



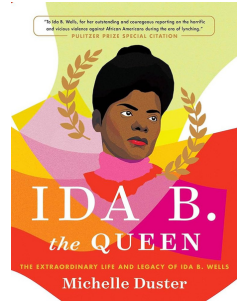
## IDA B. THE QUEEN: The Extraordinary Life and Legacy of Ida B. Wells

Join us on Saturday, February 3, for an exciting discussion about a remarkable woman.

How's this for an amazing life: Ida Belle Wells Barnett was born in 1862, an enslaved person in Mississippi. She became a teacher, a journalist, a wife, a mother, and a community activist. She died in Chicago in 1931. In 2020, she was awarded a Pulitzer Prize for being an outstanding and courageous investigative reporter! (Yes, she'd been dead for nearly 90 years.)

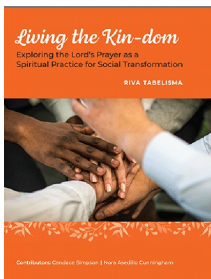
It's safe to say most modern women have never heard of her, a woman who put her life on the line to protest segregation in transportation and the horrors of lynching in the late 1800s and early 1900s. It's also safe to say that **there is a lot we can learn from Ida B. about leadership and loving our neighbors as ourselves.**

Written by Well's great-granddaughter Michelle Duster, *Ida B. The Queen* is from the UWF Reading Program in the Leadership Development category and will count toward your reading for 2024. The facilitator for this study will be Sandra Williamson, former President of the Northern Piedmont District. [Here is the registration link.](#)



## Join Us for our Annual District Mission Study

**Our Annual District Mission Study will take place Saturday, April 6, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. via Zoom** (with a lunch break in the middle). This study by Riva Tabelisma gives fresh eyes to the Lord's Prayer. Often learned by rote, the Lord's Prayer is a rich guide for how we can live out God's kin-dom in our lives. The meeting will be facilitated by Renee Hayes, a Deaconess in the Northern Piedmont District. [Here is the link to register.](#)



## Thanks Living: Having an Attitude of Gratitude

Happy New Year! I love this quote from Melodie Beattie because it helps me to focus on being thankful for all the blessings God has bestowed upon me:

*"Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity. It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend... Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today, and creates vision for tomorrow."*

As United Women in Faith, we all know that women, children and youth around the world need our help to have a better life. We know that it takes money to fund these ministries. So, **I have a challenge for each and every one of us for 2024. Don't worry, it is not anything hard. In fact, it is SO simple that I hope everyone will participate.**

First, a little background: My great-grandmother, Lillie\*\*, lived next door to us, so I was in and out of her home a lot. She kept a jar of pennies on a shelf in her kitchen. Every morning, she got out three pennies and laid them on the table. Following the blessing, the pennies went into a little church bank. When I was visiting, I got to do the honors. She explained how she put the pennies in daily... (cont. on pg. 5)



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



# Tentative Conference & District Calendar 2024

April 6 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. with a lunch break	District Mission Study on the Lord's Prayer facilitated by Renee Hayes via Zoom <a href="#">Click here to register</a>
May (Date TBD) 9 a.m. to 12 noon	District Spiritual Renewal Gathering at Muir's Chapel UMC, 314 Muirs Chapel Road, Greensboro, NC 27410
June	Book Study - TBD
June	Conference Spiritual Growth Retreat - Lake Junaluska
July	Conference-wide Mission u - Pfeiffer University
August	District Annual Celebration
Sept.	Conference Annual Celebration - Lake Junaluska
Sept.	Social Action Workshop
Oct.	Conference-wide UBUNTU days
Date TBD	Book Study facilitated by Lily Pierce
Date TBD	Local Unit Officers Training

"John Wesley began a New Year tradition of leading people in renewing their covenant with God. At the very beginning, God gave us a garden to tend and till. **Now is the time to renew your commitment to be good stewards of our earth.** Choose one new thing you can do throughout the year to care for creation."

[Click here](#) to read some *United Methodist Creation Care tips for January* or [click here](#) for *UWF Climate Justice info*.

## Bright Lights



*UBUNTU Day of Service for Saint Matthews UWF was October 14, 2023. Over 100 items were collected for the pantry at Bennett College and picked up by Rachel Pridgen, Activity Director. Did you know Bennett celebrated 150 years of excellence in 2023? It's the Sesquicentennial Anniversary. Congratulations Belles!*

## Bennett College Sesquicentennial Kick-Off 150 Celebration

This event took place October 1, 2023 at 3 p.m. at the Annie Merner Pfeiffer Chapel, Bennett College Campus. Union Memorial and New Goshen United Women in Faith units along with Pastor Timothy Fitzgerald coordinated it together. **\$6,025.41 was raised for Bennett College through this event!**

### Special Features:

- Keynote Speaker - Rev. Dr. Arnetta Beverly, retired elder in the Western North Carolina Conference of the UMC
- Music - Greensboro Cluster Choir combined with Union Memorial and New Goshen choir members
- Combined Handbell Choir - St. Stephen United Church of Christ and St. James Presbyterian with an "Ode to Bennett" which was an original, 150-note arrangement (composed by Dr. Linda Parker and directed by Dr. Kevin Sloan)
- Spirit of David praise dancers (cont. on pg. 7)



## Welcome to 2024!

HELLO, HELLO, AND HELLO ONE AND ALL!!!! Welcome to 2024. Welcome to the start of a 365-page book. Let us write not a good one, but a great one!

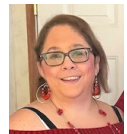
**I want to invite you to our District events for 2024**, the first of which will take place on February 3rd. It will be a book study led by previous Northern Piedmont District President Sandra Williamson on *Ida B: the Queen: The Extraordinary Life and Legacy of Ida B. Wells*. Our District Mission Study about The Lord's Prayer, which is borrowed from the 2023 Mission curriculum, will be led by NP District Deaconess Renee Hayes and occurs on April 6. Both events will take place via Zoom. One thing we learned from the pandemic is that we can enjoy learning and fellowship together without even leaving the house.

**We do have a couple exciting in-person events we hope you'll join us for this year**, such as our Spiritual Renewal Gathering in May (date TBD) at Muir's Chapel UMC, 314 Muir's Chapel Road in Greensboro. The theme will be "Taking Care of God's Creation Including the Homeless." We haven't nailed down the details for our District Annual Celebration, but it will likely take place in August. And, of course, many of us cherish those summertime getaways in Lake Junaluska!

With that being said, **please continue to send in those end-of-year reports if you have not already done so**. Not only is it important for records but also to celebrate local unit accomplishments from the past year at the Annual Celebration. My contact info is on pg. 6.

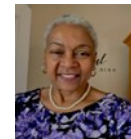
I hope to see all your beautiful faces in 2024 as we continue to mission to women, children and youth all over the world.

Kelli Smith  
District President



## Open to Suggestions

Greetings, Northern Piedmont District, United Women of Faith. Happy New Year! I trust each of you and your families had a wonderfully blessed holiday season. I want to express my sincere gratitude to the United Women in Faith of Christ UMC for their gracious hospitality during the District's Leadership Development Day last fall. We received positive feedback on the change in format of the 2023 training, incorporating breakout rooms for different positions. **Currently, I am searching for a location for our 2024 Annual District Celebration and Leadership Development Day.** Your suggestions are welcome in the planning process to ensure the events are both enjoyable and informative. Thank you!



Your Sister in Christ,  
Genevieve  
McCormick  
District Vice  
President

# Thanks Living

## an attitude of gratitude

To send in your offering, contact Connie at (313) 310-8680 or Rynn at (336) 706-9116. You may count the money and mail a check, or bring the coins to our next in-person event, or contact Rynn to schedule a pickup.

United Women in Faith, Northern Piedmont District

## Everything Is Possible With God!

Happy New Year and God's blessings on all of you! As my third year as your District Treasurer gets under way, I am excited and very hopeful that we will meet and exceed our 2024 goal of \$50,000.

**Thanks to all of you for making Mission possible through your generous giving in 2023! The following is a list of units who contributed to all five channels of Mission Giving:**

Bass Chapel	College Place	Mt. Tabor	St. Stephens
Bethel, Archdale	Gideon Grove	New Goshen	Stokesdale
Celia Phelps	Hinshaw	Newlyn St.	Welch Memorial
Centenary, Stoneville	Holmes Grove	Pleasant Union	West Market St.
Chapel Hill	Hopewell	Raleigh's Crossroads	Zion Hill
Christ, Greensboro	Laughlin Memorial	St. Matthews	

Our total giving last year was \$65,204. Unfortunately, this amount was \$12,652 less than was given in 2022. Our undesignated giving totaled \$57,321 which means we were \$12,679 short of meeting our pledge of \$70,000. While this is disturbing news, with a lot of prayer and hard work, we can meet our 2024 pledge of \$50,000. *The good news for 2023 giving is that we exceeded our Special Mission Recognition Giving by 10.3%.* It is a wonderful way to honor those who serve and to show our love and appreciation for all they have done.

**Unit Treasurers - When sending a check to the District Treasurer, always complete a "Remittance Form" even if you are sending an SMR pin order or a Gift to Mission card order.** Checks should always be written to the Northern Piedmont District UMW or UWF. 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 [wncumw.org](http://wncumw.org) (under the Mission Resources tab press Downloads Available). Keep in mind that to meet the first criteria for becoming a 'Mission Today Unit,' a pledge must be made and met.

If your unit has not yet sent in your Pledge Form for 2024 indicating your unit's pledge, along with address/e-mail/phone information for your unit President and Treasurer, please have your treasurer enclose it with your unit's first quarter remittance. 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.

**Lastly, I also want to acknowledge and thank all of the units that returned their pledge form for 2023 and met and/or exceeded their pledge goal! They are:**

Bass Chapel	First, High Point	Lebanon	Pleasant Union
Bethel, Archdale	Gideon Grove	Main St.	Spring Hill
Bethlehem, Climax	Glencoe	Mayodan	St. John, Eden
Celia Phelps	Hickory, Pelham	Morehead	St. Mary
Centenary, Stoneville	Hinshaw	Mt. Pisgah	St. Stephens
Chapel Hill	Holmes Grove	Mt. Tabor	Stokesdale
Christ, Greensboro	Hopewell	New Goshen	Trinity
Collins Grove	Leaksville	Newlyn St.	Welch Memorial
			Zion Hill

I look forward to seeing and working with you at our upcoming District and Conference events for this year. We have a lot of work to do to fulfill our responsibility to God and to the United Women in Faith.



Connie Holland  
District Treasurer

**A Prayer for All Nations** God bless citizens of...Israel, Palestine, Spain, Italy, Libya, Morocco, India, Sudan, Dominican Republic, Somalia, Eritrea, Zambia, Guatemala, Venezuela, Bulgaria, Argentina, Cuba, Puerto Rico, Honduras, Taiwan, Cambodia, Peru, Mexico, China, Ukraine, Russia, Malawi, Indonesia, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, New Zealand, South Korea, Brazil, Colombia, Brazil, Czech Republic, Japan, Paraguay, Guam, Canada, Australia, Norway, Sweden, Poland, Yugoslavia, Lebanon, Panama, Yemen, Ethiopia, Saudi Arabia, Ecuador, Chile, Argentina, Portugal, Cambodia, England, Iceland, Maui (USA), other places here in the United States and around the world. Grant us peace in our days through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (by Karlah Burton, Nominations Committee member)



## Step Up & Reach Out



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

- Making large tote bags for children in foster care; need toiletries, stuffed animals, coloring books, crayons & children's underwear

### 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 & housewares
- Cleaning products
- Baby wipes
- Pullups size 2T-3T

### Bennett College (UMC-

supported women's college) 900 E. Washington St, Greensboro, 919-973-8457

- Microwaveable meals like Chef Boyardee
- Bottled water & juice
- Feminine hygiene products
- Body wash & lotion

### YWCA Family Shelter

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

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

**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) (faith-based

ministry helping 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

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

### 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)

**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
- Large trash bags
- Body wash, lotion & haircare for women of color

**"We are the world, We are the children. We are the ones who make a brighter day. So, let's start giving..."**

**"We Are the World"  
by U.S.A. for Africa**

(cont. from pg. 1)...Then, when the bank was full, she counted up the tally and wrote a check to the Women's Society Of Christian Service (UMW). Then, her pennies went back in the jar, and we would start the process all over again.

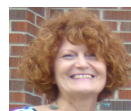
**So, here is my proposal for our daily Thanks Living offering: Let's put 25 cents each day into a can or bank as a "Thank You" to God for His blessings on us.** (See the bank label on pg. 3.)

When your can is full, here are some options to turn it in - You may count the money and send a check to Connie Holland (713 Oldsquaw Drive, Greensboro, NC 27455) tagging it for Undesignated Giving; you may bring the coins to our next in-person event; or call me (pg. 6) and we can work something out.

Wow! Just think how quickly \$.25 per day can add up if we all do it.

**Can we count on you?**

\*\*You will note that my Lily was named after her; she was a strong and very positive influence on my life!



Peace!  
Rynn McGee-Pierce,  
District MEI

*We are the world  
We are the children  
We are the ones who make a  
brighter day, so let's start  
giving  
There's a choice we're making  
We're saving our own lives  
It's true we'll make a better day,  
just you and me  
Oh, send them your heart  
So they know that someone  
cares  
And their lives will be stronger  
and free  
As God has shown us by  
turning stones to bread  
And so we all must lend a  
helping hand*



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

# District Officers for 2024

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

## Nominations Committee Chair

September Neal Locklear, Class of 2026  
Triad Native American, Greensboro  
336-901-1502  
pilove30@gmail.com

## 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

Brenda Mebane, Class of 2026  
Mt. Tabor, Greensboro

Penny Simpson, Class of 2026  
Camp Springs, Reidsville

## 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)



**A note to those on Medicare:** many Medicare recipients now have a quarterly benefit to get \$75 in medical items FREE from CVS Pharmacy. Last month, I used part of mine to buy tampons and pads for Bennett College. Visit [www.cvs.com/otchsplans/](http://www.cvs.com/otchsplans/) or call 1-888-628-2770.

## 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



## One More in '24!

Praise the Lord! Hey ladies, we really enjoyed a Pajama Party Book Study led by District Communications Coordinator Lily Pierce. The study was centered around the book *Phoebe* by Paula Gooder (2023 RP list, Education for Mission) And if you participate, it's credited towards your reading plan! What a blessing. There were participants were from Collins Grove, Gideon Grove and St. Matthews just to name a few.

**February is Black History Month** - For our first 2024 book discussion we have chosen to review *Ida B. The Queen* written by Ms. Wells' great-granddaughter, Michelle Duster, on Saturday, February 3, 2024 at 10 a.m. led by Sandra Williamson, former NPD President. The book is on 2023 RP list, Leadership Development and is credited towards reading plans. The hands-on mission is to donate to your local food pantry. [Click here to register](#). Funny enough, Women's History Month is March; Ida B. was one awesome woman!

I hope 2023 reading forms were submitted because we want to recognize and thank you for participating. There is a great article in **response** November December 2023 on the 2024 Reading Program, and I suggest you check it out when you get a chance. In the last newsletter, **I challenged you to read one more in '24 and listen to Faith Talks and other podcasts**. I also challenged myself and began planning 2-3 book discussions in June, September and November- more to come. Meanwhile, if you have any suggestions for a book study, please let me know. Thank you and Let's Get Reading!



Peace of the Lord be with you,  
Cheryl Little  
District SPR

## Improving Communication

Hope you are having a spectacular 2024 so far. ♥ I am looking forward to another year of missions and fellowship. I treasure the times we get together to learn, worship, help others and/or celebrate. **I also want to continue making strides with District-wide communication.** Our email group for sharing newsletters and other info is still going strong. At our first planning meeting of 2024, we as a District team nailed down as much as we could, and we will try to make event details known ASAP. We also discussed updating the Nurturing Partner list and having one or more collaborative hands-on mission events. I think participating in outreach together will bring us closer and truly unite us as women of faith! Stay tuned for more info.

The last couple years, I've held a book study in the fall and plan to do so again this year - book TBD. I'm excited for Sandy's study about Ida B. I'm waiting on the \$5 copy of the book I bought on eBay to arrive.

Continue sending year-end reports to Kelli Smith and/or me. The main thing I specifically need is an updated list of those who want to receive the quarterly newsletter.



Lily Pierce  
District  
Communications

## Bennett College Sesquicentennial Kick-Off 150 Celebration cont.

In attendance:

- Bennett College President Suzanne Elise Walsh, JD, MSSA
- Mayor Pro Tem - Yvonne Johnson '64
- Kelli Smith - United Women in Faith District President
- Student Government President Zakyha Jones-Walker '24 and National Alumnae Association President - Sidni Meeks '18 with many students and alumnae in attendance as well as Trustee Board members including the chairperson - State Senator Gladys Robinson '58



Special highlight:

- World Communion Sunday was celebrated - led by Rev. Bev. Copley Northern Piedmont District Superintendent United Methodist Church with Bennett College Chaplain Rev. Dr. Natalie McLean '80 and Rev. Rodvegas Ingram, Pastor of St. Matthews UMC and Trustee Board member





# 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)



Please recycle this newsletter!

## 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](#). Note: school kits no longer needed.



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).