



United  
Women  
in Faith

Western North Carolina

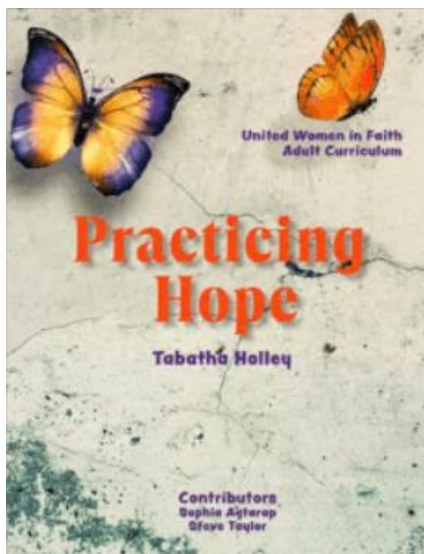
## Blue Ridge District Newsletter United Women in Faith

**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.

# District Mission Study – Practicing Hope

March 21, 2026 at Abernethy UMC, Asheville, and on Zoom  
9:30-2:00 (in-person registration begins at 9:00 am)  
Leader: Tracey Owens

Please bring a salad to share.  
Register on the District Website (information below).  
There are 3 steps to the restrooms (FYI).



Abernethy UMC  
1418 Patton Ave., Asheville NC

To register for events, go to [wnccumw.org](http://wnccumw.org), click on Districts and then District Events 2026, find the Blue Ridge pink box, click on Zoom choice and then Zoom Registration Link. Link should be active mid-February.

Or click here: [District Events | WNCC United Women in Faith](#)

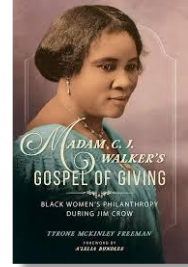
## Blue Ridge District United Women in Faith 2026 OFFICERS

<p><b><u>President:</u></b> Lucy Earls (Oak Grove) 913 Race Path Church Rd. Ellenboro, NC 28040 (828) 453-8566 (h) (828) 223-1325 (c) <a href="mailto:jlearls@att.net">jlearls@att.net</a></p>	<p><b><u>Vice President:</u></b> Stephanie Goudreau (Marion First) 320 S. Garden Street Marion, NC 28752 (828)460-2463 <a href="mailto:segoudreau@yahoo.com">segoudreau@yahoo.com</a></p>	<p><b><u>Secretary:</u></b> Glenda Fuhrmann (Central) 10 Dustin Drive Swannanoa, NC 28778 (828) 337-2617 <a href="mailto:glendafuhrmann@yahoo.com">glendafuhrmann@yahoo.com</a></p>	<p><b><u>Treasurer:</u></b> Elizabeth Duncan (Black Mountain) 204 Rhododendron Ave Black Mountain, NC 28711 828-808-6478 <a href="mailto:lizzyduncan2000@gmail.com">lizzyduncan2000@gmail.com</a></p>
<p><b><u>MC, Spiritual Growth:</u></b> Gwen Harris (Windom) 215 Grand View Lane Burnsville, NC 28714 (828) 682-4589 <a href="mailto:gwenaharris68@gmail.com">gwenaharris68@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b><u>MC, Education &amp; Interpretation:</u></b> Sandra Wells (Central) 219 Aurora Drive Asheville, NC 28805 828-273-0726 <a href="mailto:sandracwells@gmail.com">sandracwells@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b><u>MC, Social Action:</u></b> Beverly Hill (Black Mountain) 202 Border Street Black Mountain, NC 28711 828-778-9309 <a href="mailto:Beverlyhill19@gmail.com">Beverlyhill19@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b><u>MC, Membership Nurture &amp; Outreach:</u></b> Tracey Owens (Marion First) 310 S. Garden Street Marion, NC 28752 (828) 246-6006 <a href="mailto:traceybhh@gmail.com">traceybhh@gmail.com</a></p>
<p><b><u>Secretary of Program Resources:</u></b> Jennie Greenway (Oak Grove) 164 Emma Drive Ellenboro, NC 28040 (828) 289-1642 <a href="mailto:jengreenway@bellsouth.net">jengreenway@bellsouth.net</a></p>	<p><b><u>Communications Coordinator:</u></b> Kathy Woods (Skyland) 11 Azalea Road Arden, 28704 (828) 777-8617 <a href="mailto:mysumcemail@gmail.com">mysumcemail@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b><u>Parliamentarian:</u></b> Jo Pyatt (East Marion) P. O. Box 1621 Marion, NC 28040 (828) 803-0363 <a href="mailto:pyattjo@gmail.com">pyattjo@gmail.com</a></p>	
<p><b><u>Historian:</u></b> To be named.</p>			
<b><u>Committee On Nominations</u></b>			
<p><b>Martha Phillips</b> (Pine Grove) P. O. Box 49, Linville Falls, NC 28647 (828) 467-3167, <a href="mailto:mcpwilliams@gmail.com">mcpwilliams@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>Susan Snell</b> (Central) 30 Sunflower Lane Fletcher, NC 28732 (828) 551-0736 <a href="mailto:ssnell123@bellsouth.net">ssnell123@bellsouth.net</a> Class of 2023</p>	<p><b>Eva Farren</b> (Piney Mountain) 12 St. Matthews Drive Candler, NC 28715-6207 (828) 231-3820 <a href="mailto:evafarren@icloud.com">evafarren@icloud.com</a> Class of 2025</p>	<p><b>Jeannette Byrd</b> (St. Paul's) 203 Aurora Dr. Asheville, NC <a href="tel:82828805">28805</a> (828) 230-5308 <a href="mailto:jbyrdasheville@aol.com">jbyrdasheville@aol.com</a> Class of 2028</p>
<p><b>Kathy Leftwich</b> (Central) 19 Gaston Mountain Road Asheville, NC 28806 919-218-0586 <a href="mailto:Kathleencleftwich@gmail.com">Kathleencleftwich@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>Mary Margaret Ingle</b> (Central) 128 Forest Hill Drive Asheville, NC 28803 828-691-1998 <a href="mailto:marymargaretingle@gmail.com">marymargaretingle@gmail.com</a></p>		
<p><b><u>Members at Large</u></b> Dixie Liggett, (Skyland), 8 Springside Park, Asheville, NC 28803, (828) 684-1831, <a href="mailto:lliggett3@charter.net">lliggett3@charter.net</a></p>			
<p><b><u>Conference Advisor</u></b> Joanie Strohm (Weaverville), 111 Collins Road, Marshall, NC 28753, (828) 707-8928, <a href="mailto:ssjsmars@charter.net">ssjsmars@charter.net</a></p>			

## *A Message from Your President*

Can it really be February? As I sit here, I am anticipating that blast of cold air and a possible ice/snow storm. My prayer is that each of you are warm and safe.

I am so excited about our United Women in Faith upcoming year and I hope you are. We have a great calendar of events planned both at the District and Conference levels. Our first event is the Zoom Book Club on Saturday, February 21 from 10:11:30. Our book will be *Madam C. J. Walker's Gospel of Giving: Black Women's Philanthropy during Jim Crow* by Tyrone McKinley Freeman.



I am really excited that we will be doing our District Mission Study in person (first time since COVID) on March 21 at Abernethy UMC from 9:30-2:00. Deaconess Tracey Owens will be leading our study. Please bring a salad of any type for a shared lunch. Please check our calendar of events for 2026 so you can plan your UW Faith year! I hope this will be the year that your unit can participate in many of these events. I want to remind you that every local unit is so important in our district.

Our overall theme for 2026 is “Inspired by Faith-Committed to Action.” We are reminded in James 2 that our faith and works go hand-in-hand. Let this be the year that we proudly proclaim that faith and works through prayer, study, celebration, learning, and action.

The District Executive Committee met recently and set two goals for 2026:

- 1) To increase participation and grow attendance over 2025 at all district events.
- 2) To increase use of UW in Faith materials in local units.

Please invite your Nurturing Partner to visit one of your local unit meetings. We love doing that. Call on any of the district officers with any questions or needs your local unit may have. You are the backbone of our district. I hope you are getting excited about 2026. Let's make this a great year!

**Lucy Earls, President**

## ***Vice President's Message***

Happy New Year! I hope everyone enjoyed the holiday season and is ready for a fabulous 2026 with the UWFaith. By now, many of your units have already held a pledge service. Did you download the free pledge service from 2026 from the UWFaith website? Did you know that there are many resources that you can download for free?

One reason I am asking is that one of our district goals is to encourage units to use more UWFaith materials. Some items can be used at every unit meeting, like the Prayer Guide and response magazine for a Mission Moment. Need a program for a pledge service, Call to Prayer and Self-Denial, or World Thank Offering? These are all available as free downloads from [uwfaith.org](http://uwfaith.org). When you go to that page, click on "Menu" in the upper left part of your screen, and then click on "Shop and Download" under "Resources." Browse through the resources and you may be surprised at the number that are free or very reasonably priced. Just scrolling through these resources may give you some great ideas for future unit meetings.

My unit decorated Mason jars with fabric scraps, trims, and buttons following the pledge service at our January meeting (see pictures below). We took our jars home and will drop change in them all year to show our gratitude for God's blessings. In November, we will turn in the change for our World Thank Offering. If you don't want to decorate a container, the UWFaith website has World Thank Offering boxes available as free downloads. I will say that the women in my unit greatly enjoyed the fun and camaraderie of crafting together!

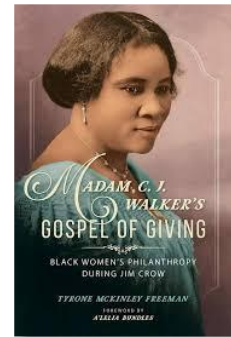
I wish you a wonderful 2026!

**Stephanie Goudreau, Vice President**



## Program Resources

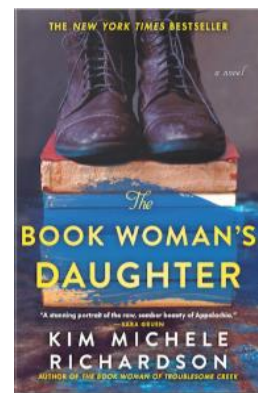
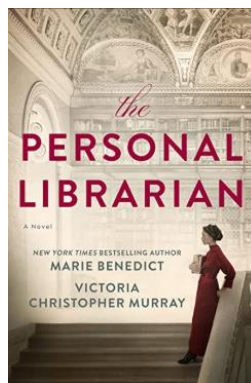
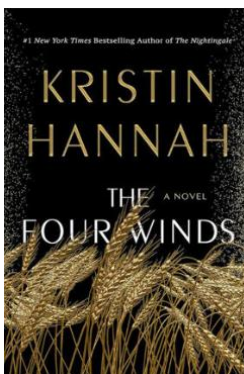
Greetings to all and happy 2026! We have an exciting year of reading ahead of us and I am looking forward to getting it started soon. Our first book study will be on February 21 on Zoom. We will be reading *Madam C.J. Walker's Gospel of Giving* by Tyrone McKinley Freeman. This book is in the Leadership Development category. Our study will start at 10:00 am. Registration information will soon be available on <https://wnccumw.org/> under District Events.



Please always remember there are additional resources available at <https://uwfaith.org/resources/reading-program/> including response magazine as well as podcast and webinars.

Looking forward in 2026, here are the other books we will be reading.

- May 2 - *The Four Winds* by Kristin Hannah (Social Action)
- August 8 - *The Personal Librarian* by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray (Nurturing for Community)
- September 19 - *The Bookwoman's Daughter* by Kim Michele Richardson (Education for Mission)



We also plan to have a book talk at the Spiritual Growth Retreat in June. We will read *Red, White and Whole* by Rajani Laroocca for our study while at the retreat.

Happy Reading!

**Jennie Greenway, Secretary of Program Resources**

## **Social Action**

*Micah 6:8 reads “What does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God”*

We have so many issues in our communities and nation now which really need us to act to bring justice, kindness and God’s touch. Over the past months our nation has seen alarming actions-freezing funds that were approved, canceling vital grants, and dismantling entire agencies. We as United Women in Faith are deeply concerned about the implications for the most vulnerable among us. Gains we have made in just energy and the school to prison pipeline have been set back.

Our new district guiding statement for 2026 is **“Inspired by Faith- Committed to Action”** One way to put your faith into action is to let your thoughts be known by the people who can change or act upon issues on your behalf- your senators and representatives. If you feel slightly timid or don’t know how to do that, simply log onto [5calls.org](https://5calls.org) which is a great resource for finding your contacts in your area and how to reach them. There is even a script you can use, changing as you feel necessary. I am told it is best to call or email as those get read or heard quickly. If you don’t want to speak to a person, simply call after hours and let your opinion be heard. It DOES make a difference, especially if we each take the responsibility of doing so.

More than ever, you informing and motivating your fellow United Women in Faith members is needed, encouraging them to act as well. You have most likely heard the quote attributed to Edmund Burke that says “The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men (and women) to do nothing”. James 4:17 says “Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is Sin” I encourage you to put your faith into action sooner than later. The children, women and young people need us to act on their behalf. To find out more about why these things matter, investigate the issues on [uwfaith.org](https://uwfaith.org).

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

*Want to see some cool UWFAith merchandise and documents?*

*Check it out here:*

[United Women in Faith - MERCHANDISE](#)



## **Spiritual Growth**

As I'm writing this, much of the Blue Ridge District is under an Ice Storm Warning; however, despite the weather forecast, I'm looking forward to spring and the prayer breakfast on April 18, 2026, at Oak Grove United Methodist Church in Ellenboro, NC. Oak Grove is President Lucy Earls' church. I know we're going to receive a warm welcome because her pastor often attends the prayer breakfast and is forever asking Lucy why his UWFaith can't be the hostess unit. This year, we're making Pastor Chris Glawson's wish come true!

The speaker will be Reverend Jan Brittain. Jan is a retired elder in the Western North Carolina Conference but is currently serving as Interim Co-Senior Pastor at Harrison United Methodist Church in Pineville, NC.

Jan is no stranger to UWFaith: In 2023, she was the leader of the 2023 Spiritual Growth Retreat at Lake Junaluska. Her messages are inspiring, informative, challenging, and memorable.



As always, we are having a special hands on project. For this event we will be collecting items to put into gift bags for the employees of Brooks-Howell Home. Here are some suggested items to bring: \$10 Ingles Gift Cards, tissue packets, small hand sanitizers, and individually wrapped snacks.

More information is forthcoming. The president of your unit will be receiving registration information in late March. Also, the April issue of the newsletter will focus on the prayer breakfast. Please plan to attend and bring other members of your unit with you.

Mark your calendars now. The prayer breakfast is a highlight of our UWFaith year, and this one promises to be excellent.

**Gwen Harris, Coordinator**

## 2026 Calendar of Events

Events for <b>ALL</b> Members	District and Conference Officers
Feb. 21 - BR District Book Study (Zoom)- <i>Madam C. J. Walker's Gospel Of Giving</i> , 10:00 AM-11:30 AM	
	<i>Mar 14 Executive District Meeting at Black Mountain UMC</i>
	<i>Mar 14 Conference Scholarship Committee Mtg at 1:00pm (Virtual)</i>
March 21 District Mission Study Hybrid – Abernathy UMC 9am Reg – 2pm, bring a salad to share	
March 23 Giving Day All UWFaith Members	
April 18 District Prayer Breakfast Oak Grove UMC – Jan Brittain speaker	
	<i>May 9 Mission u and Program Committees (location TBD)</i>
May 2 Zoom BR District Book Study – 10am – 11:30 am, <i>The Four Winds</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>June 27 Executive District Meeting 9:30 am at Addies Chapel UMC</i>
	<i>Aug 1 Finance Committee (location TBD)</i>
	<i>Aug 2 Executive Committee (location TBD)</i>
Aug 8 BR District Book Study on Zoom, 10 – 11:30 am <i>The Personal Librarian</i>	
Aug 15 District Annual Celebration 9:30 am Piney Mountain UMC	
Aug 21-22 Mission u Catholic Conference Center, Hickory	
Sept. 12, Conference Annual Celebration, Location TBD	
Sept 19 BR District Book Study on Zoom, 10 – 11:30am <i>The Bookwoman's Daughter</i>	
	<i>Sept 26 District Executive Meeting 9:30 am at Brooks-Howell</i>
	<i>Oct. 17 Conference Leadership Development Day, All District Officers(In Person &amp; Zoom)TBD</i>
	<i>Nov. 6 Orientation for new Conference Officers Nov. 7 Conference Committee Meetings 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.

## **Treasurer**

Blue Ridge District Ladies,

It's a new year! Let us continue the wonderful mission work of the United Women in Faith. Let's look at how we did in 2025. Our Pledge for 2025 was \$82,100.00.

<b>Pledge to Mission</b>	\$56,591.87
<b>Special Mission Recognition</b>	\$2,280.00
<b>Gift to Mission</b>	\$2,187.15
<b>Gift in Memory</b>	\$2,805.00
<b>World Thank Offering</b>	\$22,029.30
<b>Walk for Mission</b>	\$7,220.00
<b>Call to Prayer and Self Denial</b>	\$3,966.00
<b>Legacy Fund</b>	\$4,018.76
<b>Other Designated Giving</b>	\$1,140.00

2025 was another year that we missed our District Goal, remember the goal was \$82,100.00.

For 2026 the decision was made to lower our District goal to \$70,000.00.

Remember we are women, we are strong, and together we can reach our goal of helping women, children, and youth.

Blessings,

**Elizabeth Duncan, Treasurer**



## **Membership Nurture & Outreach**

For the Blue Ridge District Hands on Project and Ubuntu Project this year, we will be collecting items to put into gift bags for the employees of Brooks-Howell Home. We want to thank them for the many ways they enrich the lives of the Brooks-Howell residents. Since Brooks-Howell is located in our district, we want to do our project locally.



We will begin collecting items at the District Mission Study on March 27<sup>th</sup>, then continue collecting at the Prayer Breakfast and the District Annual Celebration. Here is a list of items to bring: \$10 Ingles gift cards, granola bars, peanut butter crackers, tissue packets, cookies and small hand sanitizers. The food items must be individually wrapped packets. We will be making 70 bags. Thank you, in advance, for your help with this project.

I will be leading the District Mission Study at Abernathy UMC (Asheville) on March 21<sup>st</sup>. Hope to see you. Our theme is “Hope” and it is something we need in our world right now.

Grace and Peace  
Tracey Owens, MNO

### **Useful Links:**

UW Faith 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 - Resources](#)

**2026 NURTURING PARTNERS for BLUE RIDGE DISTRICT**

- PLEASE ASK YOUR NURTURING PARTNER TO COME VISIT

-

<b>Nurturing Partner</b>	<b>Church</b>	<b>Nurturing Partner</b>	<b>Church</b>
<b>Lucy Earls</b> (828) 453-8566 (828) 223-1325	First Forest City Spindale, Saluda, Edneyville	<b>Jeannette Byrd</b> (828) 230-5308	Central Mills River
<b>Stephanie Goudreau</b> (828) 460-2463	Pleasant Hill-Marion Concord Clinchfield	<b>Gwen Harris</b> (828) 682-4589	Bald Creek Mars Hill Weaverville
<b>Beverly Hill</b> (828) 778-9309	Biltmore East Marion	<b>Sandra Wells</b> (828) 273-0726	Asbury Memorial Skyland Hendersonville First
<b>Glenda Fuhrmann</b> (828) 337-2617	Montmorenci	<b>Jo Pyatt</b> (828) 803-0363	Addie's Chapel
<b>Tracey Owens</b> (828) 246-6006	Black Mountain Groce Oak Grove	<b>Martha Phillips</b> (828) 467-3167	Spruce Pine Windom Marion First
<b>Joanie Strohm</b> (828) 707-8928	Piney Mountain Salem	<b>Kathy Leftwich</b> (919) 218-0586	St. Paul's Abernethy
<b>Jennie Greenway</b> (828) 289-1642	First Rutherfordton Gilkey Moore's Grove	<b>Eva Farren</b> (828) 231-3820	Grace Balfour
<b>Susan Snell</b> (828) 551-0736	S.O.W. in Faith (Oakley/Sardis)		

**A few reasons to invite a district officer to your local unit:**

- Gain information and resources.
- Build stronger relationships between your unit and the district and conference.
- Share any thoughts or concerns you may have–this is a chance to have your voice heard.
- Fulfill criterion #22 on Mission Today.
- Enjoy fellowship.





# United Women in Faith

## **WNCC United Women in Faith SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

Do you know a student who is a member of a WNCC United Methodist Church?

Will they attend one of the United Methodist supported institutions in our conference (**Bennett College, Brevard College, Greensboro College, High Point University, Pfeiffer University**) for the fall semester 2026?

Then they are eligible to apply for a WNCC United Women in Faith scholarship!

Contact the scholarship committee chairperson for an application:

Tonya Lanier

710 Burgess Street, Lexington, NC 27292-4214

336-470-1100 (cell) / Email: [sonshiners61@gmail.com](mailto:sonshiners61@gmail.com)

Applications are due by **March 1, 2026**.

Interviews will be conducted via Zoom on **March 14, 2026**.

**You** can support our scholarship program by:

- Referring students.
- Praying for our students and UM supported institutions.
- Contributing to the general scholarship fund as districts, units, circles, or individuals.

Please contact me if you need additional information.

Blessings,

Tonya Lanier

WNCC United Women in Faith Scholarship Committee Chairperson

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

**Mark Your Calendars for upcoming 2026 events**

Feb. 21 - BR District Book Study (Zoom) - *Madam C. J. Walker's Gospel Of Giving*, 10:00 - 11:30 am

March 21 District Mission Study Hybrid – Abernathy UMC 9am Registration – 2pm, bring a salad to share

March 23 Giving Day All UWFaith Members

April 18 District Prayer Breakfast Oak Grove UMC – Jan Brittain speaker

May 2 Zoom BR District Book Study – 10am – 11:30 am, *The Four Winds*

May 15-17 **Assembly** 2026, Indianapolis, Indiana All UWFaith Members