



You Are Invited to Our District Annual Celebration

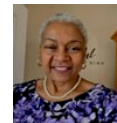
Greetings, Northern Piedmont District of United Women in Faith. I am elated to share updates with you regarding our 2023 District Annual Celebration!

- Theme: A Foundation of Faith
- Date & time: **August 26, 10 a.m. to 12 noon**
- Location: **St. Matthew's UMC at 600 E. Florida Street, Greensboro NC, 27406**



Thanks in advance to the St. Matthew's unit (under the leadership of President Michelle Thompson) for volunteering to host this event and serving a light brunch.

I would like to personally invite you to attend this event where we will fellowship, share District information and our accomplishments from 2022, and have an opportunity to hear a message from our distinguished speaker Dr. Irish Spencer. Many of you may be familiar with Dr. Spencer, as she currently serves at the Conference level and recently served as Northern Piedmont District Nomination Chair. She was named Remarkable Woman of the Piedmont Triad in 2023 (Remarkable Woman is a national production of Nexstar Media Group / WGHP TV Fox Television). Dr. Spencer wears many hats - the first being a child of God, then a wife, mother, community leader, President/CEO of nonprofit FASK (Families Against Senseless Killings) and radio announcer - just to name a few. **Registration is required to allow us to accurately plan for your attendance; please click here to register or contact me (pg. 6).** The deadline to register is **August 21, 2023**. Thanks in advance for your support in this event.



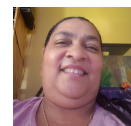
Your Sister in Christ,
Genevieve McCormick
District Vice President

Social Action Workshop on Climate Justice

Please join us for a Social Action Workshop facilitated by Social Action coordinator Mary Lou Webster and Nominations Committee Member Karlah Burton. We will discuss different aspects of climate justice including energy and the weather. We will also discuss how some of this book's themes relate to climate justice. Reading the book is not required to participate.



- Book: *Hidden Figures* by Margot Lee Shetterly
- Date & time: **Sept. 30, 10 a.m. to 12 noon**
- Location: **Zoom ([click here to register](#))**



Mary Lou Webster
District Social Action

The hands-on mission for the District Annual Celebration is to collect school supplies. The hands-on mission for the Social Action Workshop is to collect socks for people experiencing homelessness, esp. women and youth. (cont. on pg. 6)

Conference Annual Celebration

- Theme: Mosaic of Faith: We are All Part of God's Story
- Date: **September 8-10, 2023**
- Location: Lake Junaluska
- Keynote Speaker: Rev. Holly Cobb McKim, Pastor, Hudson UMC
- Mission Speaker: Rev. Julie Marie Wilson, Missionary, Open Arms Community Center, Winston Salem
- Visit wnccumw.org/events/annual-celebration-2023 to learn more and/or register

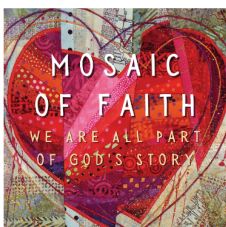


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Try downloading the Libby app to check out books from the library virtually!

Conference & District Calendar 2023

- Aug. 26
10 a.m. to 12 noon District Annual Celebration at St. Matthew's UMC in Greensboro
[Click here to register](#)
- Sept. 8-10 Conference Annual Celebration - Lake Junaluska
- Sept. 30
10 a.m. to 12 noon Social Action Workshop on Climate Justice
facilitated by Mary Lou Webster & Karlah Burton
[Click here to register](#)
- Oct. 7, 14 & 28 Conference-wide UBUNTU days
- Date TBD
10 a.m. to 12 noon Book Study on *Phoebe: A Story* by Paula Gooder
facilitated by Lily Pierce
- Date TBD Local Unit Officers Training - Location TBD

Bright Lights



Bethel (Archdale) United Women in Faith (small but mighty) recently collected and delivered hundreds of canned goods and staple items to Urban Ministries in Greensboro, NC (above). This organization distributes a hot, nutritious lunch every day, including holidays. In addition to the community lunch, they also provide breakfast and dinner to guests staying in the Weaver House shelter, which is one of Urban Ministries' temporary and/or long-term housing facilities. Also, they provide supportive services, including spiritual care.



Saint Matthews United Women in Faith recently enjoyed a Soul Care Self Care activity (above). Over 30 intergenerational participants including our youth ushers and girl scouts enjoyed the fun time, delicious refreshments, amazing fellowship and great paint & sip. We did not forget about our community. For our Step Up & Reach Out, we collected and donated paper towels, toilet paper and cleaning products to the YWCA Family Shelter (below).



On May 7, Gideon Grove United Women in Faith hosted our Spiritual Renewal Gathering. About 100 ladies from more than 15 units attended. We started with a great breakfast buffet, then we had a lovely memorial service and heard a riveting sermon from Rev. Tammy Ingram that inspired cheers, claps and plenty of Amen's. The music was also wonderful, and all the speakers in the program did a great job. What a fantastic event!!



Send stories & photos to npdistrictunitedmethodistwomen@gmail.com

Summer Greetings

How is it already the third quarter? Time just flies!!

I want to thank everyone who came to the Annual Spiritual Renewal Gathering. We had a wonderful time with about 100 ladies in attendance! Wow!

Our book study on *A Knock At Midnight* was informative with such lively discussion. I want to thank those who attended and missed those who were unable to attend; we hope to see them at our next one! The book studies are always such a wonderful time for fellowship and anyone can attend, even not having read the book.

Our next event will be the District Annual Celebration. It is sure to be a great time celebrating our accomplishments from last year.

With that being said, I look forward to seeing what we will accomplish for next year's celebration as well. **I will hopefully have the reports ready to be able to pick up and fill out.** We certainly do not want to miss anything and want to continue to celebrate all those accomplishments. We also want to make sure we keep track of ladies who should be memorialized at next year's Spiritual Renewal Gathering, and these reports are where we get that information.

I look so toward to seeing each and everyone.

We as United Women in Faith continue to show our purpose.

Kelli Smith
District President



Two Cents & A Prayer

Our organization began 154 years ago when six women decided to organize to support female missionaries, native Christians and Bible women in foreign lands. They decided that two cents a week and a prayer would enable each woman in the church to participate. TWO CENTS AND A PRAYER - we've come a LONG way since then!

We are in our third quarter of Mission Giving this year. **As of the end of our second quarter, our District received a total of \$25,401. Of this amount, \$20,823 was Undesignated Giving.** We are, of course, a long way from meeting our District Annual Pledge of \$70,000, but hopefully your unit is meeting in person and you're able to plan fundraising events which will help you help us meet our District's pledge.

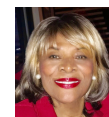
Many of you were able to attend our Spiritual Renewal Gathering on May 6th. It was truly a blessing to see the large turn-out! If you wish, you may still send your love offering to me or by making an online donation at wnccumw.org. As you know, all District Love Offerings are considered Gifts to Mission in honor of our members' faithful commitment to Mission Giving, through good and troubled times, and will count towards our District Annual Pledge.

Included in this newsletter is information pertaining to our **Western North Carolina Conference Annual Meeting to be held September 8-10, 2023.** Please plan to attend this event. All Conference Love Offerings may be mailed to our Conference Treasurer, Bess Redmon, at 19 Wright's Cove Trail, Fairview, NC 28730 or by making an online donation at wnccumw.org under Mission Giving Menu.

Our 2023 Conference Financial Goal is each local unit increase their Mission Giving through the World Thank Offering Channel by 10%. Has your unit accomplished this goal? If not, please consider doing so during this third quarter.

Unit Treasurers - When sending a check to the District Treasurer, always complete a remittance form even if you are sending an Special Mission Recognition pin order or a Gift to Mission card order. Checks should always be written to the Northern Piedmont District UWF or Northern Piedmont District UMW. If, at any time, you need a remittance form, SMR pin order form, Gift to Mission card order form, or Legacy Form, please let me know. You may also download these forms at: wnccumw.org/treasurer-form/.

I hope each of you are having a wonderful and safe summer! As always, thank you for your work as United Women in Faith!



Blessings,
Constance (Connie) Holland
District Treasurer

Blessings, Bright Lights & a Book Study

We have all experienced strife in the last few years. Between the pandemic and the upheavals in our denomination, it's been a period of change, uncertainty and loss. Times are tough economically, and many of us have faced personal challenges. But the theme for our Spiritual Renewal Gathering - Celebrate the Small Stuff - gave us an opportunity to shift our mindset. Whether we are reacting to the circumstances of the world or experiencing hardship in our own circles, *we can live in hope because we believe in Jesus*. God so loved (your name) that He sent His only begotten son, that whosoever believes in Him will have eternal life. Amen and amen! There is a silver lining on every dark cloud, but here's a question: are we looking for it? My mom says, **what you SEEK is what you get**. Do we only focus on everything we lack? Or do we count our blessings and look for God everywhere, in everything?

Here are some **blessings worth counting** for the NP District of United Women in Faith:

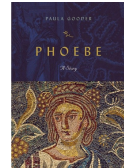
- Attendance at our last in-person event exceeded everyone's expectations.
- We have good participation with the Step Up & Reach Out list.
- We have hosted several book studies in the last couple years.

Allow me to talk more about these three items.

I hope many of you will attend our next in-person event, the District Annual Celebration. How awesome would it be if even *more* ladies showed up there?! Every year, I have the privilege and chore (lol) of putting together this event's program book, and I'm inspired seeing how much we do. When we look at our individual units, especially those with just a few members, our accomplishments may feel small. But once I put it all together, you will see how we collectively make a huge impact.

I always welcome local units to send me photos with descriptions of their events/Mission work. I use these for our Bright Lights section, which is of course a parallel to the Bright Lights section in **response** magazine. Please continue supporting national and local Missions, and don't forget to snap a photo. **You have no idea how energizing it is for the rest of us to see your unit putting faith, hope and love in action.** My email and phone number are listed on page 6. Feel free to call, text or email me.

I am hosting a book study via Zoom, likely on a Saturday morning in Oct. or early Nov. I just started the book *Phoebe: A Story* by Paula Gooder (pictured above). It is **a historically-accurate reimagining of Phoebe delivering Paul's letter to the church in Rome**. So far, I am hooked into the story but also learning a lot due to the historical notes that coincide with each chapter. I can't wait to put this study together. *Reminder: you do not have to read the book to participate.* Just come and learn!



Lily Pierce
District
Communications

Reading Is Rewarding

Wow! The year is half over already - time flies when we're having fun. **Thank you for attending our second book discussion** on *A Knock at Midnight: A Story of Hope, Justice and Freedom* by Brittany K. Barnett on June 3rd led by NPD President Kelli White. It was excellent. We have one more book study scheduled for the fall - more information is available in Lily's article.

Where to get books: We encourage you to get books at your public library, from your favorite local bookstore or through an online retailer. United Women in Faith does not stock nor sell most of the books directly.

Audio access: You are always welcome to use audiobooks, if that's an easier way for you to access the material.

Reporting and recognition - As you read, you can track your progress with our easy-to-use [Reporting Form](#). When you submit the Report of Completion Requirements, you will be recognized with a [Certificate of Recognition](#).

response magazine (available in print and digital) is the award-winning, official magazine of United Women in Faith. We explore spiritual growth and living our faith, and report on our local, national and international work.

For more information, go to uwfaith.org & search Reading Program. HAPPY READING.



Cheryl Little
District SPR



Step Up & Reach Out



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



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

Community Outreach of Archdale (food pantry) 10607 N. Main St, Archdale, 336-431-3663

- Soups
- Jelly
- Spaghetti sauce
- Canned food/fruit
- Any breakfast items
- Single serve snacks (for the Backpack Program)

Sew Loved, Inc. (sewing ministry) Wanda Hammock, 336-514-1166, Eden. Call for details, location and times.

- Help: sewing clothes for children in a South African orphanage
- Give: children's underwear

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
- Fruit cups
- Microwaveable meals such as Chef Boyardee
- Granola bars

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

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

YWCA Family Shelter
1807 E. Wendover Ave. Greensboro, 336-773-9766

- Bottled water
- Drink mix for tea or lemonade
- Laundry detergent
- 55 gal trash bags
- 13 gal trash bags
- Cleaning supplies (esp. Clorox wipes)
- Snacks

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



Peace!
Rynn McGee-Pierce,
District MEI

"This little light of mine/ I'm gonna let it shine Celebrate the small stuff/ I'm gonna let it shine"

I am SO proud of you all!!! **Your light was shining brightly as you responded to the Mother's Day hands-on mission at our Spiritual Renewal Gathering with over 150 items collected!** I contacted the shelters on our Step Up & Reach Out list to determine where to take the goodies -

- Room At The Inn had eight moms, who each got two items (pictured above)
- Leslie's House had 20 moms, and they also got two items each
- YWCA Family Shelter, who had five families, received 50+ items: Mother's Day gifts as well as other toiletries for the families (the two lefthand pictures below)
- Rockingham Hope received 50+ personal care items to aid families in need (the two righthand pictures below)

It may have seemed like "small stuff," but those receiving the deliveries were excited and truly thankful for your thoughtfulness! **Let your light shine, my sisters, let it shine!** I love you, and I celebrate you!





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 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
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313-310-8680
looney814@gmail.com

Mission Education & Interpretation

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

HANDS-ON MISSIONS CONT: If you want to collect the socks in advance to give Rynn at the District Celebration, that is fine. If you want to wait, you can contact Rynn after you collect them, and she will arrange a pick-up or advise you where to deliver them. Also, a mildly interesting sidenote: UMCOR no longer wants/needs school kits. So, all items in both categories will be donated locally.

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!



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
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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
336-772-1528
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

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



A Call to Action: Boycott Wendy's

I first heard about a boycott of Wendy's restaurant several years ago while attending Mission u being held at Pfeiffer University (Misenheimer, NC). At that time, United Women in Faith (formerly United Methodist Women) provided information that explained how field workers in Immakolee, Florida who worked to harvest the company's tomato crop were being exploited by cruel farm bosses in the form of sexual harassment, assault, back-breaking labor, working in excessive heat, and stolen and/or poverty-level wages. At the very worst, their employment conditions have been tantamount to modern-day slavery. Women have been forced to work against their will and often under the threat of violence.

Over the last 30 years, the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW) has formed - beginning as a group of farmworkers gathering weekly in local area churches to discuss hardships they had faced, explore the origin of their problems and envision a better, more humane agriculture industry. Through CIW, the voices of farmworkers are heard as they continue to fight for the dignity and human rights of fieldworkers.

To date, Wendy's has yet to join the Fair Food Program, pioneered by CIW and designed to protect workers' rights in the corporate supply chain. Among the list of participants are Burger King, Subway, Chipotle, The Fresh Market and Trader Joe's. A recent report released by Harvard Law School's Center for Labor and a Just Economy (Clean Slate for Worker Power Project) tells how Immakolee slave-like field labor was transformed into the best workplace environment in US agriculture! The employee-driven Worker Responsibility (WSR) model, also derived from the Fair Food Program, has set the standard for protection of the rights of workers in other low wage-industries such as fishing, textiles, construction and cut flowers/gardening.

Let us renew our minds, review our morals and continue to use our voice as members of United Women in Faith to stand up and speak out! We should love the Lord our God with all of our hearts and our souls and love our neighbors as ourselves (Matt 22:36-40)! I urge you to again embrace the vision of the Coalition of Immakolee Workers, boycott Wendy's and otherwise continue to act in support of even the least of these!

Follow this link to a list of easy tomato recipes for summer,

[nytimes.com/article/tomato-recipes-summer.html](https://www.nytimes.com/article/tomato-recipes-summer.html)



May the peace of Christ be with you!
Karah Y. Burton
District Nominations Committee Member
Chairperson, Creation Care Ministry/
Community Garden Project (SMUMC)
United Methodist Earthkeeper



Audio Versions of response Articles & the Faith Talks Podcast

After hearing District Treasurer Connie Holland speak highly of the Faith Talks podcast at a recent meeting, I searched United Women in Faith on Spotify and found audio recordings of some of the **response** magazine articles and also a page for the Faith Talks podcast. I listened to an article from the most recent issue of response about Crossroads Urban Center, one of the many efforts supported by UWF's Mission Giving, which started in 1905 as a hub for local deaconesses when a Women's Missionary Society purchased the property. Hearing it read aloud was cool because they interviewed different people who have been benefited by the Center. For instance, they spoke with a Venezuelan family seeking asylum in the US, a man who has chosen homelessness for decades and a woman who had been addicted to drugs and lost her child but turned her life around and now works at their thrift store.

I also listened to a Faith Talks podcast from July 6th where the host interviews Dr. Ashley Boggan Dreff, the General Secretary of the General Commission on Archives and History for the UMC. Their enriching discussion incorporated spiritual guidance, history and commentary on today's culture. It is so uplifting yet educational to listen to conversations between smart Christian women! A couple things I got from this episode: we all go through tough seasons in life but they don't last forever, and Susanna Wesley (John's mother) taught all her female children to read before teaching them to sew, an extremely bold move in the early 1700's. There were several other great takeaways for the heart, mind and spirit.

I'm often too preoccupied with other things to sit down and read a magazine or book. But what's great about podcasts, audiobooks, etc. is that you can multitask while listening. Consider turning on a Faith Talks episode next time you are washing dishes, folding laundry, etc.

visit uwfaith.org/resources/podcasts

Lily Pierce
District Communications



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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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.

visit uwfaith.org/resources/podcasts



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.

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response: Magazines With a Mission, PO Box 395, Congers, NY 10920



UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) provides cleaning, hygiene and menstrual 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: umcmmission.org/relief-supplies.

Legacy Fund Information:

Visit our website at wncumw.org/legacyfund



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).