



United
Women
in Faith

Western North Carolina

Blue Ridge District Newsletter
United Women in Faith

Purpose: UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH is a community of women whose purpose is to know God and 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.

Mission u 2025

July 18-19, 2025

The Catholic Conference Center, Hickory, North Carolina

Passionate about mission?

Love to learn?

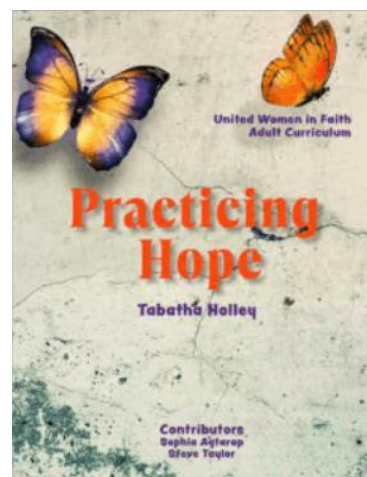
Want to engage with others who are?

Then Mission u is right for you!

Apply for a first timer scholarship.

(See page 14 for information)

[Registration is Open! Click Here.](#)



Adult Curriculum

Blue Ridge District United Women in Faith 2025 OFFICERS

<p><u>President:</u> Lucy Earls (Oak Grove) 913 Race Path Church Rd. Ellenboro, NC 28040 (828) 453-8566 (h) (828) 223-1325 (c) jlearls@att.net</p>	<p><u>Vice President:</u> Stephanie Goudreau (Marion First) 320 S. Garden Street Marion, NC 28752 (828)460-2463 segoudreau@yahoo.com</p>	<p><u>Secretary:</u> Glenda Fuhrmann (Central) 10 Dustin Drive Swannanoa, NC 28778 (828) 337-2617 glendafuhrmann@yahoo.com</p>	<p><u>Treasurer:</u> Martha Phillips (Pine Grove) P. O. Box 49, Linville Falls, NC 28647 (828) 467-3167, mcwphillips@gmail.com</p>
<p><u>MC, Spiritual Growth:</u> Gwen Harris (Windom) 215 Grand View Lane Burnsville, NC 28714 (828) 682-4589 gwenaharris68@gmail.com</p>	<p><u>MC, Education & Interpretation:</u> Sandra Wells (Central) 219 Aurora Drive Asheville, NC 28805 828-273-0726 sandracwells@gmail.com</p>	<p><u>MC, Social Action:</u> Beverly Hill (Black Mountain) 202 Border Street Black Mountain, NC 28711 828-778-9309 Beverlyhill19@gmail.com</p>	<p><u>MC, Membership Nurture & Outreach:</u> Tracey Owens (Marion First) 310 S. Garden Street Marion, NC 28752 (828) 246-6006 traceybh@gmail.com</p>
<p><u>Secretary of Program Resources:</u> Jennie Greenway (Oak Grove) 164 Emma Drive Ellenboro, NC 28040 (828) 289-1642 jengreenway@bellsouth.net</p>	<p><u>Communications Coordinator:</u> Kathy Woods (Skyland) 11 Azalea Road Arden, 28704 (828) 777-8617 mysumcemail@gmail.com</p>	<p><u>Parliamentarian:</u> Jo Pyatt (East Marion) P. O. Box 1621 Marion, NC 28040 (828) 803-0363 pyattjo@gmail.com</p>	
<p><u>Historian:</u> To be named.</p>			
<u>Committee On Nominations</u>			
<p><u>Jackie Rio, Co-chair</u> (Black Mountain) 101 Second Street Black Mountain, NC 28711 (828) 669-2885 jackierio@charter.net Class of 2025</p>	<p><u>Karen Anderson, Co-chair</u> (Skyland) 9 Chestnut Mtn. Ridge Asheville, NC 28803 (828) 279-9658 kanderson95@gmail.com Class of 2025</p>	<p><u>Jeannette Byrd</u> (St. Paul's) 203 Aurora Dr. Asheville, NC 28805 (828) 230-5308 jbyrdasheville@aol.com Class of 2028</p>	<p><u>Susan Snell</u> (Central) 30 Sunflower Lane Fletcher, NC 28732 (828) 551-0736 ssnell123@bellsouth.net Class of 2023</p>
<p><u>Eva Farren</u> (Piney Mountain) 14 St. Matthews Drive Candler, NC 28715-6207 (828) 231-3820 evafarren@icloud.com Class of 2025</p>			
<p><u>Members at Large</u> Dixie Liggett, (Skyland), 8 Springside Park, Asheville, NC 28803, (828) 684-1831, lliggett3@charter.net Martha Phillips, (Pine Grove) P. O. Box 49, Linville Falls, NC 28647 (828) 467-3167, mcwphillips@gmail.com</p> <p><u>Conference Advisor</u> Joanie Strohm (Weaverville), 111 Collins Road, Marshall, NC 28753, (828) 707-8928, ssjsmars@charter.net</p>			

A Message from Your President

Greetings United Women in Faith sisters. I hope you are having a blessed beginning to your summer. It seems as though time is flying by. We have so much to look forward to the rest of our year together.



Many, many continued thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make our 2025 Prayer Breakfast special. To Gwen Harris, Dixie Liggett, and the ladies of Skyland, you did an outstanding job of planning and executing the day beautifully. Our speaker, Rev. Veranita Alvord, wonderfully delivered our message while continuing our 2025 theme of “Proclaiming Our Hope.” You were all so generous with our Love offering and our gift cards for Brooks Howell Home. Again, thanks for your attendance.

I hope you will take advantage of the opportunities to be together in mission, education, and fellowship during the remainder of the year. We have two more ZOOM Book Clubs, Mission u, District and Conference Annual Celebrations, Leadership Development Days, and Ubuntu Days of Service to look forward to. Attend as many as you can.

We had some confusion about UMCOR kits. If your unit has made any, reach out to me or Sandra Wells and I assure you they will be delivered to the Mission Response Center. I was blessed to have a nurturing visit with a unit recently. It is always a blessing to hear what local units are doing to live out our Purpose.

Please invite your nurturing partner to come to one of your unit meetings. Officers love to make these visits and we are here to help you and your units any way we can.

Love in Christ

Lucy Earls, President

Useful Links:

- UWFaith Reading Program: [Reading Program | United Women in Faith](#)
- response Magazine: [response magazine | United Women in Faith](#)
- WNC Conference Newsletter: [Conference Gram | WNCC United Women in Faith](#)
- Brookes Howell Connection: [Brookes-Howell Serendipitor | WNCC United Women in Faith](#)
- Resources: [United Women in Faith - Shop](#)

Vice President's Message

Last year was my first time experiencing Mission u, and I cannot wait to go back this July! Registration is now open for “Practicing Hope Together” to be held July 18-19, 2025 at the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory.



The description on the registration site indicates that we will be exploring hope, especially in situations when hope seems hard to find. The Bible emphasizes hope as a “confident expectation or assurance rooted in faith and trust in God’s promises”. Having hope helps us when we are experiencing difficult times and helps us see that recovery is possible.

This seems like such a timely study as we are experiencing vast political divides, wars, famine, racism, and climate change in the United States and throughout the world. What does hope mean when situations seem insurmountable? I am looking forward to meeting with my sisters from the Western NC

Conference as we discover the power of hope together.

[Mission u 2025 | WNCC United Women in Faith](#)

Stephanie Goudreau, Vice President

My experience at Mission u (Anonymous)

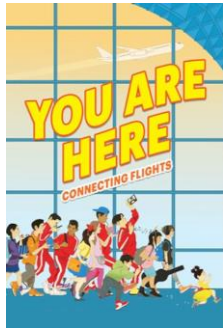
Last year was my first Mission u experience at the Catholic Retreat Center in Hickory. Let me say, it was wonderful. They put us at random tables so I got to meet lovely ladies from exotic new lands (like Hickory.) The activities are planned well but not hurried. The facilities are terrific and homey. While it was hot outside, you could go for walks or hang on the back porch to see the beautiful surroundings. I was in the last room on the first floor (by request) and it still only took me 60 seconds to get from our study room to my overnight room. You never had to go outside if you didn't want to. It was a pleasure to be there for 36 hours and well worth my time and effort. Please, treat yourself to some 'girl time' and time reflecting with God and go to Mission u!



Program Resources

Happy Summer to all of you. I hope you are enjoying some time outside in the warm sunshine.

We've had a great year so far and have read some excellent books. The first being *The Lucky Ones* by Linda Williams Jackson and the second being *Pauli Murray: The Life of Pioneering Feminist and a Civil Rights Activist* by Terry Catasus Jennings and Rosita Stevens-Holsey. If you have not had a chance to read these books, I encourage you to do so.



Our next book study will be on Saturday, August 2 at 10:00 am on Zoom. The book we will be focusing on is *You are Here: Connecting Flights* edited by Ellen Oh. Please see a book description from Goodreads below:

“An incident at a TSA security checkpoint sows chaos and rumors, creating a chain of events that impacts twelve young Asian Americans in a crowded and restless airport. As their disrupted journeys crisscross and collide, they encounter fellow travelers--some helpful, some hostile--as they discover the challenges of friendship, the power of courage, the importance of the right word at the right time, and the unexpected significance of a blue Stratocaster electric guitar. Twelve powerhouse Asian American authors explore themes of identity and belonging in the entwined experiences of young people whose family roots may extend to East and Southeast Asia, but who are themselves distinctly American.”

There will be registration information on the Western North Carolina United Women in Faith's website soon.

Until then...happy reading.

Jennie Greenway, Secretary of Program Resources



Nominations Committee

We are working to put together a complete slate of officers for 2025, and we very much appreciate the United Women in Faith who have agreed to serve on the Blue Ridge District Executive Committee.

We still have upcoming vacancies for treasurer and the committee on nominations. These are important positions, so we would appreciate suggestions of anyone in your unit who would be a good fit for them. We are very grateful to Martha Phillips who stepped in to do a superb job as treasurer for the last couple of years.

Officers will be installed at the district annual celebration Saturday, Aug. 16, 2025, at First United Methodist Church of Marion.

Special thanks to members of the Committee on Nominations—
Jeannette Byrd, Susan Snell and Eva Farren.

Co-Chairs

Jackie Rio (jackierio@charter.net)

Karen Anderson (ksanderson95@gmail.com)

Committee on Nominations Proposed Slate of Officers for 2026-27

Below is the proposed slate of officers for 2026-27, who will be elected at Annual Celebration on Aug. 17, 2025, at First United Methodist Church of Marion. Names in red are new to the office.

- President : Lucy Earls
- Vice President: Stephanie Goudreau
- Secretary: Glenda Fuhrmann
- **Treasurer: Elizabeth Duncan**
- Mission Coordinator for Mission Education and Interpretation: Sandra Wells
- Mission Coordinator for Social Action: Beverly Hill
- Mission Coordinator for Membership Nurture and Outreach: Tracey Owens
- Mission Coordinator for Program Resources: Jennie Greenway
- Communications Coordinator: Kathy Woods

Committee on Nominations:

Jeanette Byrd

Eva Farren

Susan Snell

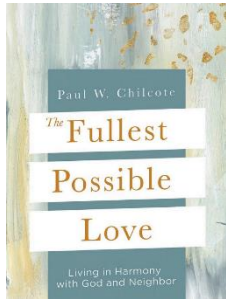
Kathy Leftwich

President Lucy Earls will appoint the historian and parliamentarian. We are seeking one or two additional members of the Committee on Nominations.

Spiritual Growth

I wish everybody could have attended the Prayer Breakfast! Our guest speaker, Veranita Alvord, drew from her college background as an English major to weave various ideas from Emily Dickinson's poem "Hope" with New Testament verses on the same subject. The result was a unique, inspiring sermon. Since the worship service was recorded, you can watch it at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jQcDKZri2io>. If you ever have an opportunity to hear Veranita in person, take advantage of it.

I was sad to miss the Spiritual Growth Retreat at Lake Junaluska but understand it was very good. We do have another spiritual growth opportunity coming up in the form of Mission u, which also focuses on hope. The study book comes from the Spiritual Growth category and is entitled *Practicing Hope*.



A third spiritual growth opportunity available this summer is sponsored by the Western NC Conference of The United Methodist Church. Bishop Ken Carter is hosting a book study on *The Fullest Possible Love* by Paul Chilcote. Participants will meet three times by Zoom—first in late June, then once in July and August. He will host a morning and evening session to give more opportunities to participate. For more information, go to www.wnccumc.org/2025bookstudy.

I would love to hear from you. If you have read a book from the Spiritual Growth category that you think all of us would enjoy, please send me your recommendation. My email address is gwenaharris68@gmail.com.

I hope to see you soon.
Gwen Harris, Coordinator

Social Action

Summertime is here, but there is no time to rest. There is so much to become aware of and to act upon. Please sign up for information and updates from UWF so that you and your group can do your best to protect women, children and youth at this critical time. Here are the sites to help you.

- UWFaith Information Sign Up:
<https://uwfaith.org/what-we-do/serve-and-advocate/climate-justice/#sign-up-form>
- Climate Justice Legislative Action:
<https://win.newmode.net/unitedwomeninfaith/legislationforclimatejustice>
- Social Action Trifold Brochure:
<https://uwfaithresources.org/prodDetail.cfm?productID=12701&catid=2209>
- Interrupting the School-to-Prison Pipeline 2-pager:
<https://uwfaithresources.org/prodDetail.cfm?productID=11101&catid=2209>

Strength and blessings to you all,
Beverly Hill, Social Action Coordinator
(beverlyhill19@gmail.com)

2025 Calendar of Events

Events for All Members	District and Conference Officers
July 18-19 Mission u, Catholic Conference Center, All UWFaith Members	
Aug. 2 Zoom BR District Book Club-10:00-11:30 AM	
	<i>Aug. 9 Conference Finance Committee (TBD)</i>
	<i>Aug. 10 Conference Executive Committee (TBD)</i>
Aug. 16 District Annual Celebration 9:30 AM First United Methodist Church, Marion	
Sept. 6, Conference Annual Celebration, Sally Vonner, CEO of UWFaith, Speaker, Location: Williamson’s Chapel UMC, Mooresville	
Sept. 13 Zoom BR District Book Club-10-11:30 AM	
	<i>Sept. 27 District Executive Committee Meeting (TBD)</i>
	Oct. 18 Conference Leadership Development Day, LDD All District Officers (Virtual)
Oct. 11, 25 Ubuntu Days of Service (various locations)	
Nov. 1 District Leadership Development Day (TBA)	
	<i>Nov. 7 Orientation for new Conference Officers Nov. 8 Conference Committee Meetings Nov. 9 Conference Executive Committee meeting</i>

Dear United Women of Faith of the Blue Ridge District,

On behalf of Brooks-Howell Home, I want to thank you for your generous outpouring of gift cards from Lowe's, Home Depot, and Walmart at the Prayer Breakfast. These monies will be used for supplies to be used for needed renovations. Hurricane Helene affected Brooks-Howell financially, and these gifts will certainly help with supplies. As always, we are thankful for the many ways UWFaith supports Brooks-Howell. We would love for your UWFaith to visit with a tour, have lunch with our residents, and shop in our Gift Shop. You can contact me at the email or phone number listed below. Thank you again and may God bless each of you.

Grace & Peace,
 Deaconess Tracey S. Owens
 Director of Resident Services
 Brooks-Howell Home
towens@brookshowell.org
 828-367-7986

Annual District Breakfast

The District Breakfast was a great success, with good food and great fellowship. Our speaker, Pastor Veranita Alvord, was wonderful! Thank you to the many hands that made this truly a success!



WOMEN'S
Prayer
BREAKFAST





Treasurer

Greetings Ladies

The best part of my job as your district Treasurer is preparing my quarterly reports and sending the money you have sent me on to our Conference Treasurer. When your unit treasurer sends in your Pledge to Mission it means that women, children, and youth will be helped all around the world! But it is important to remember that Pledge to Mission is composed of five (5) other areas of Mission Giving in Western North Carolina Conference United Women in Faith.

- Gift to Mission cards
- Gift in Memory cards
- Special Mission Recognition Pins
- World Thank Offering
- Walk for Mission money

The money I receive in each of these categories is part of our District's Pledge to Mission. All of this money goes to Mission projects of United Women in Faith. The stories of projects around the world are reported in *response* magazine. Sharing a response moment during your unit meetings is a good time to share this information. You will learn that women receive support and possibly micro loans to start a business, they may learn to sew, to develop better gardening skills, and many other opportunities to better their lives and the lives of their children. Like all mothers, they long for their children to be fed, clothed and educated. Our projects provide those opportunities for children and youth.



YOU make mission possible with your generous gifts to Pledge to Mission. This quarter I was able to send our conference Treasurer over \$19,500.00 for undesignated Mission Giving. Undesignated means that National Office can send the money to projects where to need is greatest. Call to Prayer and Self Denial is designated giving as are your gives to specific projects like Red Bird Mission or Scarritt Bennett Center. Those gifts go directly to the mission designated.

I hope this brief article helps your understanding Pledge to Mission money and the difference between undesignated and designated giving. If you have any questions do not hesitate to contact me. I would be happy to come visit your unit and talk to you about Mission Giving and where the money goes.

Peace and every good, Martha Phillips (mcwphillips@gmail.com)

Membership, Nurture, & Outreach (MNO) Coordinator

The members of the Blue Ridge District UWFaith Executive Team LOVE to be asked to visit your unit/circle meetings. Listed in this newsletter are the Nurturing Partners of each UWFaith unit and their contact information. They will be happy to do a program for your meeting, or just visit. Two of my Nurturing Partner units have contacted me and I'll be the speaker at one of the unit meetings and have already been invited to the Christmas gathering of another!! Contact your Nurturing Partner today!



Tracey Owens, MNO Coordinator

2025 NURTURING PARTNERS for BLUE RIDGE DISTRICT - PLEASE ASK YOUR NURTURING PARTNER TO COME VISIT

Nurturing Partner	Church	Nurturing Partner	Church
Lucy Earls (828) 453-8566 (828) 223-1325	First Forest City Spindale Edneyville	Jeannette Byrd (828) 230-5308	Central Mills River
Stephanie Goudreau (828) 460-2463	Pleasant Hill-Marion Concord Clinchfield	Gwen Harris (828) 682-4589	Bald Creek Mars Hill Weaverville
Beverly Hill (828) 778-9309	Biltmore East Marion	Sandra Wells (828) 273-0726	Asbury Memorial Skyland Hendersonville First
Glenda Fuhrmann (828) 337-2617	Montmorenci	Jackie Rio (828) 669-2885	Addie's Chapel
Tracey Owens (828) 246-6006	Black Mountain Groce Oak Grove	Martha Phillips (828) 467-3167	Spruce Pine Windom Marion First
Joanie Strohm (828) 707-8928	Piney Mountain Salem	Karen Anderson (828) 628-9385	St. Paul's Abernethy
Jennie Greenway (828) 289-1642	First Rutherfordton Gilkey Moore's Grove	Eva Farren (828) 231-3820	Grace Balfour
Susan Snell (828) 551-0736	S.O.W. in Faith (Oakley/Sardis)	Kathy Woods (828) 777-8617	Saluda

We believe love in
action can change the
world.

Faith. Action.
Sisterhood.



United
Women
in Faith

Western North Carolina

• Conference 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.

2025 Frances Yelton Scholarship Form for Mission u July 18-19, 2025

One scholarship to Mission u will be given this year. Each unit is encouraged to submit a name or names of anyone interested who will be a first time attendee. Please complete this form and return to the District President by the following date: **July 1st, 2025**

Name: _____ Church: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Provide a short biographical sketch of yourself, including your participation in United Women in Faith.

Why do you wish to attend the Mission u?

Applicant's Signature _____

Date _____

Please email to District President – Lucy Earls at jlearls@att.net

Blue Ridge District United Women in Faith
Kathy Woods
11 Azalea Rd
Arden, NC 28704

Mark Your Calendars for 2025

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

Aug. 2 Zoom BR District Book Club-10:00-11:30 AM

Aug. 16 District Annual Celebration 9:30 AM First United Methodist Church, Marion

Sept. 6, Conference Annual Celebration, Sally Vonner, CEO of UWFaith, Speaker,
Location: Williamson's Chapel UMC, Mooresville

Sept. 13 Zoom BR District Book Club-10:00 AM-11:30 AM

Oct.11, 25 Ubuntu Days of Service (various locations) All UWFaith Members

Nov. 1 District Leadership Development Day (TBA)

To register for zoom events, go to wncumw.org, click on Districts and then District Events 2025, find the Blue Ridge pink box, click on Zoom choice and then Zoom Registration Link.