



United  
Women  
in Faith

The Catawba Valley

Voice



## Leadership Development Day

### Inside This Issue

Leadership Development Day	1
President's Note	2
Vice President's Note	3
Special Message	4
Disaffiliated Churches List CVD	5
Disaffiliation Document	6
Reading Program	7
District Team Officer Roster	8
2023 Calendar of Events	9
LEGACY BUILDERS	10

OCTOBER 28th 2023

Hi Everyone:

If you are an officer of a Unit of the Catawba Valley District for 2024 OR *if you think you might like to be one someday and need more information*, you **need** to attend this ZOOM event. All treasurers will be automatically assign to a special break out room when they register. So read the information below and get those fingers typing on the registration!

\*\*\*ALL CURRENT CV DISTRICT OFFICERS (THE EXECUTIVE TEAM SHOULD ALSO REGISTER FOR THE LEADERSHIP ZOOM AT THE LINK BELOW\*\*\*

You are invited to a *ZOOM* meeting.

When: Oct 28, 2023 10:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEqcO6rqzlrHNTPJ50f9kaCBCItjL6WkL3U>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. Treasurers will be automatically assigned to a breakout room.

## President's Letter

**Hello Everyone -**

This is a time of sharing and learning. Let not your heart be troubled about the changes we are witnessing in this Catawba Valley District. Lots of unrest and movements toward growth have transpired recently. For example, I was asked to join a current Conference Presidents' and District Presidents' meeting on Sept 21st. The CEO and General Secretary, Sally Vonner had news about Annual Conference District Realignment. Not to alarm us, but to be prepared for what may happen in the future.

We should remember our Core Values: Welcoming, Service-Oriented, Caring, Loving and Supportive. Encourage others to : Follow Jesus, Make Disciples and Change the World.

And remember that if we don't embrace change, we will embrace irrelevance. Is that what you want? My team and I are working hard to avoid such a calamity.

Our District Executive team has 2 Nominations Officers, and only five others to do the work we are asked for from the Conference. I'd like to see some Mission Coordinators step up; but, maybe I'm dreaming. In 2024, we will be the Hostess District for Conference Events at Lake Junaluska in June and Sept. and the mission u in July. We have begun the planning, wouldn't you like to be part of the excitement?

Please use the tools you've been given. Like the Mission Today Criteria, and the UWF website online. The new Reading Program books are available as well as much more podcasts, like: Faith Talks, Voices from the Field, etc. If you're interested in Indigenous people find this website on Nov. 21st, "Eventbrite for Unsettling Thanks"

[www.bia.gov/bia/ois/dhs/icwa](http://www.bia.gov/bia/ois/dhs/icwa) plus many other informational pieces.

In closing, I am Ever Hopeful,  
Janet



Janet Bjork-Colton  
Catawba Valley District President - 2024

## Vice President's Note

Greetings from Gastonia! I hope you are doing well. I had a great time attending the UWF Annual Celebration at Lake Junaluska. I encourage each of you to plan to go next year!

My local group closed out our summer with sponsoring our annual 9-11 Memorial Service. We had 20 first responders and 6 family members come worship with us. After worship we sponsored a breakfast for them. We gave each one of them a goodie bag with some candy in it with a prayer patch and prayer beads.

We are looking forward to our upcoming event in November it's called the "Festival of Trees". We will be decorating 4 foot trees and then donating them to Salvation Army for the families that receive the Angel tree donations. Our goal is to donate 15 trees this year. So please pray for this event for us and if you would like to know more or need ideas for your local unit to do please let me know I will help in anyway I can. May God bless you and keep you safe.

One last note. By the next newsletter I will be a proud Oma of my first grandchild. His name is Gavin Scott and hopefully he will be here in early November! Prayers welcome for him and my daughter. Thank you so much. Hope to see all soon.



Tanya Lunsford

Catawba Valley District Vice President

### Scripture to Ponder:

*Dearest Friends, you were always so careful to follow my instructions while I was with you. And now that I am away, you must be even more careful to put into action God's saving work in your lives, obeying God with deep reverence and fear. For God's working in you, giving you the power to do what pleases him.*

**Philippians 2: 12, 13**



### Important Message Concerning United Methodist Church Disaffiliations

*Last summer, the Western Conference of the UMC Annual Conference approved the disaffiliation of a total of 195 churches in our conference. In addition, the Western Conference also closed another 5 churches because of large declines in membership, worship attendance, and/or financial support. That is a loss of 200 churches.*

*Sadly 40 of those 200 churches are in the Catawba Valley District, and there are more to come. Many are unaware that they can continue as members of the UWF. Since the United Women in Faith is an entirely separate entity from the United Methodist Church, they can keep their unit intact, leaving everything as is except they belong to a new church. (Just let our President know the new name of your church if choosing this option).*

*If, however, a unit disbands, individuals who wish to remain in association with UWF can join just the UMF at another unit and remain a member of the disaffiliated church, if desired, Page 6 is a document which explains this.*

*There is a full list of the Catawba Valley District's disaffiliated and recently closed churches on page 5. We are asking the Presidents to reach out to these churches that are near your church and offer their members a UWF home if their unit will be disbanding.*

*For churches that are disaffiliating—President's please let us know the status of your unit as soon as possible if you have not already done so. Contact Janet Bjork -Colton: her contact information is on page 7*

*Gwen Perkins*

*CVD Communications Coordinator*

**List of Disaffiliated or Recently Closed churches in the Catawba Valley District**

Asbury – Lincolnton	Lawndale - Lawndale
Bess Chapel- Cherryville	Lebanon - Denver
Bethel- Dry Ponds	May’s Chapel - Maiden
Bethel—Morganton	Mary’s Grove - Kings Mountain
Beulah—Shelby	New Covenant - Mount Holly
Bradley Memorial—Gastonia	New Home - Casar
Center—Catawba	Plateau - Vale
Central-Kings Mountain	Polkville - Polkville
Christ— Hickory	Rhyne Heights - Lincolnton
Cramer Memorial (CLOSED)	Shiloh - Shelby
Crowell Memorial—Lincolnton	St. Paul’s - Catawba
David's Chapel—Lawndale	St. Paul’s - Shelby
Denton's Chapel—Morganton	St. Peter’s - Lawndale
Fairfield—Denver	Sulphur Springs - Shelby
First—Conover	Tucker’s Grove - Iron Station
First—Maiden	
First—Mount Holly	
Friendship - Fallston	
Friendship - Newton	
Hebron - Vale	
Hopewell - Sherrills Ford	
Kadesh - Lawndale	
Knob Creek - Lawndale	

## Disaffiliation Document

As we strive to answer the challenges of churches disaffiliating from the United Methodist Church while United Women in Faith members of that church wish to continue to belong to United Women in Faith, we are offering this document with guidance for us all to speak with the same voice and in a tone of affiliation not disaffiliation.

United Women in Faith have built Community and must:

- ◆ remain peaceful
- ◆ become resilient
- ◆ know all are valued
- ◆ remain inclusive
- ◆ create change with kindness

Our common purpose is and always has been to support women, children and youth all around the world.

Our PURPOSE has not changed:

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. United Women in Faith is an all-access organization. Membership shall be open to any woman who indicates her desire to belong and to participate in the global mission of the Church through United Women in Faith.

If your church disaffiliates from the United Methodist Church, you may continue your membership in UWF:

- ◆ You may join with an existing UWF unit in a local church remaining in the Conference. A unit in a disaffiliating church may join with a unit in a church remaining in the Conference. They may choose to be a circle of that unit.
- ◆ They may choose to remain a unit in their church. Units may meet in any location they choose. You may hold any office in the local unit but may not serve as a District or Conference President
- ◆ A unit may determine its structure to best fulfil the Purpose so that the work of administration, finance, program planning, record keeping and nominations can be carried out.
- ◆ Pastors in United Methodist Churches are ex-officio members of the unit in their churches. In the case of a disaffiliated church, the minister would not be an ex-officio member.

## READING PROGRAM

Reading!

When we are small, we are in awe of the ability to READ. Children will get a book, look at the pictures and get someone to interpret (read) the little squiggles which go with the pictures.

Then we go to school and learn to do it for ourselves. Somewhere between 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade, we begin to lose the fascination. Whether its "Book Reports" or just overwhelmed, Reading turns into a chore.

After High School or College, we decide never to pick up another book again. We start hitting only the highlights of the local news or whatever our electrical devices want to tell us.

When we started the process of Reading, we looked for detail and interpreted for ourselves. As adults, we skim articles or accept others interpretation.

The UWFaith Reading List gives us a God Centered view of the world, as well a freedom to interpret the squiggles. The new 2024 list is out and promises a lot of knowledge and ideas for Personal Growth. Be sure to check it out on the website

PLEASE, grab a book and find that love for the squiggles you had as a child.



Anita Fox

Program Resources

### ATTENTION PRESIDENTS:

IN EARLY NOVEMBER YOU WILL RECEIVE YOUR YEAR END PACKETS WHICH REQUIRE ACTION ON YOUR PART. WHEN YOU RECEIVE THE PACKET, LOOK THROUGH IT. A CHECKLIST OF WHAT YOU NEED TO COMPLETE WILL BE INCLUDED

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS CONCERNING THIS, PLEASE CONTACT: JANET BJORK-COLTON. HER CONTACT INFORMATION IS ON PAGE 8.

### Catawba Valley District UWF Officer Team - 2023

Office	Name	Address	Phone and Email
President	Janet Bjork Colton	516 Roderet St. S Valdese, NC 28690	828-205-4157 jntcltn61@gmail.com
Vice President	Tanya Lunsford	376 Woodlawn Ave Cramerton, NC 28032	704-678-7122 tlmartintm@gmail.com
Secretary	Kim Arrowood	3681 Laboratory Rd Lincolnton, NC 28092	704-813-8504 Kimarrowood@live.com
MNO	<b>OPEN</b>		
Treasurer	Gaye Dagenhart	29 31st Ave. Court NE 30 Hickory, NC 28601	828-381-2716 cvdtreasurer@gmail.com
Social Action	<b>OPEN</b>		
Communications Coordinator	Gwen Perkins	3021 Harmon Homestead Rd Shelby, NC 28150	704-300-9553 cvdcomm@gmail.com
Spiritual Growth Coordinator	<b>OPEN</b>		
Mission Education & Interpretation	<b>OPEN</b>		
Parliamentarian	<b>OPEN</b>		
Historian	<b>OPEN</b>		
Nominating Chair	<b>OPEN</b>		
Program Resources	Anita Fox	2430 Mountain Laurel Ln Morganton, NC 28655	828-390-6349 Taco582001@yahoo.com
Nominations - Burke	<b>OPEN</b>		
Nominations - Catawba	<b>OPEN</b>		
Nominations - Cleveland	<b>OPEN</b>		
Nominations - Gaston	Vicki Boyd	2305 Hillside Dr Dallas, NC 28034	704-922-3241 vwboyd@bellsouth.net
Nominations - Lincoln	Linda Reep	4780 Grigg Rd Lincolnton, NC 28092	704-276-2150 lindareep@charter.net
Conference Liaison	Ann Aldridge	2542 Silverbrook Court Morganton, NC 28655	828-443-7414 ahaldridge1@charter.net



## 2023 Calendar of Events

### Catawba Valley *District United Women in Faith*

**Oct. 7, 24, 28** - Ubuntu Days of Service- various locations

**Oct 21st** - Conference Leadership Development Day for all District Officers

**Oct 28th** - Catawba Valley District Leadership Development Day - all unit Officers

## 2024 Partial Calendar of Events

### Catawba Valley *District United Women in Faith*

**Jan 6** - Exexecutive Committee Meeting - Messiah UMC

**Mar 16** - Prayer Breakfast and Memorial Service - (Location TBD)

**April 6** - Executive Committee Meeting - location TBD

**April 19-21** SEJ Event Chattanooga TN ALL UWF MEMBERS

**April 23-May 3** - General Conference Charlotte NC

**May 4th** - Mission Study -location TBD - ALL UWF MEMBERS

**Jun13-15** Spiritual Growth Retreat, Lake Junaluska -ALL UWF MEMBERS

**June 20-23** - Annual Conference, Lake Junaluska



# LEGACY BUILDER

**What is a Legacy Builder?** A Legacy Builder moves forward the mission of United Methodist Women by making a monthly gift of \$18.69 or more to The Legacy Fund Endowment Campaign in honor of United Methodist Women's 150th anniversary. Just as our foremothers invested in our future in 1869, gifts to the campaign will ensure that United Women in Faith continues to prepare future generations of women to practice mutuality in mission, working to transform the lives of women, children and youth in deeper and even more impactful ways.

**Why is it important?** Becoming a Legacy Builder is a way for our members to participate in a sustainable and regular way of giving to The Legacy Fund Endowment Campaign that moves us closer to achieving the fund's \$60 million goal by the end of 2020. What is the impact of my giving \$18.69/month or more? Endowing core expenses will equip United Women in Faith to make even more of a difference in the lives of women, children and youth in communities around the world, for example:

- Providing healthy snacks to an afterschool program for children living in poverty in rural Kentucky.
- Supplying books for an international scholarship recipient in the Philippines.
- Or purchasing baby chicks to create entrepreneurship opportunities for women and youth in Mozambique.

**Can I stop my giving or adjust my donation at any time?** Of course, just call the development office at 212-870-3705 or you can email: [legacy150@uwfaith.org](mailto:legacy150@uwfaith.org)

**Will I receive verification of my donations for tax purposes?** All donors will receive an annual statement reflecting the prior year's gifts. This statement will be mailed in February.

**How do I become a Legacy Builder?** Make a commitment of \$18.69/month or more to The Legacy Fund Endowment Campaign. You can also choose to make gifts on a quarterly, semi-annual, or annual basis, whatever schedule works best for you. Please consider becoming a Legacy Builder. Now is the time to come together as United Women on Faith, and invest in our future mission work, as our foremothers did in 1869!