



United Women in Faith

1st Quarter February 6, 2025

The Catawba Valley

Voice



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Mission Study 2025

February 22, 2025

Appalachian/Catawba Valley Districts

Welcome Home

With Study Leader:
Deaconess Nancy Litton

United Women in Faith

First Lenoir UMC
309 Church Street NW
Lenoir, NC 28645

9:00 AM until 2:00 PM (includes time for registration & lunch)

See Full Information on Page 2



LUNCH REGISTRATION

LUNCH REGISTRATION

By February 14, 2025: Please detach and return to App District UWFaith Treasurer, Nancy Reigel, 375 Troy Norris Road, Boone, NC 28607. Enclose check payable to:

Appalachian District UWFaith.

Name of Unit _____

attending _____ x \$8.00 = _____ Total \$ Enclosed

Specify if any of these attendees need disability accommodations or have food allergies/dietary needs?

Appalachian/Catawba Valley Districts
United Women in Faith Mission Study 2025

First Lenoir UMC
309 Church Street NW
Lenoir, NC 28645

Saturday, February 22, 2025 9:00a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

(includes time for registration & lunch)

Welcome Home Study Leader: Deaconess Nancy Litton

If child care (young children) is needed – Contact Jane Long (828-292-9250) by February 5th

Registration begins at 9:00 a.m.; Program/Study begins at 9:30 a.m. Lunch Cost: \$8.00 - Soups and salad; drinks (tea, coffee, water); light snacks will be available upon arrival.

This study explores how we can know God as an intimate friend who welcomes us. Abiding in God's safety and dwelling in God's provision, allows us to open our hearts to a fuller embrace of the power and presence of God so that we may find our home in God. . Attendance at this study will fulfill requirements for Mission Today Criteria #4.

Conference Hands on Mission Project: UMCOR Menstrual Hygiene Kits {Kit Contains: Two 2 oz. bottles hand sanitizer; Three 4-gallon bathroom trash bags; One travel pack of wet ones; 10 Tampons (5 regular and 5 super absorbency) unscented; 10 Sanitary Napkins (unscented, Long super ultra-thin); Bath-size soap (3 oz. bar or larger) - No Ivory or Jergen's; do not remove from packaging ; One pack of flushable wipes (42 count) - unscented; Six laundry detergent sheets (Laundry detergent sheets placed inside of a small plastic bag prior to being added to the kit.) Place items in 1-gallon resealable plastic bag; include \$2 per kit for shipping – Checks should be made out to your District and write UMCOR on the memo line. - DO NOT PUT in bag but turn in separately to your District Treasurer. Total cost of kit is estimated to be \$24.00.

OR for Hurricane Helene Victims, Bring Gift Cards from Lowe's Foods or Lowe's Home Improvement. Love Offering: A Gift to Mission in Honor of Hurricane Helene victims.

Directions to First Lenoir United Methodist Church

From North (Sparta/Wilkesboro's/Millers Creek: Follow Hwy 18 South through Wilkesboro and into Lenoir. Continue straight onto Harper Ave and in .6 miles turn right onto Ridge St. NW, then left onto Ashe Ave. NW, and right onto Church St. NW; church on left. From Southeast (Taylorsville/Stony Point/Hiddenite): Take NC 90W to US 64W to Lenoir; Continue straight onto Harper Ave and in .6 miles turn right onto Ridge St. NW, then left onto Ashe Ave. NW, and right onto Church St. NW; church is on the left.

From South (Statesville, Shelby, Lincoln, and Gastonia): Take I-40W to Exit 148(US-64/NC-90); turn right onto NC-90/US64 and follow directions from Taylorsville. From Hickory, Hudson, Granite Falls areas: Take US 321N into Lenoir; turn left onto US-64/Harper Ave & continue straight onto Harper Ave; turn right onto Ridge St. NW, then left onto Ashe Ave. NW, and right onto Church St. NW; church is on the left. From West (Morganton): Take E. Concord St. to Bouchelle St., take a left and then turn right onto Avery Ave. In 13 miles, turn left onto Harper Ave and then stay slightly right to say on Harper Ave. In 1.1 miles, turn right onto Ashe Ave NW, then left onto Church St. NW; church is on the left.

From East (Yadkinville, Elkin, Ronda, Roaring River): Take US 421N to Exit 286A (NC-16/18S); Keep right at the fork and follow directions from Sparta/Wilkesboro.

From Northwest (Boone): Follow US 321 South to Lenoir. Turn right onto NC-90 (N. Main St.); in 1.7 miles, turn right onto Ashe Ave. NW, then right onto Church St. NW. Church is on the left.

President's Letter

To My Sisters in the District:

Your Executive Team has been at work to make sure each unit has a Nurturing Partner. Our numbers are small and we hope you'll encourage others to Be the Change that this District needs as we continue our Mission efforts. If you know anyone who is wanting to share in the great potential we have as leaders, don't hesitate to grow with us. It's a Season for growth!

This February 22nd, Saturday, we again will combine with the Appalachian District to have a Mission Study hosted by the Lenoir First UMC. I'd like to see more of you attend, our Leader will be Deaconess Nancy Litton, who also was one of the four Teachers we had for the Conference Mission Study titled, "Welcome Home" last year with 102 in attendance. A flyer will be published and sent out, too. Hands on Mission is to benefit 2 families in need, the Love Offering is to Honor the Helene Victims.

More than this, the Conference has a full contingent of leaders and I would encourage you to come to the Events planned for 2025.

June 12 -14 Spiritual Growth Retreat at Lake Junaluska.

July 18-19 Mission u, Catholic Conference Center All UMFaith Members

Sept. 5-7 Annual Celebration, Lake Junaluska - Guest Speaker is Sally Vonner, General Secretary and CEO of National United Women in Faith.

SMILE Share Joy and Kindness Play Outside Dance in the Rain
 Smell the Roses Sing Loud and Proud Be Happy Listen & Learn
 Laugh Out Loud Snuggle and Hug Be Thoughtful Dream BIG

Enjoy Life!

"Each day is God's gift. It's all you get in exchange for the hard work of staying alive. Make the most of each one! Whatever turns up, grab it and do it, heartily!" Ecclesiastes 9: 9
 Amen.

Ever Hopeful, Janet Bjork-Colton



We believe **love in action** can
change the world. Faith. Ac-
tion. Sisterhood.

1st Quarter February 6, 2025



United
Women
in Faith

Western North Carolina

2025 VISION & GOALS

- Model our **Purpose** as United Women in Faith (UW Faith) who come together in unity, loving, and serving.
- Raise awareness and promote personal advocacy and action for our two United Women in Faith priority issues: *Just Energy 4 All*, and *Ending Mass Incarceration and Criminalization of Communities of Color*
- **Build relationships** with our local units, members, and potential members in living out the **Purpose**, leaning in to and supporting opportunities to meet and serve together.
- **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 2025 Conference Financial Goal:** Each unit will increase their Gift in Memory giving by 10%.
- **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

Secretary's Note

A Little About Our Mission Study Leader
Deaconess Nancy Litton



For those of you who attended 2024 Mission u at The Catholic Conference Center in Hickory, you had an opportunity to meet Nancy who served as one of the study leaders in addition to her position as Assistant Dean. She will be serving as the Study Leader for the Mission Study "Welcome"Home" for Appalachian/Catawba Valley Districts this month in Lenoir.

Nancy came to North Carolina in 1988, where she became very involved with her church and United Methodist Women. She became a circle president in 2006, followed by District and Conference leadership positions. Her family's legacy boasts of a great aunt Edith Cherry, who served with the Methodist Woman's Missionary Society in the late 1800s.

Educated in Community Health Education, Nancy has worked in service occupations all her life. Her employment with nonprofits and state government has been focused on substance abuse. While providing services with justice to clients in a loving manner this led her down a natural path to the deaconess program.

Nancy first learned of the deaconess program when she heard a talk in 2013 by Deaconess Tracy Owen who was the speaker at the Metro District Prayer Breakfast. Nancy was immediately moved to learn more as she had been looking for a way to expand her life in ministry, and with her substance abuse work, this was a natural fit. She was commissioned as a deaconess at the United Women in Faith Annual Conference in Orlando in 2022. At the time of her commissioning, she was working with a Free Healthcare and Pharmacy Clinic in Concord for the vulnerable population in Cabarrus County.

Nancy lives in Kannapolis with her daughter Katie and their two cats. She is a wealth of information and knows firsthand the different concepts of "Home"

So get your lunch registration fee mailed in and join us 2-22-25 at First Lenoir UMC! See the Mission Study Brochure in this Newsletter.



Belinda Worsham, Secretary



The purpose of becoming a Mission Today Unit is to:

Energize United Women in Faith to be more involved in mission through prayer, study, and action.

Increase contacts between units and mission personnel and mission projects so members understand where their money goes. • Encourage the use of mission resources through UWFaith. Expand concepts of mission, including social justice as mission.

What is a unit? A unit is any organized group of UWFaith within a church or district. Some units are composed of several circles or members from different churches which periodically meet as a unit.

How does a unit become a Mission Today unit?

To be recognized as a Mission Today unit (Gold, Silver, or Bronze), a unit must complete a number of the following criteria as indicated in the chart below. Activities conducted between January 1 and December 31 of the reporting year will be recognized at Annual Celebration the following year.

Mission Today Categories		
Gold	Silver	Bronze
Complete 10 criteria: 6 with asterisks* and 4 other**	Complete 8 criteria: 4 with asterisks* and 4 other**	Complete 6 criteria: 4 with asterisks* and 2 other**
**Other may include items with asterisks		

Criteria:

*1. Make and meet the unit Pledge to Mission. Send Pledge amount and funds to the District Treasurer.

*2. Use the Daily Prayer Guide at each unit, general, or circle meeting to pray for mission personnel and mission projects. The Guide is updated annually and may be ordered from [UWFaith Resources](#). Daily Prayer Guide entries are posted on the [UWFaith Facebook Page](#).

*3. Use at least two programs from the Program Resource book during the year. A new [Program Resource](#) is printed every year and may be ordered from [UWFaith Resources](#).

*4. Conduct or participate in at least one mission study (virtual or in person). Contact your District or Conference Mission Coordinator for Education & Interpretation to learn more about the studies. If members of your unit attend all sessions of Mission u or a District Mission Study and your unit takes an action growing out of the study (Gift to Mission, ministry related to the study, etc.), your unit will meet this criterion.

*5. At least two members will subscribe to **response** magazine (1 member for units with fewer than 15 members; local unit subscription may count as one). Order information is provided at the bottom of p. 2. A one-year print subscription (includes digital subscription) is \$24; a one-year digital-only subscription is \$20. More information may be found at <https://uwfaith.org/resources/response-magazine/>.

*6. Implement the Charter for Racial Justice in at least two ways during the year. **If you are a “Justice Today” unit, you have met this criterion.** Possibilities include:

Read and discuss books and articles about other ethnicities and cultures.

Sponsor or attend an interethnic or intercultural event between two or more units.

Intentionally recruit women of various ethnic or cultural groups to be unit members and officers.

Use the Racial Justice resources available on our Conference website on the “Downloads Available” page under “Mission Resources” or at this link: <https://uwfaith.org/what-we-do/serve-andadvocate/racial-justice/>

*7. Have a program or take action addressing a United Women in Faith justice campaign (current campaigns are [Just Energy 4 All](#) and

information may be found at <https://uwfaith.org/what-we-do/serve-and-advocate/racial-justice/> *8. Add at least two new members (1 member for units with fewer than 15 members).

*9. Have a program from the [Social Principles of The United Methodist Church 2025-2028](#). This resource may be purchased at www.Cokesbury.com for \$9.99 plus tax and shipping; available in paperback or eBook.

*10. Contribute to all Five Channels of Giving (Pledge to Mission, Special Mission Recognition, Gift to Mission, Gift in Memory, and World Thank Offering).

*11. Recite the UWFaith Purpose at each general and/or circle meeting, including virtual meetings.

*12. Contribute \$189.60 or more to the [Legacy Fund](#) during the reporting year.

At least one member of the unit will attend Mission u and report back to the unit on the experience. Virtual participation qualifies.

At least two members (one member for units with fewer than 15 members) will attend the District or Conference Annual Celebration and report back to the unit about the experience; virtual participation qualifies.

At least one person will join the United Women in Faith e-mailing list to receive and respond to advocacy information at least three (3) times a year. Attach the issue and action that was taken to Mission Today report.

Members will correspond with five people listed in the Daily Prayer Guide at least once a year.

Co-sponsor, with the local church, a “Children’s Sabbath”. This is a worship service highlighting the needs of children. Materials are available at <https://uwfaith.org/event/childrens-sabbaths>

Include a “**response** moment” at each unit or circle meeting where an item from **response** magazine is shared as a way to tell the mission story.

Sponsor a teen member (ages 12 to 17) and/or a young woman member (ages 18 to 39) to at least one Conference event during the year.

At least two members (one member for units with fewer than 15 members) will attend a District Prayer Breakfast/ Day Apart, Conference Spiritual Growth Retreat, or any other special District or Conference event (other than Ubuntu Day of Service). Virtual participation in any of these events qualifies.

At least two members (one member for units with fewer than 15 members) will participate in an [Ubuntu Day](#) event. Units may develop their own Ubuntu event in their communities.

At least two members (one member for units with fewer than 15 members) will complete Plan I of the United Women in Faith [Reading Program](#) and report to the unit on one of the books read. Find information here: <https://uwfaith.org/resources/reading-program/>

Invite a District or Conference officer, other than a member of the unit, to one of the unit meetings (may be virtual) and/or for a United Women in Faith Sunday. This qualifies as a local unit visit in the Nurturing Partners program.

Add one new teen (ages 12 to 17) and/or one young woman (ages 18-39) member or circle during the year.

100% of the unit’s active members will make a gift of at least \$18.69 to the Legacy Fund.

Meet the 2025 Conference Financial Goal: To increase our “Gift in Memory” giving by 10% over 2024 giving.

Support at least one local mission project and participate in at least one Conference hands-on mission project during the year. **List the local mission project on the Mission Today report.**

UW Faith Mission Resources uwfaithresources.org

PO Box 742349, Atlanta GA 30374-2349

Phone: Toll Free 1-888-409-8137; National Office: 1-212-682-3633

Email: cs@uwfaithresources.org

response magazine circulation

Toll Free 1-833-226-9387 Fax: 1-845-267-3478

Magazines with a Mission PO Box 395 Congers, NY 10920-0395 **response** subscription link: <https://www.cambeywest.com/subscribe2/?p=RSP&f=custcare>

Conference website: wnccumw.org

Updated February 2025

READING PROGRAM

Hi,

Things are beginning to settle down after the Holiday and beginning to gear up for Valentines, and then EASTER! I just got the new book from Michelle Obama---The Light We Carry. Beginning to dive in. Nonfiction is more difficult for me because I want a little fantasy in my life, but this seems good. It does not sound like "ghost writer." It reads genuine. I read real emotion and feelings which are from the depth of a true Believer. I see from the internal spaces as well as the outside influences.

There is also a Study Guide published. We have a Circle Group who meets to read and discuss and grow as Christian women. We are using the Study Guide to glean more out of our reading and grow as a group, Yes, we sometimes get a little sidetracked with Community events, Church events and the World. Like The Light We Carry, we have to be present in our World to show the World does have some Hope and God is here: we just need to search.

See you at the Prayer Breakfast! We can compare notes.

Anita

Anita Fox
Program Resources



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 2025?

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, 2025**. Interviews will be conducted on March 15, 2025 via Zoom.

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

2025 Conference Calendar of Events

- Feb. 8 Finance Committee Meeting (Mt. Shepherd Retreat Center)
- Feb. 9 Executive Committee Meeting (Mt. Shepherd Retreat Center)
- March 15 Scholarship Committee Meeting at 1:00pm (Virtual)
- March 23 Giving Day **All UWFaith Members**
- March 25-April 8 Training for Mission U leaders (Virtual)
- May 10 Mission u and Program Committee (Taylorsville UMC)
- June 12-14 Spiritual Growth Retreat, Lake Junaluska **All UMFaith Members**
- June 20-22 Annual Conference, Lake Junaluska
- July 18-19 Mission u, Catholic Conference Center, **All UWFaith Members**
- Aug. 9 Finance Committee (location TBD)
- Aug. 10 Executive Committee (location TBD)
- Sept. 6 Annual Celebration, **All UWFaith Members** (TBD)
- October 18 Leadership Development Day, LDD All District Officers (Virtual)
- Oct.11, 25 Ubuntu Days of Service (various locations) **All UWFaith Members**
- Nov. 7 Orientation for new Conference Officers (location TBD)
- Nov. 8 Conference Committee Meetings (location TBD)
- Nov. 9 Executive Committee meeting (location TBD)

Catawba Valley District UWF Officer Team - 2025

Office	Name	Address	Phone and Email
President	Janet Bjork Colton	516 Roderet St. S	828-205-4157
Vice President	OPEN		
Secretary	Belinda Worsham	4245 Rugged Hill Rd Maiden, NC 28650	704-966-2288 BelindaWorsham@yahoo.com
MNO	OPEN		
Treasurer	Kim Shafer	281 Valley View Terrace Waynesville, NC 28786	704-965-2022 kimshaferuwfsm@outlook.com
Social Action	OPEN		
Communications Coordinator	Gwen Perkins	3021 Harmon Homestead Rd	704-300-9553
Spiritual Growth Coordinator	OPEN		
Mission Education & Interpretation	OPEN		
Parliamentarian	OPEN		
Historian	OPEN		
Nominating Chair	OPEN		
Program Resources	Anita Fox	2430 Mountain Laurel Ln	828-390-6349
Nominations - Burke	OPEN		
Nominations - Catawba	OPEN		
Nominations - Cleveland	OPEN		
Nominations - Gaston	OPEN		
Nominations - Lincoln	Linda Reep	4780 Grigg Rd Lincolnton, NC 28092	704-276-2150 lindareep@charter.net
Conference Liaison	Virginia Robinson	2141 Millstone Morganton, NC 28655	828-238-4493 robinsonva62@gmail.com