

July 2025

# Women Talk



United  
Women  
in Faith

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



Smoky Mountain District United Women in Faith

Annual Celebration

The Women Who Proclaim the Good News

Virtual via Zoom

August 16 — 10:00 am

Preparing for 2026

Election of District Leadership

Approval of our Pledge to Mission

Approval of our Administrative and Membership Development Funds

Mission Speaker: Joy Prim

Celebrating 2024

Summary of Mission Giving

Putting Faith into Action: Local Units



“The Lord gives the command; The women who proclaim good news are a great army.” (Psalm 68:11, NASB)

Women have been proclaiming good news for a long time. Miriam and the women played their tambourines and danced as they proclaimed the deliverance of the Israelites from Egyptian slavery. Deborah sang about the defeat of a Canaanite king. Hannah rejoiced in the birth of her long-awaited son Samuel. Huldah spurred King Josiah’s religious reforms in Judah. The Samaritan woman at the well witnessed to her neighbors. Mary Magdalene testified to Christ’s resurrection. A church in Laodicea met in Nympha’s house.

In more recent history, Sojourner Truth founded a Methodist church. The Methodist Episcopal Church sent Ann Wilkins as a missionary to Liberia in 1837. Fanny Crosby wrote over 9000 hymns. Isabella Thoburn and Clara Swain proclaimed the good news in India in 1869 by establishing a school for girls and a medical practice serving females that are still in operation today as a university and a hospital.

**Mission speaker Joy Prim** proclaims the good news by serving as a United Methodist missionary. She is a welfare case officer for migrant domestic workers in Hong Kong. Joy grew up in the Yadkin Valley District of the Western North Carolina Conference, and from a young age she attended many United Methodist Women meetings with her mother before becoming a member herself. Joy graduated from Pfeiffer University (a National Mission Institution) and served as a Mission Intern with the General Board of Global Ministries. Joy was welcomed into the order of Deaconess and Home Missioner in 2020 and currently serves as a missionary with the General Board of Global Ministries.

**Registration is free but required. The registration link is found below.**

Peace and all good things, Lisa Bacon, SMD President

[lisabacon304@gmail.com](mailto:lisabacon304@gmail.com) / 828-586-8399 (home) / 828-226-2433 (cell)

Registration link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/liPDVMwxRLuRgJ-dB6QOMw>

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

Page 1— SMD Annual Celebration - August 16th (Virtual)

Page 2—A Table of Contents...so you can find the things you really want to find first!...plus our Mission Statement and a special thought.

Page 3—Thank You! from Our Treasurer, More About our Annual Celebration Speaker and Meeting Scholarships Available

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## MISSION STATEMENT OF UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

United Women in Faith seeks to connect and nurture women through Christian spiritual formation, leadership development, creative fellowship, and education so that they can inspire, influence and impact local and global communities.

**Expect great things from God.  
Attempt great things for God.**

\* \* \* \* \*

*“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me,  
The works that I do shall he do also;  
And greater works than these shall he do;  
Because I go to the Father.*

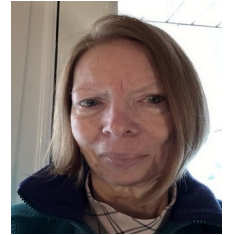
*John 14:12 NASB*

## THANK YOU...

for giving to United Women in Faith. Our total giving for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter was 4,779.62. Included in that giving is \$657 received for Love Offering. Giving is a privilege – a gift of God’s grace. ...from United Women in Faith in Mission. Our Conference Love Offering theme is in Celebration of the Vibrant Future of United Women in Faith. It is a pleasure to be on the Smoky Mountain team!

Kim Shafer, SMD District Treasurer

Cell: 704-965-2022 Email: [kimshaferuwfsm@outlook.com](mailto:kimshaferuwfsm@outlook.com)



### More about our Annual Celebration mission speaker

“When migrant workers from the Philippines gather on Sundays along Chater Road, United Methodist Deaconess Joy Prim (right) uses the opportunity to teach workers about their rights, using a book published by the Mission For Migrant Workers. A United Methodist missionary, Prim is assigned to the Mission For Migrant Workers. The book was published with support from United Women in Faith.”

Text and photo by Paul Jeffrey. Read the whole story (Bethune House) on pages 36-43 in the July/August 2025 issue of *response* magazine



#### Reminder: First-Timer Scholarships for Conference Events

**A woman who attends a Conference United Women in Faith event for the first time can apply for a scholarship to cover expenses.** A first-time attendee can apply to be reimbursed for such fees as registration fee, mileage, and lodging. There is still time to apply for a scholarship to the Western North Carolina Annual Celebration, held this year on September 6 at Williamson’s Chapel UMC in Mooresville.

To request the brief application form, contact Lisa Bacon at [lisabacon304@gmail.com](mailto:lisabacon304@gmail.com) / 828-586-8399 (home) / 828-226-2433 (cell)

## Internationally

United Women in Faith supports partners that are enhancing the capacities of local and regional women leaders and supporting economic development programs for women and youth. We provide academic scholarships and support regional missionaries. Our international work empowers women and youth to find local solutions and make positive, measurable change in their communities.

**We Believe  
Love in Action  
Can Change  
The World**

## Nationally,

National mission institutions are community centers, colleges, and residences providing vital services to vulnerable communities – empowering women, caring for children, and offering residences for special needs children and youth.

## 2025 Conference Love Offering

Our conference Love Offering gifts are above and beyond district and individual pledges. Such undesignated Offerings are applied toward the Conference Pledge and become part of the monies used by United Women in Faith to create and support projects around the world to better the lives of women, children, and youth.

You may bring your individual Love Offering or your unit's Love Offering to our Western North Carolina United Women in Faith Annual Celebration, or send it directly to:

**Bess Redmond, Conference Treasurer  
WNCC United Women in Faith  
19 Wright's Cove Trail  
Fairview, N C 28730**

Please make checks payable to:  
United Women in Faith

On-line Love Offerings can be made through December 31<sup>st</sup> at:  
**wncumw.org**

**Note:** *Please do not send your Love Offering to your District Treasurer.*

## United Women in Faith Western North Carolina Conference



United  
Women  
in Faith

## 2025 Love Offering

A Gift to Mission in Celebration of  
the Vibrant Future of  
United Women in Faith.  
Annual Celebration  
September 6, 2025



**2019 Valentine's Day Protest in Manila  
Lead by Deaconess Norma Dollaga**

**United Women in Faith participate in  
the 2023 March to End Fossil Fuels**



## A Gift to Mission in Celebration of the Vibrant Future of United Women in Faith

United Women in Faith interprets the Biblical passage from  
Psalm 100: 4 & 5

“Enter His gates with thanksgiving,  
and His courts with  
praise; give thanks to Him and  
praise His name.

For the Lord is good and His love  
endures forever;  
His faithfulness continues through  
all generations.”

**faith  
action  
sisterhood**



**Pfeiffer University Students Performing  
at General Conference 2024**

**WNCC Annual Celebration 2024  
at Lake Junaluska, NC**

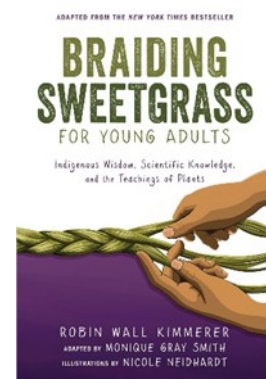
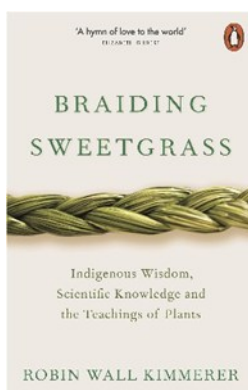


## “Parade Preparations” for November 1 District Mission Festival

You still have a few months to prepare for our District Mission Festival on Saturday, November 1, from 10 AM until noon, at Love’s Chapel UMC in Sylva. We have two district projects we will highlight at the festival.

We will have a “Parade of Nations” as local units share a little information about an international mission project they learned about in 2025. We encourage local units to bring a flag (paper or fabric) representing the country where the mission is located and samples of a representative food for a “tasting buffet.” You can find a map of international missions in the March/April 2024 issue of **response** magazine, articles about international missions in every issue of **response** magazine, or online at [uwfaith.org](http://uwfaith.org).

We will also have a book club discussion of “Braiding Sweetgrass,” a United Women in Faith Reading Program selection. The book is widely available in adult and young adult versions in public libraries in both print and electronic editions.



Annual Celebration - Celebrate Change!

September 6, 10 AM - 5 PM

Williamson's Chapel UMC, Mooresville

### Program highlights:

- Election of officers and approval of 2026 budget
- Afternoon workshops
- Hands-on mission: items for The Bethlehem Center of Winston-Salem



Keynote Speaker:  
Sally Vonner  
UW Faith  
General Secretary  
& CEO

More information at [wnccumw.org](http://wnccumw.org)



# 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?

## District Love Offerings:

We invite you to give generously to your district love offering. Your Mission Giving continues the work of United Women in Faith, making a difference, every day, in the lives of women, children and youth around the world. **Thank you for your support of Mission Giving!** Every single dollar makes a difference!

You may give to your district love offering in a couple of ways:

- ♦ Make an online donation using the special link for your district found on the District Events 2024/2025 page at [wnccumw.org](http://wnccumw.org). Each district has a unique link so that we can give your district credit for your gift.
- ♦ Mail a check to your District Treasurer (Kim Shafer), made payable to United Women in Faith, and designated as District Love Offering. We will share those addresses during the meetings, and you will also be able to find them in a recent newsletter for your district on your district's page of our website.

## READING IS REWARDING!

- Share the program with United Women in Faith members and members of the community.
- Help people attain books. Distribute this guide. [2025 Reading Program Catalog \(uwfaith.org\)](http://2025ReadingProgramCatalog(uwfaith.org))
- Connect with local and district groups. Start a book club, download books onto an e-reader to pass around and share, present book reviews at group meetings.
- Display a progress chart in your church for all who wish to participate, and post displays to encourage book sales.
- Pray. Books often raise concerns about people, countries, and issues. Bring these concerns to God during your prayer time at home and at group meetings.
- Advocate for tangible change. Many Reading Program books address issues including climate change, mass incarceration and racism. Organize a task force to address these issues in your community.

## Report of the District Committee on Nominations

The District Committee on Nominations will be recommending the following slate of officers for the year 2026. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor at our virtual **Annual Celebration** on August 16, 2025.

Offices to be voted on at the meeting are bolded with an asterisk. Vacancies are listed in red. Continuing officers are listed in black.

President—Lisa Bacon (Cullowhee) (2025-2026, 2nd term)

**\*Vice President—Vicky Mayse (Cullowhee) (2026-2027, 1st term)**

**\*Secretary—Nancy Jo Willis (Murphy First) (2026-2027, 2nd term)**

**\*Treasurer—Kim Shafer (Waynesville First) (2026-2027, 2nd term)**

**\*Mission Coordinator for Spiritual Growth—Celeste Wall (Cullowhee)(2026-2027, 1st term)**

**Mission Coordinator for Membership Nurture & Outreach—**

**\*Mission Coordinator for Social Action—Kim Shafer (Waynesville First) (2026-2027, 2nd term)**

**Mission Coordinator for Education & Interpretation—**

**Secretary for Program Resources—**

**Communications Coordinator—**

Committee on Nominations

Chairperson—

Class of 2026—

Class of 2026—

Class of 2027—

Class of 2028—



**SMD United Women in Faith  
Nurturing Partners 2025**

Nurturing Partner	NP Contact Info	UW Faith Unit
Lisa Bacon	<a href="mailto:Lisabacon304@gmail.com">Lisabacon304@gmail.com</a> 828-226-2433	Bryson City, Love's Chapel, Sylva First, Webster
Debbie Ray	<a href="mailto:wrray@charter.net">wrray@charter.net</a> + 828-400-3499	Beaverdam, Canton First, Canton Central, Fincher's Chapel, Rockwood, Shady Grove
Laurel Bevill	<a href="mailto:laurelbev@icloud.com">laurelbev@icloud.com</a> 828-456-5528	Clyde Central, Maple Grove
Velma Zeek	<a href="mailto:Vzeek56@frontier.com">Vzeek56@frontier.com</a> 828-369-5782	Andrews, Franklin First
Esther Manchester	<a href="mailto:Ehm1@yahoo.com">Ehm1@yahoo.com</a> 828-226-7481	Oak Forest, Ranger, Robbinsville, Tomotla
Ellynn Stonebraker	<a href="mailto:Jumperlady21@gmail.com">Jumperlady21@gmail.com</a> 828-524-8787	Cullowhee, Hayesville First, Murphy First
Julie Leatherwood	<a href="mailto:leatherwoodjulie@gmail.com">leatherwoodjulie@gmail.com</a> 828-926-8787	Maggie Valley, Waynesville First
Judy Starnes	<a href="mailto:Starnes.judy@gmail.com">Starnes.judy@gmail.com</a> 828-452-3548	Cruso, Elizabeth Chapel
Kim Shafer	<a href="mailto:kimshaferuwfsm@outlook.com">kimshaferuwfsm@outlook.com</a> 704-965-2022	Crabtree UMC

## Ways to Give to the Legacy Fund

- ◇ Make a gift to the Legacy Fund through your local unit United Women in Faith treasurer.
- ◇ Make a one time donation or consider becoming a Legacy Builder by giving a monthly gift of \$18.69 or more.
- ◇ Use our Western North Carolina Conference Legacy Commitment Form, available on our website at [www.wnccumw.org/legacyfund](http://www.wnccumw.org/legacyfund).
- ◇ Online on the national office website at <https://uwfaith.org/give/legacy-fund/>
- ◇ **By phone:** 800-278-7771 (8 am—6 pm EST, M-F)
- ◇ **By check:** note "Legacy Fund" in memo line & mail to: United Women in Faith, Attn: Legacy, Church Center for the United Nations, 777 United Nations Plaza, 11th Floor, New York, NY 10017.
- ◇ **Other methods** include gifts of stock, life insurance, bequests, and other forms of planned giving. If you are interested in making a gift like this, contact the national office at 800-278-7771.



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

## **United Women in Faith 2025 Smoky Mtn. District Exec. Team & Program Advisory Group**

### **President:**

Lisa Bacon (Cullowhee)  
1028 Old Cullowhee Road  
Sylva, NC 28779  
Phone: 828-226-2433  
Email: [lisabacon304@gmail.com](mailto:lisabacon304@gmail.com)

### **Vice President:**

[Open]

### **Secretary:**

Nancy Jo Willis (Murphy First)  
310 Cassady Lane  
Murphy, NC 28906  
Cell Phone: 850-428-3636  
Email: [smdcommcoor@gmail.com](mailto:smdcommcoor@gmail.com)

### **Treasurer:**

Kim Shafer (Waynesville 1st)  
281 Valley View Terrace  
Waynesville, NC 28786  
Cell Phone: 704-965-2022  
Email:  
[kimshaferuwfsm@outlook.com](mailto:kimshaferuwfsm@outlook.com)

### **Social Action:**

Kim Shafer (Waynesville 1st)  
281 Valley View Terrace  
Waynesville, NC 28786  
Cell Phone: 704-965-2022  
Email:  
[kimshaferuwfsm@outlook.com](mailto:kimshaferuwfsm@outlook.com)

### **Education & Interpretation:**

[Open]

### **Spiritual Growth:**

[Open]

### **Membership, Nurture & Outreach:**

[Open]

### **Program Resources:**

[Open]

### **Communications Coordinator:**

[Open]

### **Parliamentarian:**

Ellyne Stonebraker (Franklin 1<sup>st</sup>)  
135 Shady Oaks Drive  
Franklin, NC 28734  
Phone: 828-421-3538  
Email: [jumperlady21@gmail.com](mailto:jumperlady21@gmail.com)

### **Historian:**

[Open]

### **Newsletter Editor**

[see N J Willis under Secretary]

### **Nurturing Partner Coordinator & Conference Liaison**

Debbie Ray (Waynesville 1<sup>st</sup>)  
569 Country Club Drive  
Waynesville, NC 28786  
Phone: 828-400-3499  
Email: [wrray@charter.net](mailto:wrray@charter.net)

### **Nominations Chairperson:**

Esther Manchester (Murphy First)  
P. O. Box 256  
Brasstown, NC 28902  
Phone: 828-226-7481  
Email: [ehm1@yahoo.com](mailto:ehm1@yahoo.com)

### **Nominations:**

Velma Zeek (South Macon)  
P. O. Box 360  
Otto, NC 28763  
Phone: 828-369-5782  
Email: [Vzeek56@frontier.com](mailto:Vzeek56@frontier.com)

### **Gail Powell (Elizabeth Chapel)**

129 Paige Lane  
Clyde, NC 28721  
Home Phone: 828-627-6154  
Cell Phone: 828-507-4556  
Email: [gailpowell@bellsouth.net](mailto:gailpowell@bellsouth.net)

### **Legacy Liaison:**

JoAnn Black (Cullowhee)  
388 Echo Ridge Road  
Whittier, NC 28789  
Cell Phone: 828-331-9700  
Email: [circusgirl120@gmail.com](mailto:circusgirl120@gmail.com)

### **Program Advisory Group**

Laurel Bevil (Waynesville 1<sup>st</sup>)  
165 Hawk's Crest  
Waynesville, NC 28786  
Phone: 828-456-5528  
Email: [laurelbev@icloud.com](mailto:laurelbev@icloud.com)

### **Carol Harper (South Macon)**

101 Everett Road  
Franklin, NC 28734  
Phone: 828-349-3228  
Email: [cgh2arper@gmail.com](mailto:cgh2arper@gmail.com)

### **Sondra Shepherd (Waynesville 1<sup>st</sup>)**

301 Sandsridge Way  
Waynesville, NC 28785  
Phone: 405-990-5752  
Email: [gsshepherd620@gmail.com](mailto:gsshepherd620@gmail.com)

### **Fannie Watson (Oak Forest)**

138 McGlamery Farm Rd.  
Hayesville, NC 28904  
Phone: 828-361-1591  
Email:  
[fanniewatson313@yahoo.com](mailto:fanniewatson313@yahoo.com)

1/29/25

# NOTES & THINGS TO REMEMBER

Nancy Jo Willis  
Secretary & Newsletter Editor, SMD  
310 Cassady Lane  
Murphy, NC 28906

TO:



United  
Women  
in Faith

## **2025 UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH CONFERENCE & DISTRICT EVENTS**

### **WNCC UWFaith CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| July 18-19    | WNCC Mission u, Catholic Conf. Ctr., Hickory                                      |
| Sep. 6        | WNCC Annual Celebration, 10:00 am—5:00 pm<br>Williamson's Chapel UMC, Mooresville |
| Oct. 11 or 25 | Ubuntu Days of Service—various locations  |
| Oct. 18       | WNCC LDD for All District Officers, Taylorsville First UMC                        |

### **SMD UWFaith CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| Aug. 16 | SMD Annual Celebration (Virtual)            |
| Nov. 1  | SMD Missions Event—Love's Chapel UMC, Sylva |