



2025: Our Year to Succeed AGAIN!

Hello and Happy New Year, Northern Piedmont United Women in Faith!

It is so hard to believe a year has passed but here we are starting a new year again with new beginnings, changes and challenges.

Yes, you read the headline right. I am excited and pleased to announce that **the Northern Piedmont District met our pledge goal for 2024!** Thanks to those of you who contributed to 5-6 Undesignated Channels of Mission Giving for a total of \$51,016, which is over 100% of our \$50,000 Mission Pledge for 2024. **OUTSTANDING!!!** It is by the grace of God that we were able to achieve our goal with the decrease of so many of our local units.

The following is a list of units that contributed to all five Channels of Mission Giving:

Bass Chapel
Bethel, Archdale
Bethany Community
Celia Phelps
Centenary, Stoneville
Christ

College Place
First, Randleman
Gibsonville
Gideon Grove
Hinshaw
Hopewell

Laughlin Memorial
Lebanon
Morehead
Raleigh's Crossroads
Spring Hill
St. John, Eden

St. Matthews
Southeast Guilford
Stokesdale
Welch Memorial
West Market Street
Zion Hill

Our District's total giving in 2024 was \$59,245, which included all Undesignated and Designated Giving as well as the Legacy Fund. This year, we start all over again striving to meet or exceed our Pledge to Mission goal but NOW with an increased belief that we can do it!!

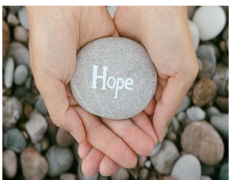
Our 2025 Conference Financial Goal is: "Each unit will increase giving in Gift to Mission by 10%." We all realize how much inflation has increased the cost of everything. To remain in Mission as we have in the past, each of us must do our part by increasing our pledge. **If your unit has not yet sent in your pledge form for 2025, please have your treasurer enclose it with your unit's first quarter remittance.** THE 1ST QUARTER ENDS FEBRUARY 28, 2025. Remember that to meet the first criteria for becoming a Mission Today Unit, a pledge must be made and met.

It is our year, ladies!! We can do anything with God's grace upon us! Let's get busy, United Women in Faith, and get the job done again!

Blessings,
Constance
(Connie) Holland
District Treasurer



Join Us for a District Mission Study on Saturday, March 8



Join us for a District mission study called "Practicing Hope," facilitated by Nancy Litton, on March 8, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. via Zoom (with a lunch break). [Click here to register.](#)

"Practicing Hope" is a biblical curriculum that invites us to explore hope as a daily practice. Its purpose is for all of our communities to cultivate hope that is honest about our current conditions (refuge), hope that is restorative when everything feels urgent (rest), and hope that is possible even when we transgress (repair).

Nancy came to North Carolina from Tennessee in 1998. She currently lives in Kannapolis with her daughter and their three cats. Nancy joined UWF in 2006 as the president of the newly formed Martha Barden Circle at Jackson Park UMC, Kannapolis. Since becoming a District member in 2006, she has served in several District roles; she is currently the conference Assistant Dean for Mission u.

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Conference & District Calendar 2025

Visit wnccumw.org to learn more about Conference events.

Download the Libby app to check out books from the library virtually!



March 8
9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.
(with a lunch break)
District Mission Study facilitated by Nancy Litton
Study: "Practicing Hope"
Book: *Welcome Home* by Neomi Fletcher (optional to read)

March 23
National Day of Giving

May 3
9 a.m. to 12 noon
District Prayer Breakfast (Registration - 8:30 a.m.)
at Collins Grove UMC, 5210 Collins Grove Church Rd,
Greensboro - [Register here](#) or contact Donna (pg. 6)
Speaker: Rev. Kim Foster

June 12-14
Spiritual Growth Retreat, Lake Junaluska

July 18-19
Mission u, Catholic Conference Center, Hickory

Sept. 6
Conference Celebration
Williamson's Chapel UMC, Mooresville

Sept. 27
Social Action Workshop

Oct. 11, 25
Ubuntu Days of Service

Gideon Grove UWFaith was inspired by a recent *Bright Lights* article from **response** magazine to create their own "baby tree" in December 2024. They donated baby clothes and shoes, bibs, bottles, diapers, a car seat and more to Room at the Inn, a charity for new mothers in Greensboro.



Bright Lights



Collins Grove UWFaith, who in coordination with WellCare, a company that helps women, children and youth living in underrepresented neighborhoods, volunteered helping with their food pantry on January 27, 2025. Below is a photo from December 14, 2024, when they partnered with WellCare in a Holiday Fun Day.



Hopewell UWFaith Morning Circle prepared and delivered Christmas Bags in December 2024 for our shut ins. Each member brought sweets, nuts, cookies, lotion, fuzzy socks, and a card signed by all. Additionally, all our ladies participated in a church-wide project bringing toys for our "Hopewell Has Heart" tree. The toys were given to the children in the Asheville/Fletcher area through the local Toys for Tots. Many thanks to Amber Cox who took them in time to be delivered.

Bethel Archdale UWFaith adopted the patients at Wellington Oaks Nursing Home in Greensboro, NC last year. Since that time, they visit the center monthly bringing praise singing, scripture and snacks. Since these patients are in various stages of dementia, the effort they put forth to participate is amazing! It is a very humbling experience. In December 2024, they took Christmas gift bags packed with fruit, snacks and socks.



Welcome to Our New District President

Greetings, sisters of the Northern Piedmont District United Women in Faith. **I am your new District President, Sherry Sink.** I welcome this opportunity to serve you in this capacity!

I have served in the local unit, District and Conference offices, and facilitated Mission u for youth and adults. My most recent position was serving as PAG (Program Advisory Group) at the National Office. I look forward to working once again with my District sisters.

I am at this time recovering from knee replacement surgery that I had the first week of January. I have had a lot of support from family and friends and am doing great. Can't wait to be able to get out and about again!

I look forward to collaborating with our District team to create events that are engaging, informative, and educational. **I pray God will guide our District team as we nurture, educate and empower our membership to be leaders in their own churches and lives.**



Sherry and her granddaughter Elizabeth...partners in exploring!



Sherry Sink
District President

Welcome to Our New District VP

A New Year: new beginnings, new challenges, new hopes.

While I don't make resolutions so much any more, I do like the idea of a fresh start and a clean slate. For me, this is also a time of letting go, especially the guilt I sometimes put on myself the for things I never got around to doing last year.

In UWFaith for 2025, **I am excited to have added a new role as District Vice President.** I covet your prayers and your patience as I learn and grow in this job.

I am challenging myself to learn details about where our money goes for missions. At our in-person events, I want to take a moment to share this information. We are a MISSION organization, so I think we should be talking about what we are doing.

I have a new job for each of you as well. **I challenge you, either individually or as a unit, to pick ONE NEW Mission to support in 2025.** It can be local, regional, national or global, your choice. While you do not have to tell me what it is, I would love to talk to you about it, to pray for your project, and to expand my knowledge.

Just think what we can accomplish together as BOLD WOMEN of FAITH in 2025.

May God richly bless you this year as we are about the Lord's business!



Your sister servant,
Rynn McGee- Pierce
District VP

Welcome to Our New District Secretary

Blessings for this new year 2025. **As your District Secretary, I hope to stay in touch with each of the local unit secretaries.** I will pass along any information received from the Conference to keep you up to date. Please contact me with any questions or comments you may have.

We are the record keepers for our organization, so minutes from our meetings should be concise but complete. The president of your unit may ask you to send Gift in Mission cards or other forms of correspondence with your members. You might also send an article for your church newsletter to let your congregation know about upcoming events or ongoing Mission projects.

In UWFaith, we work together turning faith, hope and love into action on behalf of women, children and youth. New opportunities are around every corner!

I look forward to working with you this year!



Janet Bledsoe
District Secretary

Get Ready to Read in 2025

Welcome to 2025! **There's a world of connection at your fingertips on United Women in Faith Digital.** Sign up and take your UWFaith membership to the next level! It's FREE. Just go to www.uwfaith.org/digital and create an account. And for on-the-go access, be sure to install the Mighty Networks app on your mobile phone and look for the United Women in Faith Digital network in the app! What can you do on United Women in Faith Digital?

What do you think about reading a children's book from the Reading Program at your meetings? Most of the children's books are available at the public library. Give it a try and let me know what you think.

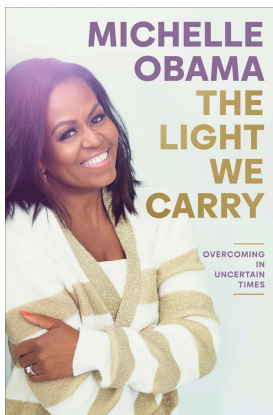
Peace, love & joy
be with you,
Cheryl Little
District SPR



This year, Sandra Williamson will lead a book study on *The Light We Carry* by Michelle Obama, and Lily Pierce will lead a book study on *My Body Is Not a Prayer Request* by Amy Kenny, both via Zoom, dates TBD. Synopses of both books are included below. Please read along with us!

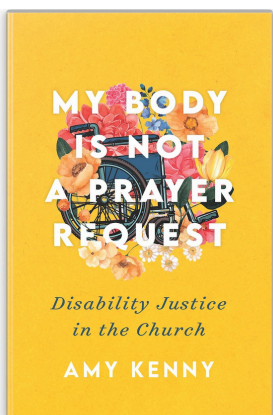
How to complete a Plan 1 Reading Program in 2025:

- Leadership Development - read *My Body Is Not a Prayer Request*
- Nurturing for Community - read *The Light We Carry* or read **response** magazine all year
- Spiritual Growth - choose Reading Program book or listen to 2+ episodes of Faith Talks podcast
- Education for Mission - choose RP book or listen to 2+ episodes of Voices From the Field podcast
- Social Action - choose RP book



There may be no tidy solutions or pithy answers to life's big challenges, but Michelle Obama believes that we can all locate and lean on a set of tools to help us better navigate change and remain steady within flux. In *The Light We Carry*, she opens a frank and honest dialogue with readers, considering the questions many of us wrestle with: How do we build enduring and honest relationships? How can we discover strength and community inside our differences? What tools do we use to address feelings of self-doubt or helplessness? What do we do when it all starts to feel like too much?

Michelle Obama offers readers a series of fresh stories and insightful reflections on change, challenge, and power, including her belief that when we light up for others, we can illuminate the richness and potential of the world around us, discovering deeper truths and new pathways for progress. Drawing from her experiences as a mother, daughter, spouse, friend, and First Lady, she shares the habits and principles she has developed to successfully adapt to change and overcome various obstacles—the earned wisdom that helps her continue to “become.” With trademark humor, candor, and compassion, she also explores issues connected to race, gender, and visibility, encouraging readers to work through fear, find strength in community, and live with boldness.



Much of the church has forgotten that we worship a disabled God whose wounds survived resurrection, says Amy Kenny. It is time for the church to start treating disabled people as full members of the body of Christ who have much more to offer than a miraculous cure narrative and to learn from their embodied experiences.

Written by a disabled Christian, this book shows that the church is missing out on the prophetic witness and blessing of disability. Kenny reflects on her experiences inside the church to expose unintentional ableism and cast a new vision for Christian communities to engage disability justice. She shows that until we cultivate church spaces where people with disabilities can fully belong, flourish, and lead, we are not valuing the diverse members of the body of Christ.

Offering a unique blend of personal storytelling, fresh and compelling writing, biblical exegesis, and practical application, this book invites readers to participate in disability justice and create a more inclusive community in church and parachurch spaces.

Visit uwfaith.org/resources/podcasts to listen to the podcasts.

Visit uwfaith.org/resources/reading-program to learn more about the Reading Program.

Creation Care News

Individual actions won't be enough to stop the environmental crises, but your actions can be a catalyst for change. When God called Moses to rescue God's people, God reminded this very unlikely candidate for leadership that he was standing on “holy ground” (Exodus 3:1-12). Like Moses, you may feel overwhelmed and inadequate, but God assured him—and you—“I will be with you.” Where is God calling you?

Invest in the future—not the past. Choose what you can: solar and wind, energy-efficient appliances, hybrid or electric vehicles, voting for electric public transit, quality and long-lasting fashion made of natural textiles, insurance companies and banks that do not support fossil fuels, lawmakers who work for the environment and justice.. Read more: umcreationjustice.org/february-2025-tips-advocacy.



Step Up & Reach Out



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

- Need new 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
- Paper towels & toilet paper
- Baby wipes
- Pullups in all sizes
- Diapers size 6

Castaways Thrift (supports substance abuse programs for women), 727 Highway St. Suite A, Madison, 336-644-4185 [Th-Sat]

- Gently used clothing, shoes & housewares
- Kids clothes
- Jewelry & purses

Rockingham HOPE (faith-based ministry helping those in need), 326 E. Stadium Dr, Eden, 336-623-2133 [M-Th]

- Gently used blankets
- Hygiene products & toiletries
- Cleaning supplies
- Canned food
- Gently used towels
- Plastic grocery bags
- Boxes of cereal
- Bottled water
- Paper products
- Salad dressing

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, 336-340-5620

- Detergent
- Lysol or Lysol wipes
- 55 gal trash bags
- 13 gal trash bags
- Baby wipes
- Paper towels
- Plastic solo cups
- Fruit juice
- Cleaning supplies
- Full & queen size comforters

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

- Peanut butter & jelly
- Spaghetti sauce
- Oatmeal packets
- Boxes of cereal
- Muffin mix
- Shampoo
- Toothpaste

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
- Bottled water
- X-Large trash bags
- Laundry detergent
- Bleach
- Body lotion

The Family of God

*I'm so glad I'm a part
of the family of God-
I've been washed in the fountain,
cleansed by His blood!
Joint heirs with Jesus
as we travel this sod,
For I'm part of the family,
the family of God.*

*You will notice we say "brother
and sister" 'round here-
It's because we're a family
and these folks are so near;
When one has a heartache
we all share the tears,
And rejoice in each victory
In this family so dear.*

"I'm So Glad I'm a Part of the Family of God"

Greetings, my friends! I am overjoyed to share our local donation sub-total for 2024. Why did I refer to this as a sub-total since 2024 is behind us? Because I know some of you have been in ministry through United Women in Faith, but I have not received your information. It is NOT too late! Please email me about your activities so can include them in my report!

Meanwhile, I am SHOUTING "Hallelujah" for these donations in 2024:

- \$1771.27 as of the last newsletter, plus...
- \$66 - items delivered to Room at the Inn, Bennett College and Rockingham Hope
- \$2388.00 - Christ UWF made HYGIENE Kits
- \$5 - items delivered to Leslie's House
- \$1065.00 - Hopewell UWF made donations to several Step Up & Reach Out causes
- **\$5295.27 - Total 2024 donations reported thus far**

So very proud of the work we do in our own backyards and around the world!

Please do report your mission work to me. Feel free to call with any questions!



Peace!
Rynn McGee-
Pierce,
District MEI



If you or someone you know is willing to serve on the District team, please let us know!

District Officers for 2025

Visit wnccumw.org to learn more about Conference & District events.

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Mission Education & Interpretation

Rynn McGee-Pierce
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TBD

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Historian

TBD

Parliamentarian

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District

Deaconess

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Trinity, NC 27370
renee.hayes1956@gmail.com

“Biggie Bags for the Homeless” Checklist (Keep a Few in Your Vehicle)

- Small bottles of water
- Small bottles of hand sanitizer
- Small packs of tissues
- Snacks
- Eye mask
- A few dollars
- ...and whatever else you want to add

Legacy Fund Information:

Visit our website at
wnccumw.org/legacyfund



Conference Vision & Goals 2025

- Model our Purpose as United Women in Faith (UWFaith) 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!

How We Can Inspire Each Other

As we gear up for another year in Mission, I feel excited about upcoming events. As always, it will be fun to see everyone at the District Prayer Breakfast, the District Celebration, and more. I leave these events energized and rejuvenated by the fellowship, the stirring message given by the speaker, and the powerful feeling of being in community with God's people.

I want to ask you a favor: can you please, at some point this year, snap some photos of your unit engaging with a Mission project? You can email me the photos with a caption at npdistrictunitedmethodistwomen@gmail.com.

One of my favorite installments in **response** magazine is the "Bright Lights" section. It showcases the awesome work local UWFaith units all across America do in their communities. We also have a "Bright Lights" section located on pg. 2. Feel free to help a charity listed in Step Up & Reach Out on pg. 5 OR come up with a different idea. You could also make Biggie Bags for the Homeless (pg. 6) at one of your unit meetings.

Whatever you choose, don't forget to snap a photo to share with your sisters. This is how we can inspire each other to stay strong and carry on in serving God and others.

Lily Pierce
District Communications



District Mission Study Article (cont. from pg. 1)

In 2017, Nancy took the first steps in becoming a member of the Order of Deaconesses & Home Missioner. She completed her class work in 2020 and was commissioned at the UMW Assembly in Orlando FL in 2022. She is currently appointed to Trinity United Methodist Church, Kannapolis in congregational care.

Nancy's hobbies include needlecrafts, swimming, and occasionally enjoys 'digging in the dirt'. She is committed to opportunities to improve her community – whether in NC or the world at large. Nancy is best described as 'being in love with the sound of her own voice'; she is an accomplished public speaker and is excited to share with our group on March 8.

An Offering of "Thanks Living" (Reprint)

As United Women in Faith, we all know that women, children and youth around the world need our help to have a better life. And we know that it takes money to fund these ministries.

So, I have a challenge for each and every one of us. 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 me when I grew up, 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 of the meal, she put the pennies in a little church bank. When I visited, I got to do the honors. She explained to me that she put the pennies in the bank daily, and once it was full, she counted up the tally and wrote a check to the Women's Society Of Christian Service (a former name for UWF). 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. 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 (classifying it as Undesignated Giving), you may bring the coins to our next in-person event, or you can call me 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? Peace! -Rynn



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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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

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).