br>9 a.m. to 12 noon   | District Spiritual Renewal Gathering at Gideon Grove UMC, 2865 Gideon Grove Church Road, Stokesdale, NC 27357. Cost: \$6/person. <a href="#">Click here to register</a> |
| May 20<br>10 a.m. to 12 noon | "Town Hall" meeting w/District officers & Conference President<br><a href="#">Link to the meeting</a>   |
| June 3<br>10 a.m. to 12 noon | Book Study - <i>A Knock at Midnight</i> facilitated by Kelli Smith<br><a href="#">Link to the meeting</a>   |
| June 8-10                    | Conference Spiritual Growth Retreat - Lake Junaluska  |
| July 13-15                   | Conference-wide Mission u - Pfeiffer University   |
| Date TBD                     | District Annual Celebration   |
| Sept. 8-10                   | Conference Annual Celebration - Lake Junaluska  |
| Sept. 30                     | Social Action Workshop on Climate Justice   |
| Oct. 7, 14 & 28              | Conference-wide UBUNTU days   |
| Date TBD                     | Book Study (Book TBD) facilitated by Lily Pierce  |
| Date TBD                     | Local Unit Officers Training - Location TBD   |

## Join Us for an Informational "Town Hall" Meeting

Northern Piedmont District! We are inviting all of you to a "town hall" meeting led by our District. **This town hall will include our own Conference President along with individuals who will share stories about what United Women in Faith (previously United Methodist Women) has done for them.** We will discuss where our money goes, and there will be time for some questions and answers. We hope you can join us and learn exactly what it is United Women in Faith is and what we do and why we do what we do. Let's learn about how we can continue our awesome legacy!

## Bright Lights



*St. Matthews UWF recently collected and delivered baby items to Room at the Inn. It operates housing and programs for single, pregnant women and single mothers with children suffering homelessness. It offers them opportunities to have new lives of healthy, hope-filled independence.*



*Celia Phelps' UWF unit celebrates Women's Day each year on the fourth Sunday in April, but due to a fire that damaged their own church building, they celebrated the occasion with Mt. Tabor's unit in their church building in 2022. The two units will celebrate Women's Day together again this year. We all wish Ms. Pat Wiseman a happy 94th birthday on April 4. (She is standing in the middle in front of her walker)*



*Some of the Gideon Grove UWF ladies prepared and served lunch at Madison United Methodist Church for one of the weekly Lenten Lunches on March 8. The worship services followed by lunch take place on Wednesdays during the Lenten Season.*

Send stories & photos to  
npdistrictunitedmethodistwomen@gmail.com

## Learning to Embrace

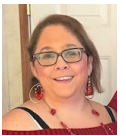
The time seems to just fly by, does it not? Before, if someone had told me I would now be addressing you as President of the Northern Piedmont District of United Women in Faith, I wouldn't have believed them. Well, here I am!

I chose as one of my words this year "embrace." **As United Women in Faith, we are learning to embrace - embrace the changes that have come and embrace potential changes to come.** Last year, we embraced the change in our name from United Methodist Women to United Women in Faith. As the change in the name came, so did changes within our organization in which churches have unfortunately disaffiliated but units still wish to remain as members of United Women in Faith. *As we continue to move forward, we, as United Women in Faith, may be called to embrace and offer encouragement.* It is my hope and prayer that our hearts and minds are big enough and remain strong enough to embrace these ideas and changes - so that we, as United Women in Faith, can continue to "experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ."

I would like to extend my upmost gratitude to those of you who were able to participate in the book study *Hidden Figures* on February 4. It was a wonderful discussion led by our former District President Sandra Williamson. In March, we had a wonderful District Mission Study led by our District Lay Leader Kim Eller, and we were joined by two other districts. **If you did not get to participate in these, we sure did miss you and hope to see you at our upcoming events.**

Our next event will be the District Spiritual Renewal Gathering on May 6 at Gideon Grove United Methodist Church in Stokesdale; cost is \$6/person. We will have another book study on June 3 from one of the books on our reading program entitled *A Knock At Midnight* by Brittany K. Barnett, which will be led by yours truly. We continue with the Conference Spiritual Growth Retreat, which will be June 8-10 at Lake Junaluska. *I cannot wait to sit in a rocking chair on the porch, drinking my coffee. Won't you join me?* Another time for us all to get together is time spent learning and growing at Mission u, which will be held July 13-15 at Pfeiffer University.

So I invite you all to embrace the future. C.S. Lewis said "You can't go back and change the beginning, but you can start where you are and change the ending." I have this quote saved and printed and laminated in my planner so that anytime I feel discouraged, I can look at it and remind myself of what I can control at this point in time. As we have unfortunate losses of units, we still seek prayer for those ladies and always will; however, **we still continue to have very active units!** We hope to see old and new units evolving this year as we continue to embrace (with passion!) our mission to support women, children and youth around the world.

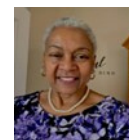


Kelli Smith  
District President

## We Must Stay Focused on Our Purpose

Greetings, United Women in Faith of the Northern Piedmont District. As our organization continues to experience change and transformation, I would like for us to reflect on Romans 8:28 (KJV) "*And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.*" **We must continue to have faith and stay focused on our purpose.** Each unit is comprised of women with strong faith whose purpose is the know God and experience freedom as a whole person through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in global ministries of the church.

We are in the early planning phase of the **District Annual Celebration**, which is usually held in August - the date will be provided soon. I would like this celebration to include participation from the Northern Piedmont District units. **I am seeking suggestions** on a host location that can possibly accommodate 100 individuals, a celebration theme, music and program. I look forward to receiving your unit's ideas to allow us to have a successful celebration as we conduct the business of the Northern Piedmont District. Thanks in advance for your assistance. I can be contacted at 336-681-1907 or zetag@triad.rr.com.



Your Sister in Christ,  
Genevieve  
McCormick  
District Vice  
President

## Nothing Is Impossible With God!

As my second year as your District Treasurer gets under way, I am excited and very hopeful that we will be able to meet the challenges ahead of us in 2023. As you may or may not know, our number of units has dropped substantially. **It is crucial our remaining units do the very best we can to meet and possibly exceed our 2023 goal of \$70,000.** We need prayer and the faith that we can do it if we work together. We need to meet either in person, Zoom or by telephone to exchange ideas. However, we need to actually meet to come up with these new and exciting bold ideas - which is why we have scheduled a "town hall" meeting May 20 via Zoom. Please see pg. 2 for details. And lastly, we need determination.

**It is important that we interpret where the money goes at every opportunity and educate our members in our local unit about mission dollars.** The importance of the five channels of undesignated MISSION GIVING should be stressed. Giving within these channels allows United Women in Faith to react quickly to emergency needs as well as form new projects or support existing ones that can aid women, children and youth.

**If your unit has not sent the 2023 Pledge Form indicating your unit's pledge for this year along with address/e-mail/phone information for your unit President and Treasurer, please do so soon.** Unit Treasurers are responsible for sending this completed form to me – even if the information is the same as last year. I want to make sure that all Unit Treasurers receive my quarterly letters, so it is very important that I update my records each year.

**I hope to see many of you at our District Spiritual Renewal Gathering at Gideon Grove UMC event on May 6 from 10 a.m. – 12 noon (doors open at 9 a.m.).** Gifts to the Legacy Fund may be given to your local treasurer who will include them with her quarterly remittance.

And lastly, thanks to all of you for making Mission possible through your generous giving in 2022! **These are the units that contributed to all five channels of Mission Giving in 2022:**

|                       |                   |                      |
|-----------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Archdale              | Eden              | Newlyn Street        |
| Bass Chapel           | First, High Point | Pleasant Union       |
| Bethany               | Gibsonville       | Raleigh's Crossroads |
| Bethel, Archdale      | Hinshaw           | Shiloh               |
| Bethlehem, Climax     | Holmes Grove      | St. John, Eden       |
| Celia Phelps          | Hopewell          | St. Matthews         |
| Centenary, Stoneville | Laughlin Memorial | Tabernacle           |
| Chapel Hill           | Lebanon           | Welch Memorial       |
| Christ                | Mizpah            | West Market Street   |
| Collins Grove         | Mt. Pisgah        | Zion Hill            |
|                       | Mt. Tabor         |                      |



Connie Holland  
District Treasurer



From Connie's recent visit with the St. Matthews unit

## God's Got the Bottom Line

Greetings! As I write this, it is a chilly yet wonderfully sunny day. I'm choosing to focus on the good. And though many of us are reeling from the loss of churches and units, I can at the very least say that our printing and postage costs are going down slightly...proof there is always a silver lining on a dark cloud, ha!

But on a serious note, we shouldn't let it get us down. As my pastor likes to say, "*God's got the bottom line.*" We just need to be the bold women and disciples He has called us each to be, doing what we can in the places we can, ministering to whoever we can. God will handle the rest.

**Please continue sending year-end reports, membership updates, ladies who've passed away, etc.** because it helps us use your money more wisely. And **please register for our District events.** I see how hard these ladies work to coordinate them and make them dynamic and enriching. We ought to join together in supporting and uplifting these women who volunteer their time and talents for us.

Finally, for the love of all things good and holy, drop what you are doing and take one minute to [click here and register](#) if you are attending the Spiritual Renewal Gathering!!



Lily Pierce  
District  
Communications



## Step Up & Reach Out



**Sew Loved, Inc.** Wanda Hammock, 336-514-1166, Eden  
Call for details, location and times.

- Pretty fabric, buttons, ribbons, etc. for little girls' clothing (sending to orphanage in Africa)

**Room at the Inn**  
(shelter for pregnant women and their children), 734 Park Ave. Greensboro, 336-275-9566

- Gently used baby clothes
- Maternity clothes
- Body wash, shampoo & deodorant
- Gently used dishes & towels
- Cleaning products
- Gently used housewares
- Baby wipes

### YWCA Family Shelter

1807 E. Wendover Ave.  
Greensboro, 336-333-0175

- Paper products
- Gallon Zip-loc bags
- Cleaning supplies (esp. Clorox wipes)
- Snacks
- Hand soap
- Haircare products for people of color

**Castaways Thrift** (supports substance abuse programs for women), 727 Highway St. Suite A, Madison, 336-644-4185

- Gently used clothing, shoes & housewares
- Kids clothes
- Jewelry & purses

**Rockingham HOPE (in old Red Cross building)** 3692 NC Hwy 14, Reidsville, 336-623-2133

- Gently used blankets
- Hygiene products & toiletries
- Cleaning supplies
- Canned food
- Gently used towels
- Plastic grocery bags

**Family Service of the Piedmont** (assists victims of domestic violence), 315 E. Washington St, Greensboro, call to set up a delivery, 336-707-2834

- Bottled water
- Juice boxes
- Pudding cups
- Microwaveable meals such as Chef Boyardee

**Community Outreach of Archdale** 10607 N. Main St, Archdale, 336-431-3663

- Cereal - single servings
- Microwavable spaghetti bowls
- Vienna sausage cans
- Ramen noodles- chicken or beef
- Pudding cups
- 6 pk crackers
- Juice boxes/pouches

**Leslie's House (homeless shelter for women)** 851 W. English Rd, High Point, 336-884-1039

- Ladies underwear & socks of all sizes
- Paper products
- Plastic spoons & forks
- Cleaning supplies
- New dish towels
- Bottled water

**"You've got to try a little kindness  
Yes, show a little kindness  
Just shine your light for everyone to see..."**

**As Christians, we are called to share God's love with our fellow man every day.** Showing kindness and generosity, helping people, listening and caring are just a few ways that our 'light' shines.

As United Women in Faith, **we have many opportunities locally and around the world to shine our light.** Some projects are large and organized while other situations may be unknown except for those closest to it. The big projects need your support, primarily through financial contributions. The ones closer to home will require more of a hands-on approach.

So first, **give generously!** There are women, children and youth worldwide who depend on the success of the UWF programs. Next, be alert to needs around you. There are some local suggestions in the Step Up Reach Out section, but there could also be a need whereby YOU are the only person who can help...just do it!

A favorite quote of mine goes, **"Preach a sermon every day. Use words if necessary."** Let your light shine so brightly that others want some of what you have: Jesus' love shining through you!



Peace!  
Rynn McGee-Pierce,  
District MEI

**"Show a Little Kindness"  
by Glen Campbell**

*If you see your brother  
standing by the road  
With a heavy load from the  
seeds he sowed  
And if you see your sister  
falling by the way  
Just stop and say, "You're  
going the wrong way"  
You've got to try a little  
kindness  
Yes, show a little kindness  
Just shine your light for  
everyone to see  
And if you try a little kindness  
Then you'll overlook the  
blindness  
Of narrow-minded people on  
the narrow-minded streets*

If you or someone you know is willing to serve as MNO, Historian, or the Nominations Committee Chair or just a member, please let us know!

## District Officers for 2023

Visit [wnccumw.org](http://wnccumw.org) to learn more about Conference & District events.

### President

Kelli White Smith  
Old Union, Sophia  
336-799-1129 - home  
336-301-6872 - cell  
kelliwhitesmith@gmail.com

### Vice President

Genevieve McCormick  
Mt. Tabor, Greensboro  
336-681-1907  
zetag@triad.rr.com

### Secretary

Margaret Scales  
Wesley Chapel, Reidsville  
336-273-1485

### Treasurer

Constance Holland  
Bethel, Archdale  
313-310-8680  
looney814@gmail.com

### Mission Education & Interpretation

Rynn McGee-Pierce  
Gideon Grove, Stokesdale  
336-706-9116  
rynn@hottan.com

### Spiritual Growth

Donna Miller  
Muir's Chapel, Greensboro  
336-681-8559  
dmmiller94@yahoo.com

### Social Action

Mary Lou Webster  
Raleigh's Crossroads, Greensboro  
336-456-7106  
mrsmarylouwebster@gmail.com

### Membership Nurture & Outreach

TBD

### Secretary of Program Resources

Cheryl Little  
St. Matthews, Greensboro  
336-852-0872, 336-338-1958  
ccarrington001@triad.rr.com

### Communications

Lily Pierce  
Gideon Grove, Stokesdale  
336-280-1187  
npdistrictunitedmethodistwomen@gmail.com

Visit

<http://tiny.cc/NPLocalOfficers2023> to update you or your unit's contact info!

### Nominations Committee Chair

TBD

### Nominations Committee Members

Karlah Burton, Class of 2025  
St. Matthews, Greensboro  
karlah\_k@yahoo.com

Maxine McCormick, Class of 2025

Bethel, Archdale  
336-884-1679  
mackie2kt@yahoo.com

Patricia Holland, Class of 2025  
Bethel, Archdale  
336-687-0232

September Neal Locklear, Class of 2026

Triad Native American,  
Greensboro  
336-901-1502  
pilove30@gmail.com

### Historian

TBD

### Parliamentarian

Janet Bledsoe  
Hopewell, Trinity  
336-847-7296  
ggbledsoe@northstate.net

### Legacy Fund Information:

Visit our website at [wnccumw.org/legacyfund](http://wnccumw.org/legacyfund)



### Do You Have Leftover Yarn?

Rynn is collecting yarn, crochet hooks and knitting needles as well as sewing notions, sewing machines and material.



If you have items to donate, please contact me, and I will schedule a pickup. The director of the YWCA is very interested in crochet lessons for their clients!

### District Deaconesses

Eloise Moore  
4626 Village Square Court  
Greensboro, NC 27409  
jimnella@aol.com

Ruth Williamson, 336-613-1607  
1610 Lindsay Bridge Rd.  
Madison, NC 27025  
rwilliamson@wnccumc.net

Renee Hayes, 336-707-2980  
6903 Fairview Church Rd.  
Trinity, NC 27370  
renee.hayes1956@gmail.com

## Let's Get Reading in 2023!

During February, I had the opportunity to attend a nationwide Zoom discussion with author Brittany K. Barnett. Ms. Barnett is the author of ***A Knock at Midnight***, the book we're discussing on Saturday, June 3. Kelli Smith, NPD President, is our discussion leader and **you ALL are invited**. Books are available at the public library and through the app Libby! Please, if you have ideas of books for future meetings, share them or if you would like to be a leader, let me know.

Eligible books this year range from the 2018-2023 lists. Remember to watch "Faith Talks" and other videos/podcasts on the national UWF website. Watching three of those counts for reading two Reading Program books. Also, watching the movie adaptations of *Hidden Figures*, *Push-Out* or *The Hate U Give* counts as reading the books.

**UWF is all about Mission to enhance the lives of under-resourced women, youth and children and empower women to provide for themselves and their families.** Without the support of our members, we cannot continue the great works that we have begun.

UWF are beautiful diamonds in the sky ~ I am excited to see what we can do! Feel free to contact me whenever you have questions. If I don't know the answer, I have some very knowledgeable friends who do.



Cheryl Little  
District SPR

## Earth Day 2023 - Invest in Our Planet

**This year Earth Day is Saturday, April 22.** Visit [www.earthday.org/earth-day-2023](http://www.earthday.org/earth-day-2023) for more information on what you as a member of the organized unit of United Women in Faith can do!

This year's theme is a continuation from 2022: "**Invest in our Planet.**" It encourages bold action, innovation in a broader sense and the putting of ideas into practice in an equitable manner - [www.earthreminder.com/earth-day-2023-theme-date-events-celebrations](http://www.earthreminder.com/earth-day-2023-theme-date-events-celebrations). **In the United Methodist Church, Sunday, April 23 has been designed as Festival of God's Creation Sunday** (though it may be observed on any Sunday during the month of April or a time convenient to a local church).

At Saint Matthews UMC, we are celebrating Festival of God's Creation Sunday on April 16. The guest speaker will be Nicole Johnson, M.Div., MA in Sustainability, Director of the Partners and Health and Wholeness Collaborative - NC Council of Churches.

United Methodists support the belief that thankfulness for all God has given in the beauty and awe of creation should be celebrated! One of the 2020-2024 Social Action Campaigns for UWF is Climate Justice. **Recommit yourself to proper care and stewardship of the environment** as an act of kindness on behalf of those who are less fortunate. How can this become a regular event in your worship life?

We don't live separated from the world around us but are an active part of it! What do you love? What are you passionate about? Here are a few creation care related topics as suggested by the UMC/Discipleship Ministries: *reduction of plastic waste, extinction of species, shrinking supply of fresh water*. Ask Lily Pierce (NPD Communications) how to receive an electronic copy of the Northern Piedmont District Quarterly Newsletter in an effort to minimize paper use/paper waste. Please also visit the Western NC Annual Conference website to learn about the WNCC Green Church Initiative offering ways to incorporate Earth-friendly habits into ALL ministry areas within the life of a congregation - [www.wnccumc.org/wncc-creation-care-ministry](http://www.wnccumc.org/wncc-creation-care-ministry).

Let us offer hope as we respond in faith.

[www.umcdiscipleship.org/articles/for-the-creation-waits](http://www.umcdiscipleship.org/articles/for-the-creation-waits).



Spring Blessings!  
Karlah Y. Burton  
District Nominations Committee Member  
Chairperson, Creation Care Ministry/  
Community Garden Project (SMUMC)  
United Methodist Earthkeeper



Composting in  
the community  
garden - Saint  
Matthews UMC  
Greensboro, NC



# United Women in Faith

232 Brassie Ln  
Summerfield, NC 27358

*RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED*

## Our Purpose

The organized unit of United Methodist Women (UWF) 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.

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[youtube.com/c/uwomenfaith](https://youtube.com/c/uwomenfaith)



[twitter.com/uwomenfaith](https://twitter.com/uwomenfaith)

## More Ways to Connect



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



Join us for monthly conversations with United Women in Faith, hosted by Jennifer R Farmer. Each month, we'll explore timely themes and resources, from expert insights on ways to live your faith to inspiring interviews with spiritual leaders.



Tune in to audio versions of some of the top articles from each issue of **response** magazine. Topics cover everything from spiritual growth and living our faith to reports on local, national and international work.



**response**, the magazine for United Methodist Women, includes Bible studies, opportunities for spiritual growth, mission and outreach stories, and more. It will touch your heart, stir your spirit and challenge your mind. A one year digital subscription costs \$20 for 6 issues, a one year print subscription costs \$24 for 6 issues and a one year audio subscription costs \$24 for 6 issues.

**Order Online:** [uwfaith.org/resources/response-magazine](https://uwfaith.org/resources/response-magazine)

**Order by Phone:** 1-877-881-2385

**Order by Mail:** Send check with subscriber name and address to--  
**response:** Magazines With a Mission, PO Box 395, Congers, NY 10920



**UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief)** provides cleaning, hygiene and school kits in response to disasters and other needs in the United States. They work with international partners to help them address needs in their countries. You can help them restock their kits by [clicking this link](#).



Are you willing to receive your quarterly newsletter via email, reducing our carbon footprint and allowing more money to go to Mission work? If so, email Lily Pierce (pg. 6).