

October 2024

Women Talk



United
Women
in Faith

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

HAVING A "MANNA MINDSET"

Our organization was founded as a mission society 155 years ago. Missions, both foreign and domestic, have been supported by the organizations that eventually became United Women in Faith.

Our local units are active in a wide variety of local mission projects, including food banks, clothing closets, schools, etc. We are most often involved in missions beyond our communities through our Pledge to Mission and other channels of giving. Missions "over there" are sometimes "out of sight, out of mind." We see the needs in our communities and sometimes question why UWFaith continues to emphasize the importance of National Mission Institutions and our international mission projects.

This is especially true when we see the destruction wrought by Hurricane Helene all around us. Yet I encourage us to remember there are women, children, and youth in desperate need all over the world. We live in a nation with abundant resources compared with many nations. More importantly, we serve an abundant God who reminds us to have a "manna mindset."

Exodus 16:15-20 tells of God providing manna, commanding the people to gather as much as they needed. Some gathered much and some gathered little, but everyone had as much as they needed. Those who tried to hoard the manna failed.

Our final district event for 2024 will be a "Mission Travelogue," held on November 2 at Crabtree UMC from 9:30 until noon. Details are included in this newsletter.

During our travelogue, we will do a project for a local mission and share creative ways to put a familiar face on those projects farther away.

Come join us! Registration is appreciated to assist us in planning, but it is not required.

Registration link: <https://bit.ly/TravelogueReg>

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Please pray for all those impacted by
Hurricane Helene and Hurricane Milton.

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

Page 1—Having a “MANNA MINDSET.”

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—MISSION TRAVELOGUE: Tour the World Through UWFaith.

Page 4—WNCC Hurricane Helene Response by the Numbers.

Page 5—Brooks Howell Home Needs Our Help!

Page 6—The Purple Church Initiative

Page 7—World Thank Offering

Page 8—Reading List Books Available!

Page 9—First-Timer Bonanza at WNCC UWFaith Annual Celebration! And Ways to Give to the Legacy Fund.

Page 10—Nurturing Partners for 2024, District Love Offering, and communications tips.

Page 11—The 2024 SMD UWFaith Executive Team and PAG Listing.

Page 12—SMD & WNCC Calendar of Events



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.

**People may doubt what you say,
But they will always believe what you do.**

* * * * *

*“...for the tree is known and recognized
and judged by its fruit..”*

-- Matthew 12:33 AMP

MISSION TRAVELOGUE: TOUR THE WORLD THROUGH UWFAITH

DATE: Saturday, November 2, 2024
TIME: 9:30 am—12:00 Noon
LOCATION: Crabtree United Methodist Church
5405 Crabtree Rd, Clyde, NC 28721



9:30—10:00 am Check in, drop off books, browse program resources, and enjoy light refreshment.

Hands-On Projects: Local units are asked to bring new or gently-used books for children from toddlers through mid-teens (Bibles, coloring books, Bible stories, Christmas and Easter, etc.)

10:00 am—12:00 Noon Mission Travelogue

During our mission travelogue, we will assemble feminine hygiene kits for local students (items will be provided by the District). We will have an interactive time of sharing about some of our national and International mission projects. We will share creative ways to connect with “far away” missions.

Register here to “book your travelogue”!

<https://bit.ly/TravelogueReg>

A WORD FROM OUR TREASURER:

Thank you for giving to United Women in Faith. Our total giving for Quarter 3 was \$3,961.39. Included in that giving is \$635.86 received for Love Offering. Giving is a privilege – a gift of God’s grace. ...from United Women in Faith in Mission. Our Conference Love Offering theme is A Gift of Mission in honor of future generations of women, children, and youth. I look forward to seeing many of you at our November Smoky Mountain District Celebration. Friendly reminder that the mail date deadline for your remittance for Quarter 4 will be November 25th. It is a pleasure to be a member of the Smoky Mountain District United Women in Faith team!

Kim Shafer, Treasurer

Cell: 704-965-2022 Email: kimshaferuwfsm@outlook.com



WNCC Hurricane Helene Response By the Numbers: [Reprinted from WNCC website [here.](#)]

The Western North Carolina Conference resources United Methodist Churches and their communities in North Carolina's 44 westernmost counties. **Of those 44 counties, 22 were directly impacted by Hurricane Helene.**

The WNCC and its churches organized swiftly after Helene devastated our area. During our initial response, **30 United Methodist churches in our unaffected counties served as collection hubs for donated supplies** from local churches and communities. Those collected supplies were then delivered to the **nine churches serving as distribution sites in the affected counties.** The supplies are then distributed to the local communities, neighboring churches, local fire departments, and other partnering organizations.

Thus far, United Methodists in Western NC have:

- Collected and delivered an **estimated 1.5 million+ bottles of water to the impacted areas**
- **Fed thousands** of their neighbors
- **Delivered diapers and formula** to the doors of families in need
- Opened their facilities to **provide free childcare** for families of first responders & emergency personnel
- Set up **charging stations and WIFI hotspots**
- Provided access to **shower trailers and laundry facilities**
- Distributed **thousands of cleaning kits** to local communities and emergency services
- Offered hospitality and **shelter for emergency personnel**

As we move from this initial stage of the relief phase toward the longer phase of cleanup and recovery, the WNCC will begin sending in Early Response Teams to help. **Our first ERT deployed Tuesday, October 8,** leaving from Davidson UMC and traveling to Spruce Pine UMC. Within the first 10 days following the storm, **more than 500 United Methodists signed up to complete the required ERT training** to serve during the stabilization phase between relief and recovery.

Learn more about the three phases of disaster relief and the WNCC's role in each phase [here.](#)

How you can help (updated 10.9.24):

Pray for those impacted by Hurricane Helene.

Financial Donations: Encourage your churches to donate to support WNCCUMC recovery efforts directly.

Donate here: <https://bit.ly/WNCCHurricaneReliefDonations>

o Checks can be made out to "WNC Treasurer" and mailed to PO Box 2757, Huntersville, NC 28070, with the memo Disaster Response.

o **Check on your neighbors, nearby churches, and communities.** If you hear of any issues, please call the Disaster Response hotline at 980-354-4157.

Early Response Team Training: Volunteers must have ERT training to assist in recovery efforts. Please help spread the word to interested churches and individuals. **To express interest in joining an upcoming ERT**

Training, complete this form: [ERTTraining-InitialSign-Up](#)

WNCC Call Center Disaster Response Hotline is now open!

980-354-4157

Call Center open Mon-Fri 9:30am-4:30pm



**DISASTER
MINISTRIES**
Western North Carolina Conference
The United Methodist Church



Brooks-Howell Home Needs Our Help

We have all seen images of the devastation in the western part of North Carolina caused by Hurricane Helene. Asheville is one of the many hard-hit areas.

Asheville is home to [Brooks-Howell Home](#) (BHH), a small continuing care retirement home located on a 10-acre site near downtown Asheville. **It is a not-for-profit ministry owned by United Women in Faith.** This community consists of United Women in Faith and Global Ministries' retired missionaries and deaconesses who have served The United Methodist Church as well as retirees from the Asheville and North Carolina area at large.

Through the grace of God, all BHH residents and employees are safe. Fallen trees have caused some property damage. Electricity, water, and communication capability were severely compromised. It is expected to be many weeks before the City of Asheville has water

service, and that creates a variety of problems for Brooks-Howell and of course, all of Asheville. Helene's devastation is stressing staff, residents and resources.

There are three ways you can help Brooks-Howell and the residents and staff there in Asheville right now as they continue to deal with Helene's devastation:

PRAY - Continue to keep the residents and staff of Brooks-Howell in your prayers, and all of the people in western North Carolina that have experienced the devastation of Hurricane Helene.

GIVE MONEY - Among the many urgent needs is MONEY for costs associated with the hurricane and not budgeted. You can make a financial gift to help Brooks-Howell with the extraordinary costs of managing and dealing with the [difficulties](#) resulting from Hurricane Helene. [Online gifts directly to Brooks-Howell Home can be made at this link](#), or by using the QR Code shown below. Gifts by check can be made by sending a check directly to Brooks-Howell at the address shown below:

*Brooks-Howell Home
Attn: Accounting / Helene Relief
266 Merrimon Ave
Asheville NC 28801*

GIVE SUPPLIES THROUGH AN AMAZON HELP LIST - The water issue is perhaps the most challenging. The supplies in this Amazon Help List are shared by Brooks-Howell as being needed on an ongoing basis for the coming weeks. All gifts will be appreciated. [Click here to access the Amazon Help List for Brooks-Howell Home.](#)

QR Code for Online Money Donations Directly to Brooks Howell Home

This QR Code takes you directly to the Brooks-Howell online Paypal donation site for making online gifts.



[Reprinted from the Western North Carolina Conference E-News.]



A recent study published by the Religion and Social Change Lab of Duke Divinity School reported that our congregations within The United Methodist Church in North Carolina are theologically and politically diverse, thus creating a “purple church” which reflects our deep diversity. However, the study also painted a picture of the hopeful future that our diversity presents, as stated in the following:

United Methodist churches remain some of the very few institutions in American society where people from different political persuasions can build deep and meaningful relationships with each other. In a polarized and often toxic political climate, UMC congregations are positioned to advance the ministry of Jesus by creating a beloved community that bridges political and theological divides.

The months surrounding the upcoming elections this fall present a ripe opportunity for our faithful witness as United Methodists in how we build these *deep and meaningful relationships* that shape the Beloved Community in the face of political and theological divides.

To help build these *communities of shalom* where all people are of sacred worth, safe, and growing toward spiritual, physical, and emotional wholeness, the Peace Building Ministries of the Western North Carolina Conference offers the *Purple Church Initiative*. [Reprinted from the WNCC E-News.]



Peace on Purpose Pledge

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called Children of God.
Matthew 5:9

As an ambassador for peace within my family, my church, and my community, I pledge to:

- ___ Respect people who hold differing opinions than I do, even if I don't agree.
- ___ Seek to understand others instead of trying to convince them of my point of view.
- ___ Move from hostility (arguing) toward harmony (understanding) in my interactions with others.
- ___ Resolve disputes with others nonviolently and in a posture of humility.
- ___ Resist any form of violence including words and actions that harm others.
- ___ Speak out against any forms of violence when I witness them privately or publicly.
- ___ Ensure my words and actions, privately and publicly (including on social media) reflect my love of God and my neighbors, as Jesus has commanded us to do.

NAME: _____





Make an Online Gift to the World Thank Offering by using the QR Code below:



The World Thank Offering is a way for members of United Women in Faith to show gratitude for God's blessings and find creative ways to raise funds to improve the lives of women, children, and youth. Some women drop a coin in a box each day to give thanks for their daily blessings, while others add coins and dollars on special occasions in their lives.

Through your gifts to the World Thank Offering, you support the total program of mission carried on through United Women in Faith's national office in the United States and around the world. The [November program](#) offered in the United Women in Faith [Program Resource 2024](#) is a Favorite Dish Potluck. Our Community Gathering on [UWFaith Digital](#) is open to all and will be led by General Secretary Sally Vonner.

Like offerings, the success of potlucks is dependent on what each participant brings to the table to share. When we give our best dishes, everyone enjoys the gift of that person's dish. When each person brings their best to the table, it becomes a table full of abundance. When each person gives of themselves, it becomes a way of honoring one another and each other's gifts and efforts.

World Thank Offering gifts allow all people to have a place at the table and join in the feast. Like potlucks, World Thank Offering needs everyone to participate a little so that all the burden of provision doesn't land on just one or two people in the group. There is a shared reality that if everyone can participate, we can each give a little to create enough resources for all. We celebrate World Thank Offering, where we bring our gifts of gratitude for the transformation of local and global communities by raising money for women, children, and youth in our neighborhoods and around the world.

Give

You can make your gift to the World Thank Offering [online](#), by giving your offering to your local UWFaith treasurer, or by mailing a check to:

United Women in Faith
Church Center for the United Nations
777 United Nations Plaza, 11th Floor
New York, NY 10017
Attn: World Thank

We offer gratitude for God's blessings in our own lives and work to improve the lives of women, children, and youth through United Women in Faith. We give because we are grateful for God's blessings in our lives.

[Reprinted from the Western North Carolina Conference E-News.]

Reading List Books Available!

The following books from our reading program are available for purchase by contacting Nancy Watkins at nmhwatkins@gmail.com. First come, first serve! Delivery/pickup or shipping can be arranged.

More information on each title can be found at <https://uwfaithresources.org/>.

Education for Mission

Born on the Water by Hannah Jones-Nikole - \$10.00 (2024) Suitable for children

Let Your Light Shine by Ali Smith - \$15.00 (2024)

Gum Moon by Jeffery Staley - \$10.00 (2021)

Leadership Development

Fierce Love by Dr. Jacqui Lewis - \$13.00 (2024)

Cinderella Liberator by Rebecca Solnit - \$10.00 (2021-22) Suitable for older children

Which way Lord? by Rob Fuquay - \$5.00 (2020)

Vital Voices by Alyse Nelson - \$14.00 (2020)

Nurturing for Community

The Loneliness Epidemic by Susan Mettes - \$10.00 (2024)

The ABCs of Diversity by Carolyn Helsel - \$15.00 (2024)

Becoming Grandma by Lesley Stahl - \$8.00 (2022)

The Boy Who Delivered Joy by Marvin Bartlett - \$7.00 (2022)

The Bird Boys by Lisa Sandlin - \$5.00 (2021)

#RU Hooked: Teens and Social Media by Jonathan Smith - \$3.00 (2020)

The Life and Ministry of Mary Webster edited by Anne Mathews-Younes - \$9.00 (2020)

Spiritual Growth

Glory in the Margins by Nikki Grimes - \$20.00 (2024)

Why Do I Feel Like This? by Peace Amadi - \$10.00 (2024)

The Cure for Sorrow by Jan Richardson - \$16.00 (2024)

Until Unity by Francis Chan - FREE

FIRST-TIMER BONANZA AT WNCC UWFAITH ANNUAL CELEBRATION!

Julie Leatherwood, secretary-treasurer for Shady Grove UW Faith, brought not one, not two, but three first-timers to the conference annual celebration at Lake Junaluska in September. This is also the first time in years that first-timers have taken advantage of the scholarships every district offers to first-time attendees at conference events.

In photo (L to R): Julie, Cindy Kee, Phyllis Vance, and Karen Pryor



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.



SMD United Women in Faith
Nurturing Partners 2024

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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!*

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.

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

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

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1/27/2024

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TO:



United
Women
in Faith



2024 UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH CONFERENCE & DISTRICT EVENTS

WNCC UWF CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 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

- November 2 SMD Missions Travelogue (Crabtree UMC)



United
Women
in Faith

We believe
love in action
can change
the world.

faith

action

sisterhood