

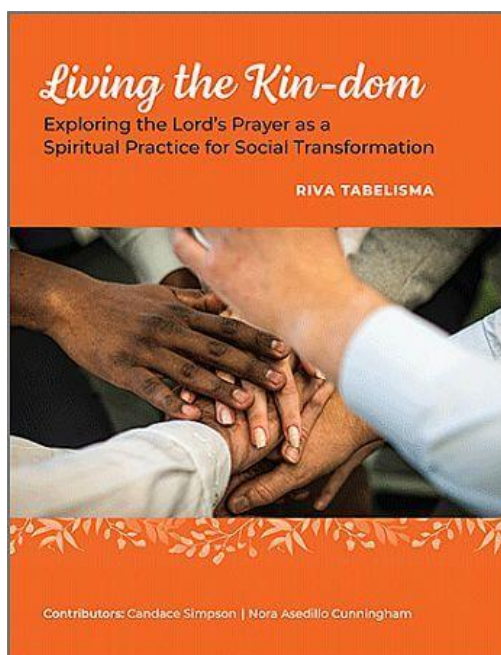


United
Women
in Faith

Western North Carolina

Blue Ridge District Newsletter
United Women in Faith

Purpose: UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH is 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.



Mission Study – “Living the Kin-dom: Exploring the Lord’s Prayer as a Spiritual Practice for Social Transformation” by Riva Tabelisma

When – Saturday, March 16th (10:00am – 12:00pm) & Monday, March 18th (6:30pm – 8:30pm) on ZOOM
Study Leader – Deaconess Tracey S. Owens, Director of Activities at Brooks-Howell Home and Mission Education & Interpretation Coordinator for the Blue Ridge District UWF.

The UWF of the Blue Ridge and Smoky Mountain districts will be participating in this mission study together.

To register: Go to the WNCC United Women in Faith website. Click on the Blue Ridge District icon. Click on Mission Study and register. It is that easy! Learn more about the Lord’s Prayer and different translations used around the world.

Hope to see you in March!

**Blue Ridge District United Women in Faith
2024 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 glendafuhrmann@yahoo.com</p>	<p><u>Treasurer:</u> Martha Phillips, (Pine Grove) P. O. Box 49, Linville Falls, NC 28647 (828) 467-3167, mcwphillips@gmail.com</p>
<p><u>MC, Spiritual Growth:</u> Jennie Greenway (Oak Grove) 164 Emma Drive Ellenboro, NC 28040 (828) 453-9637 or (828) 289-1642 jengreenway@bellsouth.net</p>	<p><u>MC, Education & Interpretation:</u> Tracey Owens (Marion First) 310 S. Garden Street Marion, NC 28752 (828) 246-6006 traceybhh@gmail.com</p>	<p><u>MC, Social Action:</u> Leith Tate (Black Mountain) PO Box 208 Montreat, NC 28757 (828) 301-6028 tateleith@gmail.com</p>	<p><u>MC, Membership Nurture & Outreach:</u> Stephanie Goudreau (Marion First) 320 S. Garden Street Marion, NC 28752 (828)460-2463 segoudreau@yahoo.com</p>
<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> Kathy Woods 11 Azalea Road Arden, 28704 (828) 777-8617 mysuncemail@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><u>Jackie Rio, Co-chair</u> (Black Mountain) 101 Second Street Black Mountain, NC 28711 (828) 669-2885 jackierio@charter.net Class of 2025</p>	<p>Karen Anderson, Co-chair (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>Susan Snell (Central) 30 Sunflower Lane Fletcher, NC 28732 (828) 551-0736 ssnell123@bellsouth.net Class of 2023</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><u>Members at Large</u> Dixie Liggett, (Skyland), 8 Springside Park, Asheville, NC 28803, (828) 684-1831, lliggett3@charter.net Martha Phillips, (Pine Grove) P. O. Box 49, Linville Falls, NC 28647 (828) 467-3167, mcwphillips@gmail.com</p> <p><u>Conference Advisor</u> Joanie Strohm (Weaverville), 111Collins Road, Marshall, NC 28753, (828) 707-8928, ssjmsars@charter.net</p>			

2024 NURTURING PARTNERS for BLUE RIDGE DISTRICT
 - 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
Stephanie Goudreau (828) 460-2463	First Rutherfordton Gilkey Pleasant Hill-Marion Concord Clinchfield Pleasant Grove	Gwen Harris (828) 682-4589	Bald Creek Mars Hill Weaverville Addie's Chapel Thermal City Asbury Memorial
Lucy Earls (828) 453-8566 (828) 223-1325	First Forest City Saluda Spindale	Leith Tate (828) 301-6028	Skyland Salem
Glenda Fuhrmann (828) 337-2617	Montmorenci	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 Marion First
Joanie Strohm (828) 707-8928	Piney Mountain	Karen Anderson (828) 628-9385	St. Paul's Abernethy
Jennie Greenway (828) 453-9637	Edneyville Hendersonville First Moore's Grove	Eva Farren (828) 231-3820	Grace Balfour
Susan Snell (828) 551-0736	Sardis S.O.W. in Faith (Oakley/Sardis)	Kathy Woods (828) 777-8617	Fletcher



2024 Calendar of Events-

January	
6	Zoom District Executive Committee Meeting – 10:00 AM
20	Treasurers and Presidents LDD (location TBD)
February	
10	Finance Committee Meeting (Virtual)
11	Executive Committee Meeting (Virtual)
24	Zoom BR District Book Club – 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM
March	
9	District Executive Committee Meeting – TBA – 9:30 AM
16, 18	Zoom District Mission Study with Smoky Mountain (See cover for times)
16	Scholarship Committee Meeting at 1:00 PM (Virtual)
April	
13	Prayer Breakfast – First UMC Forest City – 10:00 AM
19-21	Southeastern Jurisdictional event, Chattanooga, TN All UWF Members
23- May 3	UMC General Conference, Charlotte, NC
May	
25	Zoom BR District Book Club – 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM
June	
13-15	Spiritual Growth Retreat, Lake Junaluska All UMFaith Members
20-23	WNCCUMC Annual Conference, Lake Junaluska
29	District Executive Committee Meeting – 9:30 AM (location TBA)
July	
20	Zoom BR District Book Club – 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM
August	
2-3	Mission u, Catholic Conference Center, All UWFaith Members
10	Finance Committee (Virtual)
11	Executive Committee (Virtual)
17	District Annual Celebration – TBA – 9:30 AM
September	
6-8	WNC Annual Celebration, Lake Junaluska, All UWFaith Members
21	District Executive Committee Meeting – 9:30 AM (location TBA)
28	Zoom BR District Book Club – 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM
October	
5,12,26	Ubuntu Days of Service (various locations) All UWFaith Members
19	Conference Leadership Development Day (LDD)-All District Officers
November	
2	District Leadership Development Day (LDD)
8	Orientation for new Conference Officers (location TBD)
9	Finance Committee meeting (location TBD)
10	Executive Committee meeting (location TBD)

-Blue Ridge District events for all UWF members are in blue

-WNC Conference & National events for all UWF members are in green

A Message from Your President

I'm excited about 2024 and hope you are, too! The District Executive Committee met in early January and finalized our calendar of events for 2024 (see page 4). Our first event is the Zoom mission study with Smoky Mountain in March. Tracey Owens will lead the study, which is an in-depth study of the Lord's Prayer (see cover).

The theme for 2024 is "Beyond Ourselves: Serving Christ Boldly." UWFaith started as a group dedicated to mission, and we want to emphasize that we are still a mission organization, looking beyond ourselves to serve Christ boldly in our communities, our country, and around the world.

The District Executive Committee set two goals for 2024. The first goal is to have each local unit increase its mission giving to the 2019 level. Mission giving has fallen off since the Covid shutdown in 2020. We want to get back on track.



*Let's
go!*

The second goal is to have 75 percent of our active units participate in one or more of our district events: Mission Study, Prayer Breakfast, Annual Celebration, or Leadership Development Day, either in person or by Zoom. The District and Conference meetings give us a broader understanding of UWFaith.

I'm also excited about 2024 because of two very special events. The Southeastern Jurisdictional UWFaith Quadrennial Meeting is taking place in Chattanooga, TN, April 19-21. You can register at www.sejuwf.org until March 19.

Also, the 2024 United Methodist General Conference for United Methodists from all over the world is taking place in Charlotte on April 23-May 3. Our local unit members and other members of our churches will be given opportunities to volunteer since the Western North Carolina Conference UMC is the host conference.

I hope you're getting excited. We have a lot happening in 2024!

Gwen Harris, President

2024 SOUTHEASTERN
JURISDICTION
*Get
Together!*



United
Women
in Faith

Vice President

Happy New Year! What possibilities and promises does 2024 hold for us? Every year we always seem to make the same resolutions. Why don't we make different resolutions for this year? Do we want to lose weight? Instead of that, why not gain new United Women in Faith friends in our local units or even add new units. Maybe your unit is currently inactive and it could be up to you to spur on some new interest for your group or be willing to take an office.

Are we going to exercise more to get physically fit? Maybe 2024 is when we need to work on our spiritual fitness. Can you read more from **response** magazine and the Reading Program? Can you use the Prayer Guide each day?

Are you planning to save more money? Maybe you need to give more to your pledge this year. That is a great resolution.

Another great resolution is to make a better use of our time. There is no better use of our time than to join in as many activities of the UWFaith as we can. We usually begin our year with unit meetings. Then come District Prayer Breakfast, Book Club, Mission Study, and Annual Celebration. We have great opportunities with our Western North Carolina sisters at Spiritual Growth Retreat, Mission u, and Annual Celebration.

Please contact your Nurturing Partner or any officer to meet with you or answer any questions you may have. Let's make this the best year ever.

Lucy Earls, Vice President

Spiritual Growth

Happy New Year!!!! Hope you all are having a great start to your 2024. Likely, by the time you have read this, you have already made, and possibly broken, your New Year's resolutions. Recently, I came across this quote from Mother Teresa, and I have made it my personal goal in the New Year to be the kind of person she is talking about.

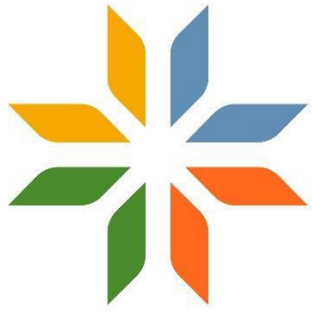
“Let no one ever come to you without leaving better and happier. Be the living expression of God's kindness: kindness in your face, kindness in your eyes, kindness in your smile.”

Mother Teresa

I realize that life is not always easy. We all have faced challenges and many of us continue to face challenges. ***I vow, and I hope you will, too, to trust God with my challenges and to be the embodiment of Christ to those who come in contact with me, whether it be a stranger or a friend or a family member.***

In event news, this year's Prayer Breakfast will be Saturday, April 13 at First United Methodist Church Forest City. We hope to see you all there.

Jennie Greenway, Coordinator



United Women in Faith

WNCC United Women in Faith SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Do you know a student who is a member of one of the WNCC United Methodist Churches?

Will they attend one of the United Methodist supported institutions in our conference (Bennett College, Brevard College, Greensboro College, High Point University, Pfeiffer University) for the fall semester 2024?

Then they are eligible to apply for a WNCC United Women in Faith scholarship!

Applications should be requested by contacting the scholarship committee chairperson:

Jatana Royster

8227 Laurel Oak Court Harrisburg, NC 28075

704-451-3816 (cell)

Email: jatanaroyster@gmail.com

Applications are due by March 1, 2024. Interviews will be conducted in March 16, 2024. YOU can support our scholarship program by:

Referring students.

Praying for our students and UM supported institutions.

Contributing to the general scholarship fund as districts, units, circles and individuals.

Please contact me if you need additional information.

Blessings,

Jatana Royster

Treasurer

Greetings Blue Ridge District Ladies,

I am honored to serve as your District Treasurer in 2024. I know we are all praying for Linda Johns who had to resign as treasurer due to health problems. Thank you, Linda, for your 5 years of service. And thank you, ladies, for your generosity in 2023. Our giving in 2023 is listed below:

Pledge to Mission (total of all undesignated giving)

\$78,738.65

Special Mission Recognition

\$1,795.00

Gift to Mission

\$5,063.00

Gift in Memory

\$2,220.00

World Thank Offering

\$13,021.65

Walk for Mission

\$9,273.00

Call to Prayer and Self Denial

\$6,455.06

Other Designated Giving

\$5,690.00

Legacy Fund

\$4,940.92



Our District Goal this year was \$82,100.00, which we missed by \$3,361.35. We have decided to keep the same goal of \$82,100.00 for 2024, and I feel certain we can achieve this goal together. Remember the women, children, and youth who depend on us as we plan our giving this year. Peace and every good,

Martha Phillips

Nominations Committee

We have a busy year ahead as we look toward filling several offices on our UWF Executive Committee. Please consider possible members of United Women in Faith you know who would be a good fit for any one of the following positions: Treasurer; Secretary for Program Resources; and Mission Coordinators for Spiritual Growth and Mission Education and Interpretation and Membership Nurture and Outreach. Candidates should have a desire to serve and a background that enables them to fulfill the duties of the position. Please get in touch with us for more information, including job descriptions. We are happy to discuss what's involved in serving in these positions. Our Blue Ridge District Executive Committee is a great team to be on!

Karen Anderson, Co-chair - ksanderson95@gmail.com

Jackie Rio, Co-chair - jackierio@charter.net

Membership Nurture and Outreach

A new year brings new opportunities! One action I hope each unit will take this year is to invite your nurturing partner for a visit. Each local unit has been assigned a Blue Ridge District officer as their nurturing partner. Nurturing partners and their phone numbers are listed in this newsletter, so it is easy to contact them (see page 3).



Why invite your nurturing partner for a visit? I found some great reasons listed under the Membership Nurture and Outreach page of the United Women in Faith's website (<https://wnccumw.org/membership-nurture-outreach/>). Here is a summary of that information:

- The officers can answer questions you might have, like what are the United Women in Faith doing as a district or conference, how you can participate more fully in mission, where does the money go, how we can grow as a unit, etc.
- You will build a stronger relationship with the district.
- The officers are here to support YOU. You are vital to the mission work that is done with women, children, and youth.
- The officers can bring resources for you to use in your local unit.
- The officers can tell you about all the district and conference events. When is the Prayer Breakfast? What is Mission u? How do I get involved with book studies?
- The officers can help if you need ideas for leadership development, fresh programming, new member recruitment, etc.
- This gives you an opportunity to share any thoughts or concerns you may have.
- This fulfills criterion #20 to be a Mission Today unit.
- The officers want an opportunity to get to know you and say thank you. You are invaluable to our organization! You can ask your nurturing partner to give a program, or you can invite her to just join you in fellowship at a unit meeting. As a nurturing partner, I anticipate learning a lot from the units I visit. I am looking forward to building relationships and finding out how each unit is helping women, children, and youth both locally and globally.

Stephanie Goudreau, Coordinator

Program Resources

Not all readers are leaders, but all leaders are readers. – Harry S. Truman

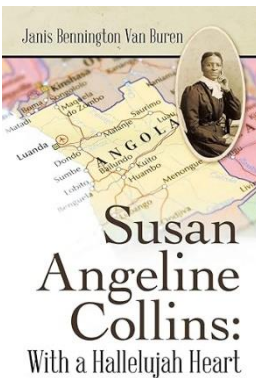
HAPPY NEW YEAR!

2024 is looking like a great year for UWFaith reading. In 2024 the selection of books has been expanded, offering more choices. The best way to find out what is available in the form of resources is, of course, the United Women in Faith website. You can find the site by going to uwfaith.org/resources. When you get there, spend a few minutes exploring the many areas that can help you: Podcasts, **response**, Reading Program, Program Resources, Mission u Curricula, and The Prayer Guide.

Response and Faith Talks podcasts are part of the Reading Program. In the Reading Program section of the resource website, you can download the 2024 list of recommended books. There you will find the different Reading Program Plans. You can also download a list of books going back to 2019 that can be included in your reading plans.

New this year is a virtual page at bookshop.org/shop/uwfaith where you can browse and purchase most of the 2024 reading program books while earning 10% back for United Women in Faith.

Dates for our District Book Club meetings this year are Feb.24, May 25, July 20, and Sept. 28. The Spiritual Growth category can be covered by reading the Mission u book and attending the district mission study virtually in March or by attending Mission u in July.



Our first book club meeting in 2024 is February 24. As part of Black History month, we will discuss *Susan Angeline Collins: With a Hallelujah Heart* from the 2023 Education for Mission list. This book is about the life of African American missionary Susan Collins who overcame economic, education, gender, race, religious, and other obstacles surrounding Africa's colonization to serve as a stalwart missionary, leader, teacher, nurse, construction manager, and surrogate mother to "her girls" in the northern Angolan high plateau. Leader for that meeting will be our own Barbara Campbell.

I am currently reading *The Seed Keeper*, a novel about a Native American woman. The more I read, the more I look forward to what will happen next. If you have a book that you are enjoying, please let me know so that I can pass the information on to others. Suggestions for Book Club readings and leaders will also be appreciated.

Happy Reading!

Jeannette Byrd, Secretary of Program Resources

Historian

“Welcoming the Stranger”

National Mission Institutions along both coasts and the southern border are dealing with masses of men, women and children seeking entry into the United States. There are many problems: immediate physical needs, language barriers, multiple and complex legal requirements, and, at times, hostile attitudes.

This is not new to United Women in Faith! Our foremothers faced a similar circumstance! The Woman’s Home Missionary Society (WHMS), founded in 1880 initiated ministries among immigrants soon after its founding:

- *In 1886, Mrs. Helen A. Matthews was the first Protestant missionary at Castle Garden, NY, assigned by the WHMS to “work the docks” and befriend immigrants in whatever ways possible. She reported: 1) They did not speak English. 2) Some were without sponsors and didn’t know what to do. 3) There were unscrupulous sponsors. 4) Many were scared and perplexed by the “red tape” and needed a friend. In 1888 the WHMS opened “The Girls Lodging House” (later “Immigrant Girls Home”) a single-floor rented space near Castle Garden. During the first eight months, it served 482 lodgers.*
- *In 1910 the U. S. Government gave approval for the WHMS to appoint a deaconess (Carrie Pierson) to work among the detained immigrants at Angel Island, San Francisco Bay, especially Japanese “picture brides.” During her eighteen months, she assisted forty-seven “brides” arriving in groups which could number 150-200. Deaconess Katherine Maurer continued from 1911 to 1951, commuting daily to/from Angel Island, working with incoming persons, both transients and detainees of many nationalities.*

The bronze plaque that identified the “Immigrant Girls Home” has been displayed at Ellis Island since 1980. A statue of Katherine Maurer (to the right), the “Angel of Angel Island,” stands in a downtown San Francisco park.

Deaconess were also assigned at the Ports of Boston and Philadelphia; and the community centers opened in cities where immigrant groups located.

Barbara E. Campbell



Mission Education and Interpretation

Many blessings to all in the new year!!

The Hygiene and the Menstrual (period packs) kits are the two kits being collected this year. The lists for the kits are easy to find – 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 items for the kits are listed there.

I will be collecting the kits at the Blue Ridge District Prayer Breakfast & Annual Celebration. You can also contact me at 828-246-6006 and bring the kits to Brooks-Howell or to my home. To pay for the shipping of the kits (\$2 per kit), make a check out to the WNCC UWF and get it to me or send it to Bess Redmond, the Conference Treasurer. **Do not** send checks to the District Treasurer. Please make 1 check per unit. If you are sending cash, please bring it to me at one of the district events or when you drop off your kits to me.

Remember the Five Channels of Mission Giving:

1. Pledge to Mission
2. Special Mission Recognition (pins/financial gift in honor of someone)
3. Gift to Mission (variety of cards – Thank You, Thinking of You, New Baby, Happy Birthday, Congratulations, Peace, A Special Day, Merry Christmas and in the Service of Christ). Cards are an undesignated gift of at least \$5.
4. Gift in Memory (at least \$5) honors the memory of a family member or friend.
5. World Thank Offering (given once a year through your unit)

Tracey Owens, ME&I Coordinator



We believe **love in action**
can change the world.

Faith. Action. Sisterhood.



United
Women
in Faith

Western North Carolina

2024 VISION & GOALS

- ◆ **Emphasize our Purpose as United Women in Faith**
- ◆ **Raise awareness and promote personal advocacy for our two United Women in Faith priority issues:** Climate Justice and Criminalization of Communities of Color & Mass Incarceration
- ◆ **Support, encourage, and build relationships** with our local units and members in living out the **Purpose**, emphasizing the safety and wellness of ALL of our members as they participate in meetings and gatherings. Consistently lean into the first of John Wesley's General Rules, "Do no harm," in everything we do.
- ◆ **Encourage local units to build relationships with and support the United Women in Faith mission institutions in our conference:**
Alliance Center for Education Charlotte, Bethlehem Center Winston- Salem, Brooks-Howell Home, Bennett College, and Pfeiffer University
- ◆ **Achieve our 2024 Conference Financial Goal:** Each unit will increase Mission Giving to the 2019 level.
- ◆ **Turn faith, hope, and love into action on behalf of women, children, and youth around the world as we live out our Purpose as United Women in Faith!**

Our Purpose:

The organized unit of **United Women in Faith** 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.

In love and action,

Your WNCC United Women in Faith Team

wnccumw.org • facebook.com/wnccumw • uwfaith.org

Blue Ridge District United Women in Faith
Kathy Woods
11 Azalea Rd
Arden, NC 28704

Mark Your Calendars for 2024

January

- 6 Zoom District Executive Committee Meeting – 10:00 AM
- 20 Treasurers and Presidents LDD (location TBD)

February

- 10 Finance Committee Meeting (Virtual)
- 11 Executive Committee Meeting (Virtual)
- 24 Zoom BR District Book Club – 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

March

- 9 District Executive Committee Meeting – TBA – 9:30 AM
- 16, 18 Zoom District Mission Study with Smoky Mountain
- 16 Scholarship Committee Meeting at 1:00 PM (Virtual)

April

- 13 Prayer Breakfast – First UMC Forest City – 10:00 AM
- 19-21 Southeastern Jurisdictional event, Chattanooga, TN All UWF Members