



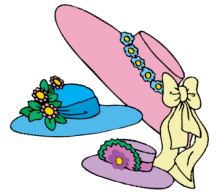
Join Us at Our District Annual Celebration

Northern Piedmont invites you to **“Celebrate good times, come on! Let’s celebrate!”**

Put on your pretty hats; we’re having a Tea Party! Invite a friend and join the fun!

Where? The District Annual Celebration, which will take place on **Saturday, August 16, 2025**, will be held at **Gideon Grove UMC in Stokesdale**. Registration and brunch tea begins at 9 a.m. followed by the program from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. The Hands-On Mission is to collect school supplies, which will be donated to local schools in need AND/OR boys’ and girls’ underwear size 3T & 4T (specifically requested for the Bethlehem Center - more info below).

The Conference theme for 2025 is entitled "Celebrate Change," so this will be our theme as well. We are honored to have Sandra Williamson as our guest speaker. She served as the District President from 2019-2022 and teaches at Lay Servant School, Mission u, and Reading Program book studies. Sandy is a well-known, beloved member of our District, and she always delivers a great message!



Also, **Deborah Forrest of the Bethlehem Center** will be on hand to give us a brief introduction to the services offered at the Winston Salem campus. This is one of the National Mission Institutions supported by the Mission Giving of United Women in Faith. The Bethlehem Center turns faith, hope and love into action...touching the lives of children and their families. (All the underwear + some of the school supplies will go to them.)

As a reminder, the District Annual Celebration is “no charge” (FREE), but please register so we have adequate materials, food, etc. **Click here to register!** Northern Piedmont District is a FABULOUS group of bold, beautiful, spirit-filled women, and we have much to celebrate! The address is 2865 Gideon Grove Church Rd, Stokesdale, NC 27357. Call me at (336) 706-9116 for more info. **See pg. 4 for *AN IMPORTANT MEMO* about the program book.** Live music will be provided by Joshua Sauls from Bethel UMC in Archdale. See you there! -Rynn McGee-Pierce, District VP

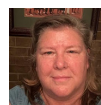
Join Us at Our Conference Annual Celebration

Greetings to my Sisters in Christ,

I am so excited about our WNCC Annual Celebration on **September 6th**. Our theme is “Celebrate Change.” We are making a change for it to be **a one-day event from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Williamson Chapel UMC in Mooresville**. We will still have workshops, celebrations and lunch. Our guest speaker is Sally Vonner, National CEO of United Women in Faith!

We would like to build some excitement about Sally coming to be with us. Have you ever heard of Flat Stanley? My kids did this is school. This is a paper doll that you send to your family or friends, and they take pictures of him doing different activities. **We have created a Flat Sally that can travel our Districts to take pictures with you at your events leading up to the Annual Celebration.** There, we will have an opportunity to take a picture with the Real Sally for a donation to Missions. The donation for the picture will replace our Walk for Mission fundraiser. The photo on the right is the picture we are using for the Flat Sally. A poster copy is going out to District Presidents to be used at your events. Please send your pictures to me at alexanderlynn807@gmail.com.

There will be more details on the event coming soon on the website. I look forward to celebrating all of the great things your Districts have done and hearing the wonderful message Sally will bring to us!



Blessings,
Lynn Alexander
WNCCUMW VP



Table of Contents

Calendar & Bright Lights...	pg. 2
President, Treasurer & Communications articles...	pg. 3
Social Action Workshop flyer, Reading Program info & Secretary article...	pg. 4
Step Up & Reach Out list & MEI article...	pg. 5
District contacts 2025...	pg. 6
Just Energy 4 All, book study recap & Communications article...	pg. 7



Conference & District Calendar 2025

Check out our FB page!
www.facebook.com/northernpiedmontumw

Visit wnccumw.org to learn more about Conference events.

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

- Aug. 16 District Annual Celebration (Registration - 8:30 a.m.)
 9 a.m. to 12 noon at Gideon Grove UMC, 2869 Gideon Grove Church Rd,
 Stokesdale - [Register here](#) or contact Rynn (pg. 6)
 Speaker: Former District President Sandra Williamson

- Sept. 6 Conference Annual Celebration
 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Williamson's Chapel UMC, Mooresville
 Speaker: UWFaith National CEO Sally Vonner

- Sept. 27 Social Action Workshop about children in public schools
 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Morehead UMC, 3214 Horse Pen Creek Rd,
 Greensboro - [Register here](#) or contact Mary Lou (pg. 6)
 Full schedule on pg. 4

- Oct. 11, 25 Ubuntu Days of Service

- Date TBD Book Study on *My Body Is Not a Prayer Request*
 by Amy Kenny. Led by Lily Pierce

- Date TBD Leadership Development Day

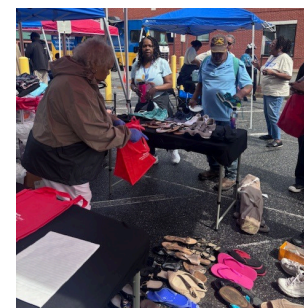


At our **District Prayer Breakfast**, we memorialized the ladies we lost in 2024 and heard a stirring message from Rev. Kim Foster. We also presented Miss Patricia Wiseman with an honorary rose and took photos with Flat Sally. There were about 100 ladies in attendance representing 21 units.



Bright Lights

Hinshaw UWFaith celebrated spring with their annual Spring Event. They supported The Family Justice Center's Camp Hope with needed camp items, gift cards and campships. They work with children who have experienced violence and abuse. The speaker was Hannah Mould, who leads the camp.



On May 17, members of **Collins Grove UWFaith** volunteered at Beyond the Walls of the Church, a Community Outreach for the Unhoused in Greensboro. Connie Holland from Bethel Archdale UWFaith also helped sort clothes for the event.



Gideon Grove UWFaith started a new tradition for Mother's Day last year. 1. All the ladies at church that day wear a hat or fascinator. 2. The unit members collect hygiene and baby items for mothers at Room at the Inn. The ladies who attended the May monthly meeting posed for a photo with the various items.



See You There!

If you didn't attend our District Prayer Breakfast, you missed a fun and inspiring event. A big thank you to those of you who attended our Prayer Breakfast at Collins Grove UMC and to those that prepared and served us breakfast. Thanks to Donna Miller and executive team for arranging and executing the program!

Please put the upcoming District events in this newsletter on your calendar. District events give us opportunities to come together as the body of Christ. We form relationships with each other as we come together to worship, learn and share meals.

The executive team works to prepare events that are engaging, spiritual and knowledgeable. **Our coming together as a body to participate in these events helps to make us strong, as we unite to make a difference in our churches, our communities and our Western North Carolina Conference of United Women in Faith.**

What event is next? Is it on your calendar?

Look forward to seeing you there!

Sherry Sink
District President



Side By Side We Can Soar

It is so hard to believe that summer is here, and the first half of 2025 is over! This means we have completed half of our United Women in Faith's year of Mission Giving. Thanks to all Unit Treasurers who sent their second quarter reports and checks to me on time. We are now into our third quarter, and I look forward to hearing from you again in the next few weeks. As you know, the contribution of each unit is extremely important in supporting UWFAith efforts around the world on behalf of women, children, and youth. **Our 3rd quarter ends on August 31, 2025.**

Our total amount contributed to Missions for the first half of 2025 was \$20,106. Undesignated giving totaled \$18,301, which is applied to our 2025 Pledge to Mission of \$40,000. As you can see, we have a way to go to meet our pledge, so I urge each of you to work hard during the next few months to help meet our goal and surpass it! Please remember that many of our units are small in the number of members, but we are big in heart AS WE WORK TOGETHER for United Women in Faith. I also urge you not to wait till the end of the year to send in your Undesignated Gifts. It is important that these gifts be put to use all throughout the year as the needs of women, children and youth here and around the world are great all year long.

In 2024, 24 of our units contributed to all 5 Channels of Giving. It would be exciting if our District doubled that number and accomplished 100% participation this year. **Giving in the 5 Channels of Giving includes -**

- a "Pledge to Mission" made and met
- a donation to Special Membership Recognition or a SMR pin to someone in your unit or church
- a Gift to Mission card given to someone special in your life
- a Gift in Memory card sent to someone to share your thoughts and prayers
- a donation to World Thank Offering

Thank you for all that you do as a UNITED WOMAN IN FAITH and thank God for giving us the opportunity to help others. I look forward to seeing many of you at our District Annual Celebration at Gideon Grove UMC in Stokesdale on August 16th!

Blessings,
Constance
(Connie) Holland
District Treasurer



Reflections on the Lake & Disability

This year, I attended the **Spiritual Growth Retreat in Lake Junaluska** for the first time in several years. It was relaxing and revitalizing to be in a beautiful, spiritual place with salt-of-the-Earth women. I greatly enjoyed the fellowship, the music, and the sermons. Between activities, I got to do a boat tour of the lake. When my grandma and I asked them beforehand if they could accommodate a wheelchair user, they said they DID have a ramp, though they had never used it. Never? Wow! It seems crazy since so many people use a mobility aid (wheelchair, walker, cane, etc.) But believe it or not, I am constantly forging new paths and challenging stigmas. My very presence can be eye-opening. Oftentimes people like me are NOT on society's radar, which is obvious when you start paying attention to accessibility - and the lack thereof - in churches, restaurants, downtown areas, event spaces, etc. (cont. on pg. 4)

Reflections on the Lake & Disability cont.

I am eager to dive into the topic of disability justice in my next book study. I'm sure I'm not the only one who has stories to share. Most of us know at least one person with a physical disability, a mental health struggle, a cognitive disability, etc. How does God call us to witness to that person? (And in case you are wondering, the ramp - which is now officially broken in - worked just fine.)

IMPORTANT MEMO I need your year-end reports from 2024 in order to make the program book for our District Annual Celebration. If you did not email your reports directly to me at npdistrictunitedmethodistwomen@gmail.com already, please send them to me. These reports let me know about Justice Today, Mission Today, Mission Studies, and the Reading Program. (For your convenience, we will provide year-end report packets for 2025 at this event!) Be sure to register so we bring enough.) Thanks! -Lily Pierce, District Communications



How to achieve a Reading Plan 1 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

See pg. 7 for a recap of Sandra Williamson's book study in June.

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



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

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

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



Schedule for Upcoming Social Action Workshop

IN SUPPORT OF CHILDREN IN OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS: MAKING OUR VOICES HEARD!



- 9:30 AM Continental Breakfast
- 10 AM Opening Session with Worship and Devotion
- 10:30 AM Session 1: *Pushout* movie and discussions
- 12:00 noon Light Lunch
- 12:30 PM Session 2: Next Steps
NC Pastors for Children
GCS School Bd Representatives
What We Can Do
How We Can Help
- 1:45 Closing Worship

A love offering will be taken during the worship service. A basket will be placed in the fellowship hall for donations to help with the cost of food.

Click here to register!

Date: Sept. 27, 2025

Location: Morehead UMC at 3214 Horse Pen Creek Rd in Greensboro
Hands-On Mission: Feminine hygiene products & school supplies

Be the Voice!

I recently took part in a Zoom Bible Study on a woman from the Bible about whom we have probably paid no attention. I have read 2 Samuel and still did not remember her. Rev. Dr. Kymberley Clemons-Jones led the study of "Rizpah." In 2 Samuel 21, we learn that Rizpah, a concubine of King Saul, waged a silent protest when her two sons were killed. They were two of seven men killed by the Gibeonites, and their bodies hung on display, as was the custom. But Rizpah spread a rough cloth on a rock and sat vigil over her sons, keeping birds and animals from desecrating their bodies. King David was made aware of her determination to sit by their sides in the heat and cold. He ordered for all seven men to be properly buried. She was not royal; she was of low-standing and easy to dismiss. But her courage caught the attention of the king.

Where are we called to sit in hard places and bear witness to the injustices that continue as though no one is watching? How can we honor those who suffer quietly and advocate for change? If Rizpah matters then why shouldn't we? **Transformation frequently starts with one voice. Be that voice!**

Blessings,
Janet Bledsoe
District Secretary





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
- Need knitted hats & scarves

Room at the Inn

(shelter for pregnant women), 734 Park Ave. Greensboro, 336-275-9566

- Gently used baby clothes
- Maternity clothes (all sizes)
- Body wash, shampoo & deodorant
- Gently used dishes, towels & housewares
- Cleaning products
- Paper towels & toilet paper
- Baby wipes
- Pullups in all sizes

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), 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
- Egg cartons

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

YWCA Family Shelter 1807 E. Wendover Ave. Greensboro, 336-264-0000

- Detergent - pods or powder
- Lysol or Lysol wipes
- 55 gal trash bags
- 13 gal trash bags
- Baby wipes
- Paper products
- Plastic solo cups
- Fruit juice
- Cleaning supplies
- Full, twin & 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
- Diapers size 1, 2 & 3

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
- Detergent (laundry or dish)
- Crackers

Bennett College (UMC-supported women's college) 900 E. Washington St, Greensboro, 919-973-8457 (hold until August)

- Microwaveable meals like Chef Boyardee
- Bottled water & juice
- Feminine hygiene products
- Body wash & lotion

**"Reach out and touch somebody's hand,
Make this world a better place if you can!"**

We are changing the world, one act of kindness at a time. Helping those in need is "love in action." Here is the running tally of donations towards local missions...

- Balance in 2nd Quarter newsletter - \$2,147
- 4/21/25 donated to Freedom House (clothes, shoes) - \$ 260
- 4/25/25 donated to Tabitha's Ministry (clothes, shoes) - \$771
- 5/29/25 donated to Room at the Inn, Bennett, Rockingham Hope (toiletries) - \$607
- 5/29/25 donated to "Hands that Help the Homeless" (snacks, water) - \$43
- Total - \$3,828

Keep up the great work! Please remember to send your donation info so we can include your good deeds in the tally!

Peace!
Rynn McGee-Pierce
District MEI



Got Luggage?



One of our women's shelters can use "gently used" luggage. She does have limited space, so if you have luggage or tote bags to donate, please contact me and I will arrange to meet you. I can coordinate with her on when to meet and deliver the items. I believe that the actual locations are confidential for the safety of the residents, so we can't go there directly. But we can still help!

Reach Out & Touch

[Chorus]

*Reach out and touch
Somebody's hand
Make this world a better
place
If you can! (2x)*

[Verse 1]

*Take a little time out of your
busy day
To give encouragement
To someone who's lost the
way.
Or would I be talking to a
stone
If I asked you
To share a problem that's not
your own.
We can change things if we
start giving!
Why don't you [Chorus]*



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.

President

Sherry Sink
Trinity Memorial, Trinity
336-880-2663
sherrysink@gmail.com

Vice President

Rynn McGee-Pierce
Gideon Grove, Stokesdale
336-706-9116
rynn@hottan.com

Secretary

Janet Bledsoe
Hopewell, Trinity
336-847-7296
ggbledsoe@northstate.net

Treasurer

Constance (Connie) Holland
713 Oldsquaw Drive
Greensboro, NC 27455
Bethel, Archdale
313-310-8680
looney814@gmail.com

Mission Education & Interpretation

Rynn McGee-Pierce
(info listed above)

Spiritual Growth

Donna Miller
Muir's Chapel, Greensboro
336-681-8559
dmmiller94@yahoo.com

Social Action

Mary Lou Webster
Raleigh's Crossroads, Greensboro
336-456-7106
mrsmarylouwebster@gmail.com

Membership Nurture & Outreach

TBD

Secretary of Program Resources

Cheryl Little
St. Matthews, Greensboro
336-852-0872, 336-338-1958
ccarrington001@triad.rr.com

Communications

Lily Pierce
Gideon Grove, Stokesdale
336-280-1187
npdistrictunitedmethodistwomen@gmail.com

Nominations Committee Chair

September Neal Locklear, Class of 2026
Triad Native American, Greensboro
336-901-1502
septemberlocklear@gmail.com

Nominations Committee Members

Karlah Burton, Class of 2025
St. Matthews, Greensboro
336-772-1528
karlah_k@yahoo.com

Maxine McCormick, Class of 2025
Bethel, Archdale
336-884-1679
mackie2kt@yahoo.com

Patricia Holland, Class of 2025
Bethel, Archdale
336-687-0232
tanyardnova@aol.com

Brenda Mebane, Class of 2026
Mt. Tabor, Greensboro
336-848-1030
Bmebane61@gmail.com

Penny Simpson, Class of 2026
Camp Springs, Reidsville
336-349-6721
Penny.simpson11@gmail.com

Historian

TBD

Parliamentarian

Janet Bledsoe
Hopewell, Trinity
336-847-7296
ggbledsoe@northstate.net

District

Deaconess

Renee Hayes, 336-707-2980
6903 Fairview Church Rd.
Trinity, NC 27370
renee.hayes1956@gmail.com

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

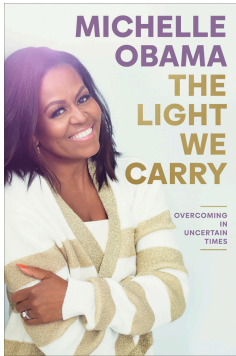
- Small bottles of water
- Small bottles of hand sanitizer
- Small packs of tissues
- Snacks
- Eye mask
- A few dollars
- ...and whatever else you want to add

Legacy Fund Information:

Visit our website at wnccumw.org/legacyfund



Recap of Our Book Study in June



On Saturday, June 7, Sandra Williamson held a book study via Zoom to discuss *The Light We Carry* by Michelle Obama. We were ecstatic and grateful that **we had the highest attendance EVER at a Zoom book study**; there were 26 ladies representing 10 units. Many of us had NOT read the book yet, but Sandy whetted our appetites to do so. We had insightful discussions about various questions related to how we carry our light in the world. We enjoyed the fellowship, the laughter, and the learning, too. Some of her final takeaways included:

- Discomfort can be a good teacher.
- It takes ALL of us, in all our diversity, to make the world a better place.
- Remember the power of small acts.

Just Energy 4 All & a Summer Recipe



Follow the link to view a YouTube video entitled "Energy Landscape Impacts on Navajo Nation"

https://youtu.be/TEP6bu_H4Ds?si=Ab6ySwdLe2R_JG3h

If you are interested in forming an Earth Advocacy Group at your local church, please visit the WNCC website for more information. There, please inquire about the document, Green Church Initiative. You may also contact:

- Reverend Jonathan Brake, jbrake@wnccumc.net
- Kim Richmond, kjrichholder@gmail.com
- Brian Mateer, bmateer@wnccumc.org
- Karlah Burton, karlah_k@yahoo.com

Here is one additional Creation Care Tip:

Frozen or fresh blueberries should be part of year round health maintenance.

Hungry for more? Visit plantsforhumanhealth.ncsu.edu.

Here is a yummy recipe for Blueberry Sauce!

- 1 cup orange juice
- 1 tsp lemon juice
- 2 tbsp cornstarch
- 1/4 cup local honey
- 1/4 cup blackstrap molasses
- 1/2 tsp vanilla extract
- 1/4 tsp chipotle pepper, finely chopped
- 2 1/2 cups blueberries, fresh or frozen
- 1 tsp lemon zest

Bring orange juice/lemon juice to a boil. Stir in cornstarch, honey, molasses, vanilla extract, and pepper. Add blueberries and reduce heat. Simmer for 7-10 minutes. Remove blueberries from heat and fold in lemon zest as the blueberries begin to break down. Serve over pork roast, with beans and rice, or on a biscuit.

Enjoy!



Karlah Burton is a current member of the Northern Piedmont District UWFaith Committee on Nominations. She serves as part of the Western North Carolina Conference Creation Care Team Ministry. She is a commissioned General Board of Global Ministries Earthkeeper and Chairperson of the Creation Care Ministry, Saint Matthews UMC, Greensboro, NC.

How We Can Inspire Each Other

I am enjoying these hot summer months and feeling excited about upcoming events like Mission u, 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





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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twitter.com/uwomenfaith

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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).