



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.



Leadership Development Day
November 1st on Zoom at 10:00 am

Click here for the link to sign up

[District Events | WNC United Women in Faith](#)

To register, go to wncumw.org, click on Districts and then District Events 2025, find the Blue Ridge pink box, click on Zoom LDD (Leadership Development Day) and then Zoom Registration Link.



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) jearls@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

Hello United Women in Faith. Welcome to Fall and the last quarter of the year. How time flies!



It was great to see so many of you at the District Annual Celebration in August at First UMC, Marion. I was very pleased with how well-organized that meeting was. Hats off to Stephanie Goudreau, Blue Ridge Vice President, for her leadership in planning and making that meeting go so well. Also, many of you were able to attend Mission u this summer and the Conference Annual Celebration in Mooresville. That was a change from our normal time at Lake Junaluska, but it was so well-attended, and the program was great. If you had to miss either of those meetings, I hope you can plan now to be in attendance for 2026. Also, thanks to everyone who has attended our Book Clubs this year. Thanks, Jennie, for planning and facilitating each of those.

Your District officers will be attending the Conference Leadership Development Day (LDD) on October 18 at Taylorsville UMC or via Zoom. We will gain the information needed to lead our District LDD on November 1. We will conduct that meeting by Zoom. You may be continuing in your present office in your local unit for another year or stepping into a new office for 2026. We all need refresher courses from time to time to more effectively serve in our offices and we can certainly learn from each other. Hope to “see” you on November 1.

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It is time for you to look at your giving for 2025. Have you given in all five channels of giving? Do you have extra money in your treasury that could be added to your pledge? All that needs to be sent to our District Treasurer, Martha, before Thanksgiving as our new year begins December 1. She would be happy to answer any questions you may have. I will soon be sending out the information for the end of year reports. It is so important for local units to complete those forms. No one hates filling out forms more than I do, but it is so helpful for you to try to complete those forms in a timely manner so I can forward it to the Conference. We want to share in your units' accomplishments.

Thanks to all of you for being so supportive of me as I have stumbled through my first year as your District President. I look forward to all the great things we can do together in 2026.

Love in Christ.

Lucy Earls, President

Vice President's Message

What fabulous annual celebrations we had! On August 16, Marion FUMC hosted “Proclaiming our Hope through Celebration” for the Blue Ridge District Annual Celebration. We welcomed 68 participants representing 14 churches. A presentation by Jim Smith of Freedom Life Ministry and a young female client was a highlight of the event. Freedom Life Ministry operates in several mountain counties and helps folks recently released from prison find their footing again in their communities.



The Western NC Conference Annual Celebration titled “Celebrate Change” on September 6 at Williamson’s Chapel UMC drew almost 200 participants eager to hear Sally Vonner, General Secretary and CEO of United Women in Faith. One part of Sally’s talk that stuck with me was her comment about how change can lead to growth and renewal. She indicated that it is okay to make changes and let something go in order to experience growth.

Okay, changes are hard! Typically we do not like change in general. But I also liked a comment by Rhita Newcomb, Yadkin Valley President, at the WNCC Annual Celebration: “You must give up being a caterpillar in order to become a butterfly”. If we resist change, we might miss out on something beautiful and fulfilling.



The purpose of the United Women in Faith includes “develop a creative, supportive fellowship” as one of our goals. All parts of our purpose are important and noteworthy, but this particular section has been speaking to me lately. Are there some women in your church that would appreciate an invitation to join your unit? Think about recent retirees and new empty nesters especially. They are going through big changes right now and may be looking for a supportive group of women just like your unit.

Stephanie Goudreau, Vice President

Want to see some cool UWFAith merchandise and documents?

Check it out here:

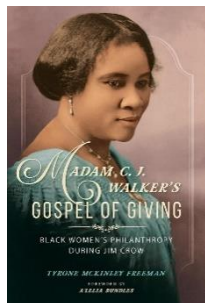
[United Women in Faith - MERCHANDISE](#)



Program Resources

I hope everyone is doing well.

It is a very exciting time as the new list of books for the 2026 Reading Program is out. You can download the list at [2026 Reading Program Catalog](#). There are many wonderful books on the list and I look forward to reading as many of them as I can.



For our first read of 2026, we will read Madam C. J. Walker's Gospel Of Giving: Black Woman's Philanthropy During Jim Crow by Tyrone McKinley Freeman. The book study will be on February 21 at 10:00 am by Zoom. The titles for book studies for the remainder of 2026 will be released in the first newsletter of 2026.

Don't forget to make sure you report books you have read that are part of the Reading Program.

Happy Reading!

Jennie Greenway, Secretary of Program Resources

Social Action

I came upon a study from Harvard's Carr Ryan Center for Human Rights. The conclusion of the study showed that "Nonviolent protests are twice as likely to succeed as armed conflicts- and those engaging a threshold of 3.5% of the population have never failed to bring about change". I don't know about you, but I am so tired and upset by the use of violence in our country and this encouraged me! Sometimes in working on areas of incarceration or climate change, school to prison pipelines, or the areas of racial justice it feels that I don't make any difference. And then I remember that I am part of a group of hundreds of thousands of women- the United Women of Faith. We as United Women of Faith are many members united in our mission to make a difference! It makes my voice-and yours count.



Make your voice heard! Study the problems by reading in current events as well as excellent books in our reading program. Use the UW Faith website to find out what others are doing. Pray to see where God leads you. Discuss with others in your group to come up with actions. Invite one of your district partners to visit your unit to discuss. Support our national mission institutions. Better yet, arrange a visit to one. You are not alone in your frustrations. And know that with God, all things are possible.

Strength and blessings to you all,
Beverly Hill, Social Action Coordinator

Nominations Committee

Thanks to everyone who agreed to serve on the Executive Committee for 2026-27. We welcome the following new members: Elizabeth Duncan of Black Mountain UMC, treasurer; and new Committee on Nominations members Kathy Leftwich and Mary Margaret Ingle of Central UMC, and Martha Phillips of Pine Grove UMC, who will join Jeanette Byrd, Eva Farren and Susan Snell.

We appreciate their willingness to serve with this dynamic group of women in the Blue Ridge District as we work together to support and promote the wellbeing of women, children and youth through United Women in Faith.

Co-Chairs

Jackie Rio (jackierio@charter.net)

Karen Anderson (ksanderson95@gmail.com)

Committee on Nominations Proposed Slate of Officers for 2026-27

2026-27 Committee on Nominations

Jeanette Byrd (St Paul's UMC)
828-230-5308
jbyrdasheville@aol.com
203 Aurora Drive
Asheville, NC 28805

Susan Snell (Central UMC)
828-551-0736
ssnell123@bellsouth.net
30 Sunflower Lane
Fletcher, NC 28732

Eva Farren (Piney Mountain UMC)
828-231-3820
evafarren@icloud.com
12 St. Matthews Drive
Candler, NC 28715

Kathy Leftwich (Central UMC)
919-218-0586
Kathleencleftwich@gmail.com
19 Gaston Mountain Road
Asheville, NC 28806

Mary Margaret Ingle (Central UMC)
828-691-1998
marymargaretingle@gmail.com
128 Forest Hill Drive
Asheville, NC 28803

Martha Phillips (Pine Grove UMC)
(828) 467-3167
mewphillips@gmail.com
P. O. Box 49,
Linville Falls, NC 28647

Spiritual Growth

Fall is my favorite season of the year, until spring arrives and I'm convinced it's my favorite! Fall is the time for harvest when we welcome not just the fall color season but also new crops of apples, fall squashes, pumpkins, and other produce. We prepare for the harvest in the spring when we plant, hoe, and prune, but it's the harvest that proves our success or lack thereof.

I think we can look at fall as an appropriate time to consider our year's UWFaith faith harvest. In the spring, we plan and set goals; in the fall, it's time to see how well we did. Were our units represented at any or (better still) all of our District and Conferences events? These events are carefully planned and worthwhile.



How did we do with mission giving? Did we meet last year's total or even exceed it? My two favorite UWFaith publications are response magazine and the Daily Prayer Guide because they remind me of our mission work in the world. I like that my unit's undesignated mission giving is helping every UWFaith endeavor abroad, plus the almost ninety National Mission Institutions in the United States. We

do this through our Pledge to Mission, World Thank Offering, Gift in Memory, Gift to Mission (cards or any gift of \$5 or more), and Special Mission Recognition.

Were we as units and individuals faithful in helping our local communities? With the overwhelming response to Hurricane Helene in our District, I feel sure we achieved this goal.

I could go on, but you get my drift. The good news is that if we didn't do as well personally or as units as we would have liked, the year is not over. And there's always next year! I hope to see you soon.

Gwen Harris, Coordinator

2025 Calendar of Events

Events for All Members	District and Conference Officers
	Oct. 18 Conference Leadership Development Day, LDD All District Officers (In Person and Remote) at Taylorsville UMC, Registration at 9:30 am and begins at 10:00 am
Oct. 11, 25 Ubuntu Days of Service (various locations)	
Nov. 1 District Leadership Development Day on Zoom at 10:00 am for all Members	
	<i>Nov. 7 Orientation for new Conference Officers</i> <i>Nov. 8 Conference Committee Meetings</i> <i>Nov. 9 Conference Executive Committee meeting</i>

2026 Calendar of Events – *not yet complete*

Events for ALL Members	District and Conference Officers
	<i>Jan. 10 Executive District Meeting (TBA)</i>
	<i>Jan. 17 Meeting for District Presidents & District Treasurers (virtual)</i>
	<i>Feb 7 Conference Finance Committee Mtg (TBD)</i>
	<i>Feb 8 Conference Exec. Committee Mtg (TBD)</i>
Feb. 21 - Zoom BR District Book Study- Madam C. J. Walker's Gospel Of Giving: Black Woman's Philanthropy During Jim Crow. 10:00 AM-11:30 AM	
	<i>March 14 Executive District Meeting at Black Mountain UMC</i>
	<i>March 14 Conference Scholarship Committee Meeting at 1:00pm (Virtual)</i>
March 21 District Mission Study Hybrid (TBA)	
March 23 Giving Day All UWFaith Members	
April 18 or 25 th (TBA) District Breakfast	
	<i>May 9 Mission U and Program Committees (location TBD)</i>
May 15-17 Assembly 2026, Indianapolis, Indiana All UWFaith Members	
June 11-13 Spiritual Growth Retreat, Lake Junaluska All UWFaith Members	
	<i>June 18-21 WNCC UMC Annual Conference, Lake Junaluska</i>
	<i>Aug 1 Finance Committee (location TBD)</i>
	<i>Aug 2 Executive Committee (location TBD)</i>
Aug 15 District Annual Celebration (TBD)	
Aug 21-22 Mission u Catholic Conference Center, Hickory	
Sept. 12, Conference Annual Celebration, Location TBD	
	<i>Oct. 17 Conference Leadership Development Day, LDD All District Officers (Virtual/In person) location TBD</i>
	<i>Nov. 6 Orientation for new Conference Officers</i> <i>Nov. 7 Conference Committee Meetings</i> <i>Nov. 8 Conference Executive Committee meeting</i>

Ubuntu Days of Service: May be held any time during the year at the discretion of each District. All UWFaith Members

Treasurer

Wonderful and Generous Ladies of Blue Ridge District,

I have recently sent our 3rd Quarter giving to Conference Treasurer, Bess Redmond. Our undesignated giving was:

Pledge to Mission	\$11,084.25
Special Mission Recognition	440.00
Gift to Mission	380.00
Gift in Memory	999.00
World Thank Offering	1,775.00
<u>Walk for Mission</u>	<u>630.00</u>
Total	\$15,308.25

I sent in \$2,773.90 designated giving for a total of \$18,082.15. Our Pledge for 2025 is \$82,100.00. Our total undesignated giving for the first three quarters of 2025 is \$47,332.45. We are over halfway to our goal! Traditionally 4th quarter giving is our highest giving but our work is cut out for us to come closer to our annual goal. Every dollar we give goes to National Mission Institution and International Mission Institutions to help improve the lives of women, children and youth. You can read in response magazine articles about our mission institutions. Please include a “response moment” in your unit meetings. What you read will help you understand even more about the goals of our wonderful organization and what we are all about.

Assembly is coming up May 15-17, 2026 in Indianapolis, Indiana. I plan to go and hope you will consider going too. An amazing experience awaits us when we

DREAM IT!

BELIEVE It!

DO IT!

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

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

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: [Brooks-Howell Serendipitor | WNCC United Women in Faith](#)
- Resources: [United Women in Faith - Shop](#)

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

Mark Your Calendars for the rest of 2025

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

Nov. 1 District Leadership Development Day (Zoom) at 10:00 am

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.