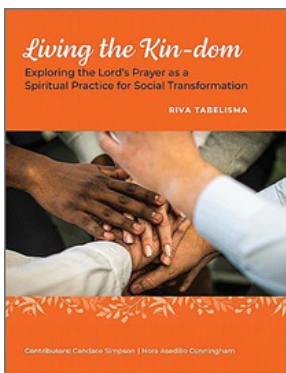


Conference Gram

United Women in Faith, Western North Carolina



WNCC United Women in Faith

Mission u 2023

Friday, July 28 - Saturday, July 29

Lynn Alexander, Mission u Dean

LaDonna Butts, Mission u Assistant Dean

2022 marked a significant change to Mission u: The formerly separate studies on spiritual growth, justice, and national and global issues were all integrated into one study. This year's study explores the Lord's Prayer as recorded in Matthew 6:19-23 and invites us to take a deeper look at the prayer and the role it plays in our faith journey. The study is divided into two parts: 1) reading and discussion and 2) meditation, prayer, and journaling.

Our venue has also changed. Because Pfeiffer was unavailable to us this summer due to cafeteria remodeling, we will gather at the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory, NC. The new location will emphasize a spiritual retreat rather than a classroom setting. The facility's greatest asset is that everything--lodging, meeting spaces, and dining--is all under one roof and completely handicapped accessible. Additionally, all linens are provided for the rooms, which contain two double beds and a private bath.

This weekend isn't just for adults! Please encourage youth to attend our Resident Youth Camp. The youth curriculum invites youth to find the kin-dom in the world around them and to live what they learn. Each of the eight one-hour youth sessions allows the facilitator to adjust to the needs and responses of the group. We encourage local units to assist their youth with cost of the camp, perhaps by offering scholarships to help cover their cost. We need to introduce our younger sisters to our community of United Women in Faith!



Rather than offering a one-day overview, this year we encourage Mission u participants to go back and share the study with their local units or district. United Women in Faith seeks to connect and nurture women through Christian spiritual formation, leadership development, creative fellowship, and education and to inspire and impact local and global communities. Sharing the Mission u study broadly across our conference is one way we can do this.

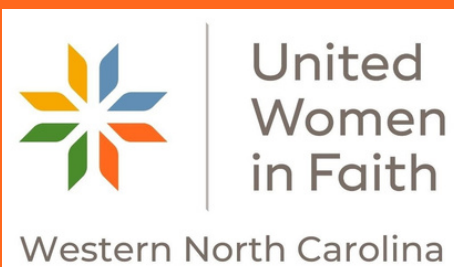
With the shift to more of a spiritual retreat, let the Spirit lead you. Take a step onto a new path on your faith journey. Take the hand of a sister and encourage her to try something new. As scripture tells us, "So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: Everything old has passed away; look, new things have come into being!" (2 Corinthians 5:17).

Let's get the word out! Encourage others to come and experience Mission u 2023!

wnccumw.org/

www.facebook.com/wnccumw

uwfaith.org/



We believe love in action
can change the world.
Faith. Action. Sisterhood.

2023 Calendar of Events

July 28-29

Mission u

Catholic Conference Center, Hickory, NC

September 8-10

Annual Celebration

Lake Junaluska

October 7, 14, or 28

Ubuntu Days of

Service

Various Locations

2023 WNCC UWF Officers

President - Joanie Strohm

(828) 649-1156 ssjsmars@charter.net

Vice President - Lynda Morris

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Parliamentarian - Martha Phillips

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Scholarship Chair - Jatana Royster

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Program Advisory Group - Sherry Sink

(336) 880-2663 sherrysink@gmail.com

Webmaster/Legacy Liaison - Lynne Gilbert

(336) 207-3479 lynnegilbert2@gmail.com

Mission u 2023 Details

Online Registration: (no on-site registration)

- June 1 through July 13 at www.wnccumw.org
- Register by July 5 to include a study book order
- Registration costs vary with housing and student type. Fees for full-time students range from \$85 (non-resident with meals) to \$220 (all meals and private room) depending on type of accommodations selected.

Location: [The Catholic Conference Center](#), Hickory, North Carolina

Childcare will not be available at this event.

Study books will not be available for purchase at the event and should be ordered in advance. Order for pickup at Mission u as part of the registration process if you register by July 5th. If you choose to order a book to be delivered to you (with shipping costs), you may do so at <https://uwfaithresources.org/>.

- Adult Study: [Living the Kin-dom: Exploring the Lord's Prayer as a Spiritual Practice for Social Transformation](#)
- Youth Study: [Seek and You Shall Find: Living in the Kin-dom](#)
- Kindle version of adult study available at www.amazon.com

Hands-on Mission: [UMCOR Menstrual Hygiene Kits](#) (see details, [next page](#))

Schedule:

- Friday, July 28
 - 10:00 a.m. - Check-in begins
 - 11:30 a.m. - Worship
 - Noon - Lunch
 - 1:30 p.m. - Study sessions 1-4
 - 6:30 p.m. - Dinner
 - After dinner - Study sessions 5 & 6
 - After session 6 - Reflection time
- Saturday, July 29
 - 7:30 a.m. - Morning praise
 - 8:00 a.m. - Breakfast
 - After breakfast - Study sessions 7 & 8
 - Noon - Lunch
 - 1:00 p.m. - Closing worship

NOTE: Each participant should bring a Bible.

Safety: For everyone's safety and well-being, we will follow all CDC protocols in place at the time.

First-timer Scholarships: Each district offers a \$150 scholarship for a Mission u first-time attendee. Contact your district president for information.



Meet Our Mission u Leaders

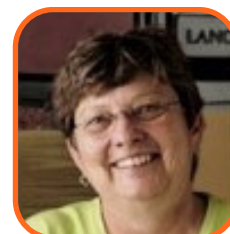


Adult Mission Study Retreat Leader - Living the Kin-dom

Renee Hayes is a United Methodist deaconess. She is actively involved in mission to Lithuania through Gifts of Grace Ministries. This is her third opportunity to facilitate an adult Mission u study after several years of working with our youth camp.

Youth Camp Study Retreat Leader - Seek and You Shall Find: Living in the Kin-dom

Sherry Sink has served in various conference and district offices in United Methodist Women and currently serves as a UWF Program Advisory Group member. Although she has led both adult and youth mission studies, working with youth is her passion.



Music Leader

Laurin Allred is the Director of Music & Worship Arts at Muir's Chapel UMC in Greensboro. She loves finding opportunity and space for as many people as possible to participate in worship and share their gifts. Leading God's people in worship is the joy of her life. When not leading choirs, bands, handbell ensembles, or kids' drum circles, Laurin can likely be found jamming in the band Champagne & Kevlar at local festivals and venues. Laurin is also an incredibly slow, but dedicated runner, finding peace and God through pounding the pavement on long-distance runs. Laurin is proud mommy to two little boys, Jonah (4) and Daniel (1), and a proud wife. She and her family live in Jamestown with their two dogs, two cats, and too many board games.



Love in Action: Hands-On Mission

Our 2023 Conference Hands-On Mission Project is UMCOR Menstrual Hygiene Kits. These kits are distributed during disasters, whether socio-economic or as the result of a natural occurrence. The kits provide basic necessities to vulnerable populations. Each kit is valued at \$24. Complete details, including assembly and packing instructions, can be found at [umcmission.org > UMCOR > Relief Supplies > Menstrual Hygiene Kit Instructions](https://umcmission.org/UMCOR/ReliefSupplies/MenstrualHygieneKitInstructions). Please carefully follow the current instructions and contents list.

Watch a video about the kits and how to assemble them at <https://vimeo.com/731436539>.

In addition to kit collections at Mission u and Annual Celebration, donations can also be dropped off by appointment throughout the year at the [Mission Response Center](#), 8973 Greenwood Rd, Terrell, NC. MRC Contact: Ben Rogers, Mission Response Associate, 828-478-1019.



Together, we are building our legacy.

Thank you, Western North Carolina, for your strong support of The Legacy Endowment Fund! In 2022, YOU gave \$44,576.26 and YOU have given a total of \$473,554.31 since the fund began! Thank you, YOU are building our Legacy!



As a permanently invested endowment, the Legacy Fund will be an ongoing source of income, providing the assurance that our important work can always continue. Giving to the Legacy Fund will support United Women in Faith in perpetuity. That's why gifts to the endowment fund are such a vital way to sustain and grow our capacity to serve and advocate. Every single gift to The Legacy Endowment Fund, of any size, will make a difference!

You can give to the Legacy Fund:

- Through your local unit United Women in Faith treasurer;
- Online on the national office website at <https://uwfaith.org/give/legacy-fund/>;
- By phone: 800-278-7771 (8 am-5pm EST, M-F);
- Via text message "GIVE" to 20503;
- 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;
- By becoming a Legacy Builder with a gift of at least \$18.69 per month;
- Or through other methods including 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.

Learn more on our website at <https://wnccumw.org/legacyfund/>. We also accept Legacy Fund gifts on our conference website through our online giving page at <https://wnc-reg.brtapp.com/MissionGivingUMW>.

Spiritual Growth Retreat June, 2023



THE UWF READING PROGRAM: 2022 RESULTS AND 2023 OPPORTUNITIES

Kathy Chadwell, Secretary of Program Resources

The tallies are in, and I am pleased to report the UWF Reading Program numbers for 2022. Across our eight districts, program completion totals last year were as follows.

- Plan 1: 214 readers
- Plan 2: 50 readers
- Plan 3: 19 readers
- Plan 4: 11 readers
- Children's Plan: 1 reader

That is a total of 295 readers from across western North Carolina. Way to go, UWF readers!

Keep reading those [UWF Reading Program](#) books! If you haven't started the 2023 Reading Program yet, it's not too late. Summer is a great time for reading while on vacation or enjoying the great outdoors. Pack a book for your next picnic or beach trip or put on an audio book or [Faith Talks](#) podcast while you're out for a sunny day walk.

Remember, you can also access UWF videos, community gatherings, and articles online.

The national UWF organization reminds us that, "Reading is connecting" and encourages us to read in community for a richer experience. Some ideas they provide at <https://uwfaith.org/resources/reading-program/> include:

- Sharing the program and books among your UWF group and the community, maybe by starting a book club;
- Sharing book reviews at group meetings;
- Displaying a Reading Program participant progress chart in your church; and
- Praying at home and in your UWF group over social justice and mission concerns raised in some of the Reading Program books.

What better time than summer to connect with friends over some good books and good conversation? Happy summer and happy reading!

Reading Program Categories

- Education For Mission
- Leadership Development
- Nurturing For Community
- Social Action
- Spiritual Growth

Additional Reading Program Options

- [Faith Talks](#) podcast (listening to at least two episodes counts as the equivalent of one book in the Spiritual Growth category)
- Movies (see pg. 3 of the [2023 Reading Program Catalog](#) for details)
- [Past years' reading lists](#)
- Bonus books (see pg. 22 of the [2023 Reading Program Catalog](#))

Reading Program Plans

All plans include regular reading of [response](#) magazine plus:

- Plan 1: 5 books, 1 from each category above
- Plan 2: 10 books, 2 from each category above
- Plan 3: 15 books, 2 each category plus 5 additional books from any category
- Plan 4: 20 books, 2 from each category plus 10 additional books from any category

Enjoy keeping a history of your reading and earn a Reading Program certificate each year by keeping track on the [Reading Program Reporting Form](#)!

Kathy Recommends...

A new book I am reading is ["I Am A Man": Chief Standing Bear's Journey for Justice](#) by Joe Starita, which is in the Education for Mission category in the [2023 Reading Program list](#). It tells of Standing Bear setting off on a 600 mile walk to return the body of his only son to their traditional burial ground.



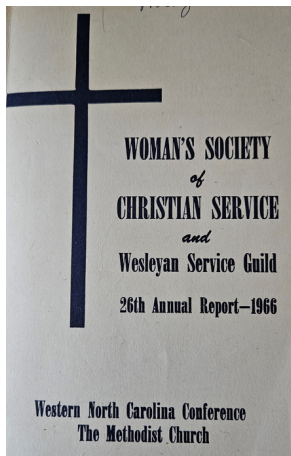
Join a virtual chat about favorite books in the UWF Reading Enthusiasts Group on the Mighty Networks platform.

<https://bit.ly/reading-enthusiasts>



Historically Speaking

LaDonna Butts, Historian



The *Woman's Society of Christian Service and Wesleyan Service Guild 26th Annual Report-1966* (Western North Carolina Conference) noted, "The first Inter-Conference School of Christian Mission was held August 2-6, 1965, Pfeiffer College, Misenheimer, N.C. Theme: "Mission: The Christian's Calling."

A lot has changed in 58 years! Our organization's name has changed a number of times. The School of Christian Mission is now [Mission u](#). Even Pfeiffer is no longer Pfeiffer College, but Pfeiffer University. We, as individuals, have changed, too. We are no longer the women of the 60's. In scanning through the 1966 report, I found it interesting that the women were listed by their husbands' names. For example, the report book was dedicated to Mrs. John C. Wright, not Mrs. Louise Wright. Yep, I'd say we've come a long way.

Pfeiffer University has come a long way too. Not only have their academic offerings expanded, they have expanded their facilities as well. This summer they are updating their cafeteria; that meant we had to find a new venue for Mission u.

In addition to the change of location, the event itself has evolved. In 2022, we moved from three studies to one Scripture-based study. Last year we explored Luke 13. This year the study centers on the Lord's Prayer, Matthew 6:9-13. To better suit the new curriculum, we looked for a venue that would offer more of a retreat setting rather than classrooms, a place to come together to reflect and

meditate as well as learn.

This year Mission u will be held at the [Catholic Conference Center](#) in Hickory, NC, a retreat center that is centrally located in our conference. Everything--gathering space, dining, and lodging--is under one roof and is handicapped accessible. Each room has two double beds and a private bath. No more sleeping on a dorm room mattress, hauling linens, climbing, or crossing a busy road. Just more time to relax, refresh, renew, and rejoice! (I could add revive, rejuvenate, restore, and recharge, but you get the idea.)

I am truly excited to meet with my sisters at Mission u 2023. I am eager to see the Lord's Prayer in a whole new light. I am thinking of the friendships we will develop and the memories we will make as we delve into the prayer Christ taught us, and praying that we will carry our learnings with us to share with others. Perhaps our theme is no different than it was in 1965: "Mission: The Christian's Calling."

Of all the things that have changed over the years, the one that has not is our purpose:

- 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.

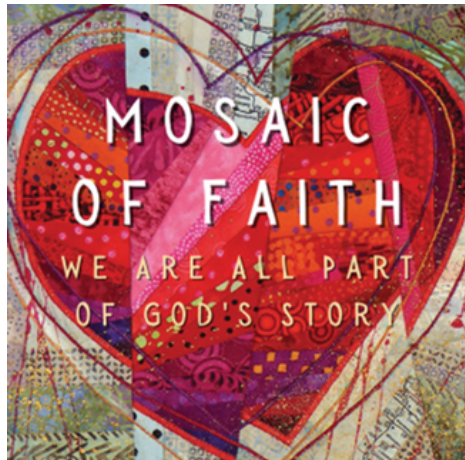
Please [register now](#) and join us for Mission u 2023! Don't miss the opportunity to experience God's calling through Christ's teachings, to develop friendships, and to offer our mission to others. It is our Christian calling.

Our Mission won't be the same without u!

Learn more about our history at
<https://uwfaith.org/who-we-are/our-history/>.



A Look Ahead: The WNCC UWF 50th Annual Celebration!



Annual Celebration Registration

Begins June 20, 2023 at

www.wnccumw.org

- All registration is online. There will be no on-site registration.
- Get a UWF DISCOUNT! Register by August 14 at the discounted rate of \$25.00 per person. After August 14 the full registration fee of \$40.00 will apply. Registration fees are non-refundable.
- Register yourself AND others! Our online registration is for one person at a time, but one person can do multiple individual registrations using the same email address. Thank you for helping other members of your unit to register online, especially those who might not use a computer!
- Contact us if you have a question about registration.
- Wearing masks indoors will be by personal choice.

Event registration is separate from reserving lodging. Call Lake Junaluska for lodging, 1-800-222-4930.

What: 50th Annual Celebration
Celebrating 154 Years in Mission

When: September 8-10, 2023
Event check-in 2:00 p.m.
Program 6:45 p.m.

Where: Lake Junaluska, Terrace Auditorium

Keynote Speaker:

Rev. Holly Cobb McKim
Minister, Hudson UMC



Mission Speaker:

Julie Marie Wilson
Missionary, Open Arms Community Center,
Winston Salem



Music Leaders:

Dr. Craig Estep & Catherine Ritch

Hands-on Mission:

UMCOR Menstrual Hygiene Packs &
Christmas Shoeboxes for Armenia

Mosaic! Saturday Afternoon:

- UWF choir led by Dr. Craig Estep
- "Where Our Money Goes" led by Linda Greer
- Jazzercising 4 Jesus led by LaDonna Butts

Mosaic! Highlights:

- Hosting missionaries for lunch
- Saturday night entertainment
- UWF choir on Sunday
- Inspiration Point, Rose Walk, Susanna Wesley Garden, Biblical Garden, Corneille Bryan Native Garden, Lakeside Walking Trail

Hostess District:
Yadkin Valley

Complete
information coming
soon to
www.wnccumw.org

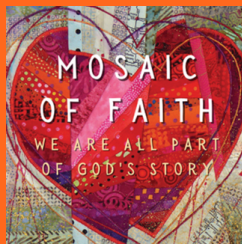
Event Contacts:
Annual Celebration Program
Lynda Morris
Vice President
lfmorris@aol.com
704-619-2013

**Online Registration
Questions**
Lynne Gilbert
Webmaster
lynnegilbert2@gmail.com
336-207-3479



Amy Cochran
381 Weeks Road
Rutherfordton, NC 28139

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



*WNCC United Women in Faith
50th Annual Celebration
Friday Sept. 8 – Sunday Sept. 10
Lake Junaluska*

Lake Junaluska Accommodations

- Housing reservations open June 20, 2023. Call 1-800-222-4930 Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. (Prices at right are per room, per night and do not include tax.)
- Check-in is 4:00 p.m. Check-out is 11:00 a.m.
- Photo ID and credit card required for each person at check-in.
- Meal package does not include Sunday lunch.
- Event registration is separate from housing.

Hotel Lodging	Single	Double	Triple	Quad	Meal Pkg/Person (5 meals)
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	Optional

Complete information coming soon to the [WNCC UWF website!](http://wnccuwf.org/)

