



The Metro Messenger

The voice for the United Women in Faith of the Metro District,
Western North Carolina Conference

President's Message

Dear Sisters in UWFaith,

As I look out my office window, I see the dogwood trees just about ready to open their blooms. That's always a sign that the temperatures are ready to warm up, and I can start putting away the winter clothes. As we get ready for warmer temperatures, I want to remind you of an opportunity that's coming our way. This year, Metro will serve as the hostess district for the conference Spiritual Growth Retreat and Mission u. We will also provide some assistance at the one-day Annual Celebration. If representatives from your unit would like to contribute by physically being present at these events, please let me know, and I will provide further instructions. Other opportunities to help include providing items for the welcome bags to be given out at the Spiritual Growth retreat and Mission u. Again, if you want to contribute 150 items of some sort, please let me know. After all, we have two events that will require welcome bags. Still another opportunity is available. Your unit might want to provide homemade cookies or send fresh fruit for one or both of these activities. The cookies and/or fruit can be delivered to the meeting sites by someone from your unit who is attending the event. A final option for helping with the hosting duties is to make a financial contribution to help with the expenses. There will be a basket at the Prayer Breakfast in April, and if your unit wants to make a monetary gift, it will certainly be useful in helping us prepare for these upcoming events. United Women in Faith are famous for working together to get things done, and these events are no exception!

Blessings,

Diann

Diann P. Back
President, Metro District UWF
Email: diann.back@carolina.rr.com
Telephone: 704-846-8875




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response Podcast

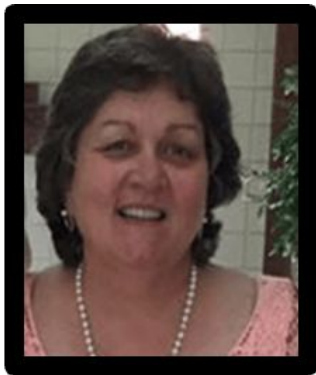
 Tune in to audio versions of some of the top articles from each issue of **response** magazine, the award-winning official magazine of United Women in Faith. Topics cover everything from spiritual growth and living our faith to reports on local, national and international work.

<https://uwfaith.org/resources/podcasts>

Vice President

Make plans to attend our District Prayer Breakfast, on April 26th at Forest Hill UMC - 265 Union Street, North - Concord, NC 28025. The registration form is on the next page.

Renée Hayes, UM Deaconess, will be our speaker. Renée is a member of Trinity UMC in Trinity, NC. Among Renée's many obligations, she serves as a UWFaith National Director. We look forward to having Renée with us and hearing her inspiring message.



The hands-on project for the Prayer Breakfast will be collecting diapers and wipes for the Alliance Center for Education.

Grace and peace,
Earonita F. Strong
Metro District Vice President
stronge@carolina.rr.com
704-534-4387

Social Action

As United Women in Faith, it is always good to be reminded we should get involved in social justice issues! God intended that all should experience the goodness of creation and sent Jesus to break down barriers so that all may live abundantly. We must continue to speak up and put our faith into action! And we must continue to learn and listen about issues and pray for the journey.

I would like to recommend the Reading Program book, [Becoming Brave, Finding The Courage to Pursue Racial Justice Now](#), by Brenda Salter McNeil, a 2024 Leadership Development selection. "Looking through the lens of the biblical narrative of Esther, we will reflect on the journey to bravery, both Esther's and my own," writes the author.

As you get involved and become braver, a great resource is a daily racial justice prayer from the UMC's Discipleship Ministries sent to your email. Learn more at: [Discipleship Ministries | Praying for Change: Daily Prayers for...](#)

Lastly, watch for details on the upcoming opportunity to watch the film "Pushout" with other units of the Metro District at Davidson United Methodist Church. You can read about the film at [Pushout - The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools](#).

Lisa Delano (Davidson UMC)
Metro District Social Action Chair
mybrowneyedgirls@msn.com



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Treasurer

The first quarter giving for the Metro District was great!!! Let's continue this level of giving throughout 2025. Here's a breakdown of what we reported to the conference for the first quarter:

Designated and Undesignated Mission Giving	\$ 14,687.80
Special Mission Recognition	\$ 140.00
Legacy Fund	\$ 496.75

GREAT JOB METRO!!! THANK-YOU!!!

If you are an online giver, I encourage you to give through our conference website: wnccumw.org/online-mission-giving/ . Giving through the website causes notification to be sent to the district treasurer and will be credited to the unit.

On March 23rd , United Women in Faith held a **Day of Giving!** Join United Women in Faith in making an impact for generations to come by giving to the Legacy Endowment Fund. Ways to give:

- Online at UWFaith.org/dayofgiving
- **By phone:** 800-278-7771 (8 am – 5 pm EST, Mon- Fri)
- **By check** to:
United Women in Faith
Attn: Legacy
Church Center for the United Nations
777 United Nations Plaza, 11th Floor
New York, NY 10017
Write "Day of Giving" in the memo section
- **Through your unit treasurer**

The Metro District 2025 Prayer Breakfast is April 26th at Forest Hill UMC in Concord. The deadline for registration is April 14th. Detailed information is in this newsletter.

THANK YOU all for continuing to be faithful in support of the mission work of United Women in Faith. Please get in touch with me if you have questions.

Sylvia Casey, District Treasurer
sil1casey@gmail.com



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Get ready, a fresh wind is a-blowing our way!

Exciting changes coming, especially those that will elevate our Spiritual Growth Retreat and Annual Celebration. On the next page is a flier, please share it as often as possible in your gatherings, events, and newsletters. More details with specifics for each gathering will soon be available on the Conference website.



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A Fresh Wind is Blowing!



Retreat Leader:
Rev. Aryn
Williams - Ruebel

Spiritual Growth Retreat - "My Name is: God"

June 12 - 14, Lake Junaluska

Program highlights:

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

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 wncumw.org

Membership Nurture and Outreach

Membership Nurture and Outreach. Three simple words explain our mission as believers to share our faith with others. We are also called to “make disciples.” (Matthew 28:19-20).

How can we encourage others? Kindness, generosity, and hospitality are great starts. Kindness is pulling your neighbor's trash can off the street. Generosity is offering change to the person in front of you at the coffee shop. Hospitality is inviting someone to our United Women of Faith events.

2025 is off to a great start- daylight savings time, the first day of spring, and longer days filled with sunshine. Easter, prom, and graduation allow us to meet new people. Use any and every opportunity to show others why you are a believer. Sometimes, we don't have to say a word.

Let's continue to pray for one another.

Shauna Stroud
Metro District Membership Nurture and Outreach
Shauna.stroud@gmail.com
954-329-5121

You're Invited

The Women in Faith of Central United Methodist Church (Concord) will host a climate justice event, “Global Grace” on Tuesday, April 29, 2025, from 6:30-8:30 pm in the Coltrane Room (lower level) at 30 Union Street, N., Concord.

The speakers will be June Blotnick, former executive director of CleanAIRE NC, and Ken Griffin, a local climate advocate and member of Central UMC.



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GLOBAL GRACE

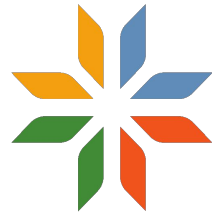
A CLIMATE JUSTICE EVENT
SPONSORED BY THE UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH
OF CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

30 UNION STREET N, CONCORD, NC

TUESDAY, APRIL 29
6:30-8:00 PM

FEATURING
JUNE BLOTNICK
CLIMATE CONSULTANT

AND
KEN GRIFFIN
LOCAL CLIMATE
ADVOCATE



Memorial UMC in Charlotte hosted a prayer cloth workshop on Saturday, February 22. These will be places in welcome bags at Mission u. Here are a few of the highlights.



United Women in Faith



Prayer Cloth Instructions

Materials:

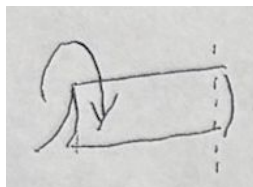
1 yard each of coordinating 100% cotton fabric (solid and print)
1 yard of white or beige 100% cotton fabric for the back
1-yard white flannel
White thread
Scissors regular or rotary
Cutting mat if you have one (optional)
Pins
Needles

Instructions:

Straighten Fabric

Fold fabric in half widthwise 2X - making sure it's even

Trim Edges



Cut 3" strip through all layers

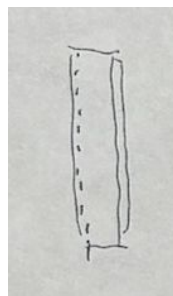
Do this with coordinating fabric as well

Put strips together (right sides together)

Sew strips on the long sides with a 1/4" seam allowance

Sub cut sewn strips into 3" squares

Press open each into a rectangle

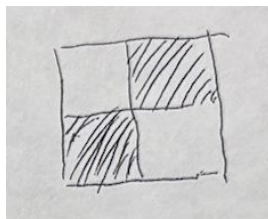
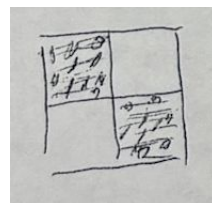


Put 2 rectangles together with opposing fabrics aligned

Sew together with 1/4" seam allowance

Press

You now have a 4 patch square top



Repeat steps 1-3 with inner fabric (flannel) and backing fabric

Cut each into 5 1/2" strips

Subcut into 5 1/2" squares

Layer 4 patch(top) over inner fabric

Top with backing fabric

Sew edges with a 1/4" seam allowance, leaving a 2"-3" opening

Turn inside out with 4 patch square on top

Press, tucking raw edges

Top stitch all edges, being sure to close opening

Snip loose threads





District and WNCC UWF Events Calendar

April 26

Metro District Prayer Breakfast
Forest Hill UMC, Concord
265 Union St., N
Concord, NC 28025

*Hands on Project: Diapers & Wipes for
AC4Ed*

Springtime

Walk for Mission: Single Units or Groups
Various Locations Across the District

June 12- 14

WNCC UWF Spiritual Growth Retreat
91 North Lakeshore Dr.
Lake Junaluska, NC 28745

June 20 - 22

Annual Conference
91 North Lakeshore Dr.
Lake Junaluska, NC 28745

July 18-19

WNCC UWF Mission u
Catholic Conference Center
1551 Trinity Lane
Hickory, NC 28602

August 23

Metro District Annual Celebration
St. Mark's UMC
917 Clanton Rd.
Charlotte, NC 28217
*Hands on Project: School Supplies for
AC4Ed*

September 6

WNCC UWF Annual Celebration
Williamson's Chapel
575 Brawley School Rd
Mooresville, NC 28117

October 11 & 25

UBUNTU Days of Service
Various Locations TBD

October 18

Leadership Development Day
LDD All District Officers (Virtual)



UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH METRO DISTRICT 2025 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

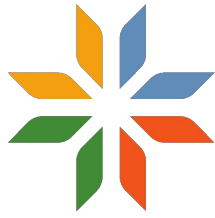
Office	Name	Address	Phone	Email
President	Diann P. Back (St. Stephen)	9301 Whitethorn Dr. Charlotte, NC 28277	704-846-8875 h 704-517-5436 c	dback@carolina.rr.com
Vice President	Earonita Strong (Simpson-Gillespie)	1929 Crestdale Dr. Charlotte, NC 28216	704-534-4387	stronge@carolina.rr.com
Secretary	Debbie Eudy (Memorial/Charlotte)	806 Eaglewood Ave. Charlotte, NC 28212	704-563-7195 h 704-759-4477 c	snakcak3655@gmail.com
Treasurer	Sylvia Casey (Simpson-Gillespie)	700 Summer Pl. Charlotte, NC 28213	704-596-3578	sil1casey@gmail.com
ME&I	Sylvia Sekle-Dueh (Hickory Grove)	212 Hunslet Circle Charlotte, NC 28206	704-606-5557	dueh1409@gmail.com
Spiritual Growth	Marilyn Morris (North Davidson)	3400 Winterfield Pl. Charlotte, NC 28205	(704) 807-5551	1circleofgrace@gmail.com
Social Action	Lisa Delano (Davidson UMC)	116 Webbed Foot Rd Mooresville NC 28117	704-957-8035	mybrowneyedgirls@msn.com
MN&O	Shauna Stroud (St. Mark's)	7711 Park Vista Circle Charlotte NC 28226	954-329-5121	shauna.stroud@gmail.com
Program Resources	Sharon Lasher (Memorial, Charlotte)	1836 Graybark Ave. Charlotte, NC 28205	704-661-5268	sharonllasher@gmail.com
Communications	Amanda Dyer (Forest Hill)	701 Wingard Rd. Concord, NC 28023	704-201-8672	adyer0813@gmail.com
Parliamentarian	Lynda Morris (St. Stephen)	737 Pavilion View Dr. Apt. F305 Matthews, NC 28105	704-847-2521 h 704-619-2013 c	lfmorrisap@aol.com
Historian	Nancy Ward	4003 Colton Ridge Drive Indian Trail, NC 28079	704-681-4779	Nward001@carolina.rr.com
Nominations	Linda Davidson, Ch. (Simpson-Gillespie)	6201 Spring Garden Ln. Charlotte, NC 28213	704-281-9565	lad6201@gmail.com
Member-at-Large	Sybil Long (Central/Charlotte)	8238 Terra Linda Ln. Charlotte, NC 28215	704-773-8678	sibyl.long@gmail.com
Member-at-Large	Louise Woods (Central/Charlotte)	1327 Cedarwood Ln. Charlotte, NC 28212	704-536-0335	lwoods@BellSouth.net
Member-at-Large	Nancy Ward (Matthews)	4003 Colton Ridge Dr. Indian Trail, NC 28212	704-681-4779	nward1001@bellsouth.net
Member-at-Large	Tonja Schult (St. Marks)	134 Oasis Dr. Mooresville, NC 28117	404-290-2690	tonjaschult50@gmail.com
Conference Advisor	Cathy McCauley (St. Stephen)	6835-A Farmington Dr. Charlotte, NC 28212	704-965-6566	cathymc855@yahoo.com

Your Metro Nurturing Partner is the point of contact and liaison with our local churches. Please welcome them when they contact you. Even with a designated Nurture Partner, the entire team is here to support you. Contact your Partner or any Metro Team Officer with your questions, ideas, or concerns

2025 Metro District Nurturing Partner List

CHURCH	PARTNER	CHURCH	PARTNER
Aldersgate	Sylvia Casey	Memorial (Charlotte)	Linda Davidson
Bethpage	Lynda Morris	Midway	Sybil Long
Center (Concord)	Louise Woods	Mount Olivet	Sybil Long
Central (Charlotte)	Linda Davidson	Myers Park	Nancy Ward
Central (Concord)	Amanda Dyer	North Davidson	Sylvia Sekle-Dueh
Christ	Sylvia Sekle-Dueh	Pineville	Diann Back
Cokesbury	Diann Back	Pleasant Grove	Linda Davidson
Commonwealth	Earonita Strong	Providence	Debbie Eudy
Davidson	Lynda Morris	Rocky Ridge	Sharon Lasher
Dilworth	Diann Back	Simpson-Gillespie	Sharon Lasher
Epworth	Amanda Dyer	South Tryon	Sylvia Casey
First (Charlotte)	Shauna Stroud	SouthPark	Shauna Stroud
Forest Hill	Linda Davidson	St. Francis	Nancy Ward
Harrisburg	Diann Back	St. Marks	Sylvia Casey
Hickory Grove	Debbie Eudy	St. Stephen	Debbie Eudy
Hunters Chapel	Earonita Strong	Thrift	Sylvia Sekle-Dueh
Huntersville	Earonita Strong	Trinity (Charlotte)	Sylvia Casey
Indian Trail	Nancy Ward	Trinity (Kannapolis)	Amanda Dyer
Matthews	Louise Woods	Woodlawn Community	Earonita Strong
Memorial (Charlotte)	Linda Davidson		

United Women in Faith
Metro District of the WNCC UMW
701 Wingard Rd.
Concord, NC 28025



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United Women in Faith

Vision

Turning faith, hope, and love into action on behalf of women, children, and youth around the world.

Mission

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.

Purpose

To 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.