



The Catawba Valley

Voice



2025 Spiritual Growth Retreat

Thursday, June 12 thru Saturday, June 14, 2025  
Lake Junaluska

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**Retreat Leader:** Rev. Aryn Williams-Ruebel  
Pastor, Cashiers United Methodist Church  
Smoky Mountain District

We all need a break from our busy lives, a time for reflection, a time to listen for God's guidance. We are so busy doing all the things we are called upon to do, we don't often take the time to slow down, to sit back and think about the things that are really important. Join us to pray, to listen, to study, to fellowship with United Women in Faith from across the conference, and to spend some quiet time in reflection.



**Maggie Armstrong**  
Director of Recovery  
Western North Carolina Conference  
**Mission Speaker**



**Catherine Ritch**  
Circuit Riding Musician Ministry  
Metro District  
**Music Leader**



**Charlie Harnish**  
Music Director, Weaverville UMC  
Blue Ridge District  
**Music Leader**

## Retreat Registration:

Retreat Dates: **Thursday, June 12 thru Saturday, June 14, 2025**

Online Registration is OPEN and will be open thru June 9, 2025

Register at: <https://wnccumw.org/events/spiritual-growth-retreat-2025/>

- **Important: See our Health Safety Measures on the second tab.**
- **Coming Soon! Download – Spiritual Growth Retreat Program Book 2025**
- **Retreat Registration Fee (In-Person): \$25 per person thru May 15, 2025. \$40 per person from May 16, 2025 thru June 9, 2025.** Registration is **ONLINE ONLY**; there will be **NO ON-SITE REGISTRATION**, and registration will close on June 9, 2025. Registration fees are **non-refundable**, and **non-transferable**.
- **Register yourself AND others!** Our online registration is for one person at a time, but one person can do multiple individual registrations using the same email address. Thanks for helping other members of your local unit to register online — especially those who may not use a computer!
- **Our online registration process through the conference website using Stripe** to securely process payment of the registration fee. Stripe is a secure, widely used processor of online payments. You will enter your registration information, and then complete your registration by paying online within one hour.
- For events at Lake Junaluska, we have to pay a **grounds fee** for any of our participants who are not staying in one of the Lake Junaluska hotels or apartments. That grounds fee helps to maintain and pay for all of the amenities that visitors use and enjoy as they visit the Lake and participate in events. The room rate for persons staying in Lake Junaluska facilities includes fees that help with those costs. **For the Spiritual Growth Retreat, that grounds fee for persons not staying in Lake Junaluska hotels or apartments is \$15.00 per person.** We need to add that to your registration fee so that we can make that payment to Lake Junaluska. This is an honor system, but we will receive a list of all reservations for persons staying in Lake Junaluska facilities.

### Program Highlights:

- \*Recognition of missionaries/deaconesses/mission workers
- \*Memorial Service remembering deceased members
- \*Ubuntu project breakout session
- \*Move 4 Mission breakout sessions (including treasure hunt)
- \*Late Night: Kranking It Up with Kim!
- \*Hands-on Mission: gift cards for Brooks-Howell Home

## President's Letter

Dear Sisters in Christ,

We held a prayer vigil at my church on May 1st and since I've been caring for my husband, Frank, I couldn't go to the church, but I pray at home and read the Daily Prayer Guide every day. I'm also on the Spiritual Growth Committee and hope to see you at Lake Junaluska for our Prayer Retreat.

Part of the Conference Calendar:

June 12-14	Spiritual Growth Retreat at Lake Junaluska. All UWFaith Members.
July 18-19	Mission U, Catholic Conference Center. All UWFaith Members.
August 24	District Annual Celebration at The Messiah United Methodist Church
September 6	Annual Celebration, Williamson Chapel-Metro District. Guest Speaker is Sally Vonner—General <b>Secretary and CEO of the National United Women in Faith.</b>

You may have heard there is a need to connect with the Alliance Center for Education in the Metro District, or adopt a teacher and/or a class to help keep that National Institution running. We need to live out our purpose and United Women in Faith is doing that as we come together to be caring, loving and serving people of God.

From the New Living Translation, Matthew 7:7 reads:

*“Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking and the door will be opened to you.”*

Jesus tells us that God is listening and ready to give good gifts. It's a remarkable truth! God of all creation hears his children pray, even better, He answers!

Ever Hopeful, Janet Bjork-Colton



## Treasurer's Report

Hello United Women in Faith Sisters,

Thank you for giving to the United Women in Faith. Our total giving for the 1st quarter was \$7,486.50. Giving is a privilege—a gift of God's grace... from United Women in Faith in Mission. Our Love Offering Theme is "A Gift of Mission" in celebration of the vibrant future of United Women in Faith. The new brochure for Love Offering will be in my next letter to the Treasurer. You can give the Love Offering at the 2025 Annual Celebration in September or send to our Conference Treasurer, Bess Redmond. Please read more information about 2025 in the upcoming treasurer due out by the end of the first week of May. The deadline for your remittance for the 2nd quarter will be mailed by Friday, May 23rd. Remember to share all the lives that are positively impacted through our giving. Also, please remember to send all remittances to me as your new treasurer: Kim Shafer, 281 Valley View Ter, Waynesville, NC 28786 with checks made out to Catawba Valley United Women in Faith.

Don't forget to continue to support the Legacy Fund and don't hesitate to let me know if you have any questions.

In Christ,

Kim Shafer  
Fill-in District Treasurer



United  
Women  
in Faith



The theme for this year's celebration is "Celebrating Change". Our keynote speaker is Sally Vonner, UWFaith CEO and General Secretary.



Program Highlights:

- \*Elect Officers
- \*Approve the 2026 Budget
- \*Participate in afternoon workshops
- \*Hands-on mission: items for The Bethlehem Center of Winson-Salem



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

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 31st at: [wnccumw.org](https://wnccumw.org) Note: **Please do not send your Love Offering to your District Treasurer.**

For a copy of the 2025 Love Offering Brochure in pdf visit: <https://wnccumw.org/conference-love-offering-2025/>

## 2025 Love Offering (cont'd)

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.”



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



**faith**  
**action**  
**sisterhood**

## 2025 Conference Calendar of Events

June 12-14	Spiritual Growth Retreat, Lake Junaluska <b>All UMFaith Members</b>
June 20-22	Annual Conference, Lake Junaluska
July 18-19	Mission u, Catholic Conference Center, <b>All UWFaith Members</b>
Aug. 9	Finance Committee (location TBD)
Aug. 10	Executive Committee (location TBD)
Aug. 24	District Annual Celebration, Messian United Methodist Church
Sept. 6	Annual Celebration, <b>All UWFaith Members</b> - Williamson Chapel –Metro District
Oct. 18	Leadership Development Day, LDD All District Officers First United Methodist Taylorsville, 1400 Hwy. 16 N
Oct. 11, 25	Ubuntu Days of Service (various locations) <b>All UWFaith Members</b>
Nov. 7	Orientation for new Conference Officers (location TBD)
Nov. 8	Conference Committee Meetings (location TBD)
Nov. 9	Executive Committee meeting (location TBD)

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

2nd Quarter May 2025



United  
Women  
in Faith

Western North Carolina

## 2025 VISION & GOALS

- Model our **Purpose** as United Women in Faith (UW Faith) who come together in unity, loving, and serving.
- Raise awareness and promote personal advocacy and action for our two United Women in Faith priority issues: *Just Energy 4 All*, and *Ending Mass Incarceration and Criminalization of Communities of Color*
- **Build relationships** with our local units, members, and potential members in living out the **Purpose**, leaning in to and supporting opportunities to meet and serve together.
- **Build relationships with and support the United Women in Faith mission institutions in our conference:** Alliance Center for Education Charlotte, Bethlehem Center Winston-Salem, Brooks-Howell Home, Bennett College, and Pfeiffer University
- **Achieve our 2025 Conference Financial Goal:** Each unit will increase their Gift in Memory giving by 10%.
- **Turn faith, hope, and love into action on behalf of women, children, and youth around the world as we live out our Purpose as United Women in Faith!**

**Our Purpose:** The organized unit of **United Women in Faith** shall be a **community of women** whose **PURPOSE** is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

In love and action,

Your WNCC United Women in Faith Team

## Catawba Valley District UWF Officer Team - 2025

Office	Name	Address	Phone and Email
President	Janet Bjork Colton	516 Roderet St. S Valdese, NC 28690	828-205-4157 jntcltn61@gmail.com
Vice President	OPEN		
Secretary	<b>Belinda Worsham</b>	4245 Rugged Hill Rd Maiden, NC 28650	704-966-2288 BelindaWorsham@yahoo.com
MNO	OPEN		
Treasurer	Kim Shafer	281 Valley View Terrace Waynesville, NC 28786	704-965-2022 kimshaferuwfsm@outlook.com
Social Action	OPEN		
Communications Coordinator	Open		
Spiritual Growth Coordinator	OPEN		
Mission Education & Interpretation	OPEN		
Parliamentarian	OPEN		
Historian	OPEN		
Nominating Chair	OPEN		
Program Resources	Anita Fox	2430 Mountain Laurel Ln Morganton, NC 28655	828-390-6349 Taco582001@yahoo.com
Nominations - Burke	OPEN		
Nominations - Catawba	OPEN		
Nominations - Cleveland	OPEN		
Nominations - Gaston	OPEN		
Nominations - Lincoln	Linda Reep	4780 Grigg Rd Lincolnton, NC 28092	704-276-2150 lindareep@charter.net
Conference Liaison	Virginia Robinson	2141 Millstone Morganton, NC 28655	828-238-4493 robinsonva62@gmail.com