

February 2024



United
Women
in Faith

Smoky Mountain District † United Methodist Women † Western North Carolina Conference

JOIN US for our next Mission Study:

**“Living the Kin-dom: Exploring the Lord’s Prayer
as a Spiritual Practice for Social Transformation” by Ria Tabelisma**

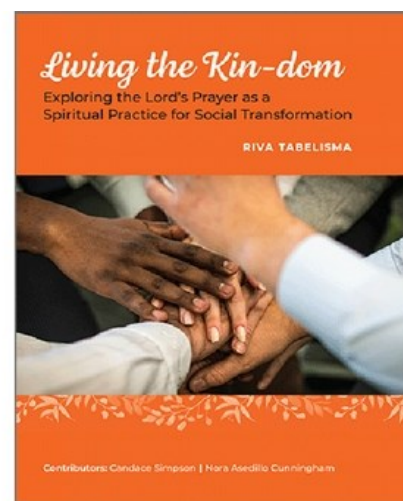
WHEN: Saturday, March 16th (10:00 am to 12:00 pm) and
Monday, March 18th (6:30 pm to 8:30 pm)

WHERE: Virtual on ZOOM.

WHO: Our Study Leader will be Deaconess Tracey S. Owens, Director of Activities at Brooks-Howell Home and Mission Education & Interpretation Coordinator of the Blue Ridge District of UWFaith.

TO REGISTER: Go to wnccumw.org and click on District Events 2024 under the Districts tab. Scroll down to Smoky Mountain District and click on the link for the Mission Study. Learn more about the Lord’s Prayer and different translations used around the world.

The UWFaith of the Blue Ridge and Smoky Mountain Districts will be participating in this mission study together. Hope to see you in March!



1. *Have you changed your email address recently? If Yes, please let us know at smdcommcoor@gmail.com.*
2. *Have you added email to your list of communication tools? If Yes, please let us know.*
3. *Why? So you won't miss any important SMD UMW info and we can save on postage! THANKS!*

WHAT'S IN THIS NEWSLETTER THAT I'D BE INTERESTED IN?

Page 1—Mission Study; Blue Ridge & Smoky Mtn. Districts; Virtual; March 16 & 18.

Page 2—A Table of Contents...so you can find the things you really want to find first!...plus our Mission Statement and a special thought.

Page 3—**Thirsty?** And Why Do I Do This?

Page 4—UWFaith 2024 Vision & Goals

Page 5—Hello from your new Treasurer; 2024 Multicultural Women's Development Conference and Ways to give to the Legacy Fund.

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Page 9—WNCC United Women in Faith SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

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Life is a coin. You can spend it any way you wish, but you can only spend it once.

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"For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away."

— James 4: 14 NKJV

MISSION STATEMENT OF UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

United Women in Faith seeks to connect and nurture women through Christian spiritual formation, leadership development, creative fellowship, and education so that they can inspire, influence and impact local and global communities.



I don't know about you, but I'm thirsty. Thirsty for hope. Thirsty for peace. Thirsty for justice. Thirsty for God's kingdom on earth. Thirsty for the Living Water that is Jesus. Thirsty.

Jesus tells us that when we thirst for righteousness, we shall be filled (Matthew 5:6). Jesus tells us that when we believe in Him, rivers of living water will flow from within us (John 7:38). Jesus tells us that He is our source of life and that we are to overflow that life to others.

Perhaps you, like me, grew up singing, "There is peace like a river in my soul." Joy like a fountain in my soul. Love like an ocean in my soul. The Living Water gives us peace with God and peace with one another. This peace gives us the joy of salvation and is the source of our love for God and neighbor.

This year "Living Water" will guide us at our district events when we revisit a familiar prayer at our district mission study, seek peace at our Day Apart, express our joy for what we have done and will do at our Annual Celebration, and act out our love at our Missions Festival.

"Let the one who is thirsty come; and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life." (Rev. 22:17, NIV).

Peace and all good things,
Lisa Bacon, SMD President

lisabacon304@gmail.com / 828-226-2433 (c) / 828-586-8399 (h)



WHY DO I DO THIS?

I am writing this short article to tell you why I give to the Legacy Fund. It sounds like something just an older person might support. That couldn't be further from the truth. It is insurance for the future of the work we do. We have changed our name to appeal to a large group of women who support the programs that are a lifeline for women and children. This organization was founded by brave women who saw a need and decided to accept the challenge. It's time that we stop talking about it and pledge what is needed to continue the work. Every year we make a tithe to support the church we attend. Let's do the same for the Legacy Fund. Make it a priority to bring it up in your local units. Share the reasons that you are committed to seeing our work go forward.

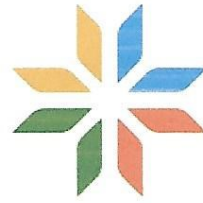
JoAnn Black, Legacy Liaison

Phone: 828-331-9700

Email: circusgirl120@gmail.com

**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

Hello United Women in Faith from your new District Treasurer:

Peace in Christ to you all. THANK YOU all for continuing to be faithful in support of the mission work of United Women in Faith. We were \$5,380 short of our 2023 Pledge, but we remained strong and supportive as possible and we Celebrate that!

Our Western North Carolina UWFaith Conference financial goal is that each unit will meet or exceed its pre-pandemic Mission Giving.

There are thousands of children, youth and women that depend on us! Please remember that as you spiritually give to United Women in Faith. We take great pride in being fiscally responsible and being a volunteer community of Women in Christ.

Kim Shafer, SMD District Treasurer
281 Valley View Terrace
Waynesville, NC 28786-4531
kimshaferuwfsm@outlook.com
Phone: (704) 965-2022



2024 Multicultural Women's Development Conference

For the past 25 years, "One Dozen Who Care," an organization located in Andrews and serving communities throughout Western North Carolina, has hosted a conference exclusively for women at Hinton Rural Life Center near Hayesville, NC. In 2024 the theme for the MWDC is 'STILL WE RISE: The Power of our Stories.' This year's conference is scheduled for April 19-20. For all the details and to register for the event go to:

<https://onedozenwhocare.org/multicultural-development-conference>

Esther Manchester
SMD Comm. on Nominations

Ways to Give to the Legacy Fund

- ♦ Make a gift to the Legacy Fund through your local unit United Women in Faith treasurer.
- ♦ Make a one time donation or consider becoming a Legacy Builder by giving a monthly gift of \$18.69 or more.
- ♦ Use our Western North Carolina Conference Legacy Commitment Form, available on our website at www.wnccumw.org/legacyfund.
- ♦ Online on the national office website at <https://uwfaith.org/give/legacy-fund/>
- ♦ **By phone:** 800-278-7771 (8 am—6 pm EST, M-F)
- ♦ **By check:** note "Legacy Fund" in memo line & mail to: United Women in Faith, Attn: Legacy, Church Center for the United Nations, 777 United Nations Plaza, 11th Floor, New York, NY 10017.
- ♦ **Other methods** include gifts of stock, life insurance, bequests, and other forms of planned giving. If you are interested in making a gift like this, contact the national office at 800-278-7771.



We had a wonderful time and wish you could have joined us!



Cruise to Membership Memories

November 4, 2023



Welcome aboard the S.S. New Wineskins!



Cruisers of all ages set sail.



**A bountiful
buffet
is part of
every cruise.**



**Love in action:
Packing hygiene kits for the unhoused.**



Soul care: sea salt scrub and devotion

DON'T HESITATE TO CONTACT US IF YOU NEED ANYTHING!

United Women in Faith 2024 Smoky Mtn. District Exec. Team & Program Advisory Group

President:

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Vice President:

[Open]

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Spiritual Growth:

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Membership, Nurture & Outreach:

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[see N J Willis under Secretary]

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1/27/2024

SMD United Women in Faith
Nurturing Partners 2024

Nurturing Partner	NP Contact Info	UWFaith Unit
Lisa Bacon	lisabacon304@gmail.com 828-226-2433	Bryson City, Love's Chapel, Sylva First, Webster
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Ellynne Stonebraker	jumperlady21@gmail.com 828-524-8787	Cullowhee, Hayesville First, Murphy First
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Nancy Watkins	nmhwatkins@gmail.com 828-550-5927	Crabtree

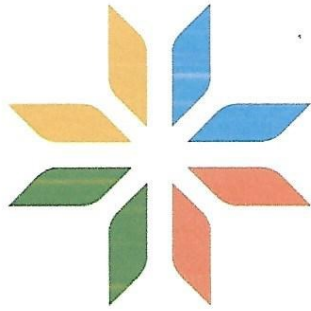


District Love Offerings:

We invite you to give generously to your district love offering. Your Mission Giving continues the work of United Women in Faith, making a difference, every day, in the lives of women, children and youth around the world. **Thank you for your support of Mission Giving!** Every single dollar makes a difference!

You may give to your district love offering in a couple of ways:

- ♦ **Make an online donation using the special link for your district** found on the District Events 2024 page at wnccumw.org. Each district has a unique link so that we can give your district credit for your gift.
- ♦ **Mail a check to your District Treasurer (Kim Shafer)**, made payable to United Women in Faith, and designated as District Love Offering. We will share those addresses during the meetings, and you will also be able to find them in a recent newsletter for your district on your district's page of our website.



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 on 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

WNCC United Women in Faith Scholarship Committee Chairperson

Nancy Jo Willis
Secretary & Newsletter Editor, SMD
310 Cassady Lane
Murphy, NC 28906

TO:



United
Women
in Faith

2024 UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH CONFERENCE & DISTRICT EVENTS

WNCC UWF CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 23	Annual UWFaith Anniversary Day of Giving
April 19-21	Southeastern Jurisdictional Conf, Chattanooga, TN
June 13-15	Spiritual Growth Retreat, Lake Junaluska
Aug. 2-3	Mission u, Catholic Conference Center, Hickory, NC
Sept. 6-8	Annual Celebration, Lake Junaluska
Oct. 5, 19, 26	Ubuntu Days of Service—multiple locations
Oct. 19	District Leadership Development—Virtual at 10:00 am

SMD UWF CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 16+18	BR/SMD Mission Study (virtual)
May 4	Day Apart (Robbinsville UMC)
August 17	SMD Annual Celebration (virtual)
November 2	SMD Event (Crabtree UMC)