

3rd Quarter, 2026



United  
Women  
in Faith



## Our Up Coming Events...

### 2026 Catawba Valley Annual Celebration and Memorial

Service: August 15th, 10am @ First UMC Gastonia.



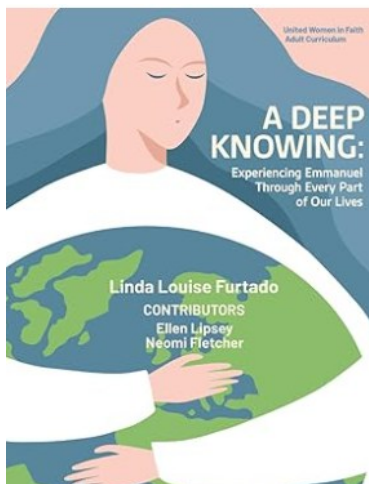
#### Mission u 2026!

August 21-22, 2026

The Catholic

Conference Center, Hickory, NC

Online registration is **OPEN!**



## 2026 UWF Conference Annual Celebration:

September 12, 2026

10:00am to 5:00pm

Details Coming Soon!

**President's letter:**

*Hello all,*

I am so sorry for the delay in the newsletter getting out to you all. We have had to make some changes within our executive board in that Janet elected to step down after serving 7 years. Her leadership will be greatly missed however we still look forward to seeing her at events and reaching out to her for her knowledge that she holds. I was asked to step into the role of President, I do not take this role lightly. I know that my schedule is extremely busy however I am going to strive to fulfill the duties of your District President. With that being said our current Nominations Committee is needing to fill several offices. I want you all to consider if you are able to serve in some capacity. I would love to talk to any of you about any of the open offices via phone, email or in person. You may also feel free to contact Anita Fox who has agreed to be the chair to the interim Nominations Committee. I know deep down in my soul that the Catawba Valley District could be a strong and thriving district. My vision is to have more events, missions studies, and local fundraisers. But to do that we will need to have more support and participation. Our next event will be our Annual Celebration and Memorial Service on August 15, 2026 at 10:00 am with refreshments at 9:30 am. Please see the attached flyer for more details. I hope to see all of your beautiful faces there.

*Tanya Lunsford, District President*

Catawba Valley District Officers:

- ♦ President—Tanya Lunsford
- ♦ Secretary—Belinda Worsham
- ♦ Treasurer—Kim Shafer
- ♦ Social Action—Janet Bjork Colton
- ♦ Program Resources—Anita Fox

OPEN POSITIONS:

- ♦ Vice President
- ♦ Membership, Nurture & Outreach
- ♦ Mission, Education & Interpretation
- ♦ Spiritual Growth
- ♦ Communications
- ♦ Nominations

### ***Secretarial Thoughts,***

As we wind down for the second half of the year, I am in the process of unpacking from my trip to Lake Junaluska following Spiritual Growth Retreat on the “Winds of Change”. For those of you who missed this, what a loss. It was so moving, stimulating, and renewing at the same time. Now I am washing up everything to pack again to return to Lake Junaluska for Annual Conference. I look forward to being moved, stimulated, and renewed once more in the presence of so many God loving followers of Jesus.

As I pack and repack, it made me realize that in the last half of this year we in the Catawba Valley District will not have to travel far to experience more stimulating renewal. We can join with our spirit filled United Women in Faith sisterhood within the boundary of our own district! The Catawba Valley District Annual Celebration on August 15th is in Gastonia at First United Methodist Church Gastonia. Mission u will be August 21 –22nd at the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory, NC. Finally followed by Annual Celebration on September 12th; also be held in Hickory at St. Lukes UMC. How convenient! We have no excuses for not attending any of these marvelous opportunities to be educated, stimulated and renewed. The fellowship will be heartwarming, the food fulfilling, and the mission items we bring are so important. Also the book swap tables will provide an opportunity to share books free of charge.

I hope to see all of you at least one if not at all these marvelous events!

Belinda Worsham, District Secretary



### **Book Swap!**

Tired of stacking up books beside the nightstand? Bring books from the Reading List to swap for another one! This swap will be available at 2026 Mission u.

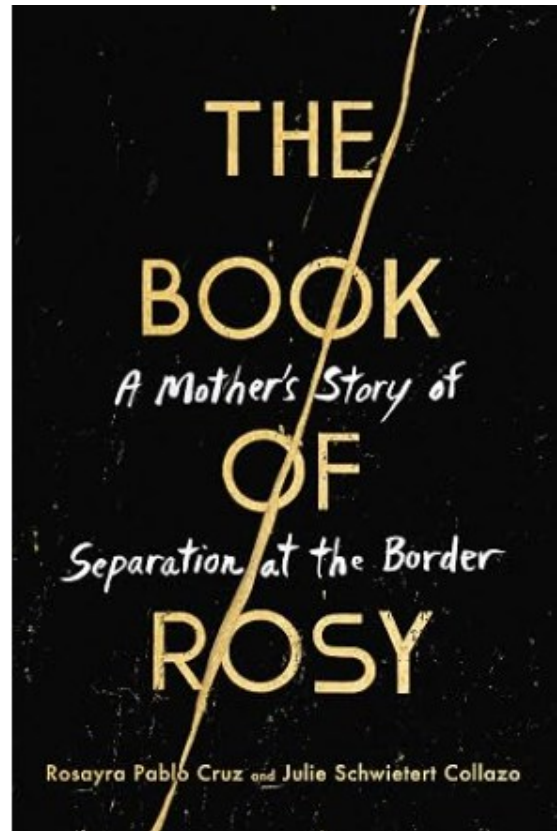
Double your reading list entries for no extra funds!! This helps to:

- ⇒ **REDUCE** extra books in your home taking up space
- ⇒ **REUSE** a book that has fulfilled its purpose for the former owner, helping you fulfill your requirements for the reading list!
- ⇒ **RECYCLE** your books to your fellow UWF sisters and pass on the lovely practice of being environmentally conscious and filling your soul through reading.

## **UWF Reading List book feature:**

*'The Book of Rosy: A Mother's Story of Separation at the Border' by Rosayra Pablo Cruz and Julie Schwieter Collazo.*

This is a book which tears at your heart. It is an memoir about Rosayra's (also called 'Rosy') journey from Guatemala to the United States. Written during the time Asylum seekers were being detained in camps in Arizona-it tells the story of one woman's terrors and joys of entering into America. It is a book which helps you to walk through the shoes of an immigrant seeking asylum and hurt for the choices she has to make along the way. We feel the desperation of a mother feeling like she is unable to see her children grow up in a happy and healthy environment. We gain insights into heart ripping decisions Rosy is forced to make about her children. We delight that people see the injustices of the world and feel compelled to stand up in impactful ways. We are left with opportunities to help in ways both big and small. Emotionally this is a challenging read, and intellectually it is a eye-opener to how our bureaucracy works. And it gives you ideas to ponder about our real life Immigration policies. As well as the treatment of our fellow human beings; in whatever situation we meet them.



You can go ahead and purchase on Amazon (<https://www.amazon.com/Book-Mothers-Story-Rosayra-Pablo/dp/0062941925>). I will also have a couple of copies on the table when we meet in August.

Anita Fox, District Program Resources officer

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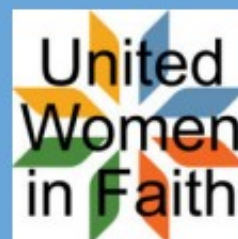
**Thank you for giving to United Women in Faith!**

Our total giving for the 2nd Quarter was \$10,057.90, which is almost a \$500 increase over 2nd quarter 2025!!! This year our Conference Love Offering theme is in Celebration of the 'Vibrant Future of United Women in Faith'.

It is a privilege to be on the Catawba Valley team!

Kim Shafer, District Treasurer

# Help us help them



## CATAWBA VALLEY ANNUAL CELEBRATION AND MEMORIAL SERVICE

**Currently accepting:** **AUGUST 15, 2026**

**Hope for the Unhoused**

- Socks
- Men/Women Underware
- Packed food
- Money donations

**9:30 AM REFRESHMENTS**

**10:00 AM PROGRAM**

**FIRST UMC GASTONIA**

**190 E. FRANKLIN BLVD,**

**GASTONIA, NC 28052**

**PARKING OFF OAKLAND STREET**



Mission Statements  
from:  
First UMC Gastonia,  
and Myers Memorial  
UMC

If you plan to attend please  
contact Tanya Lunsford 704-  
678-7122

tlmartintm@gmail.com or  
Cathryn Beasley 704-747-5418  
cmbeasly3@gmailcom  
to insure we will provide  
adequate refreshments  
Thank You!

**uwfaith.org**



## [Mission u 2026](#)

This year's Mission u is held August 21-22nd at the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory, NC. The theme is 'Experiencing Emmanuel'. Our study leaders for 2026 are: Sandra Williamson, Tracey Owens and Joy Primm. This is an exceptional team of instructors with many years of teaching and lots of LOVE for United Women in Faith.



The 2026 Mission u Adult study book is, '*A DEEP KNOWING: Experiencing Emmanuel Through Every Part of Our Lives*', by author Linda Louise Furtado.

"This eight-session curriculum opens a path to explore how Emmanuel is revealed throughout Scripture and how that same divine presence continues to walk with us today..."

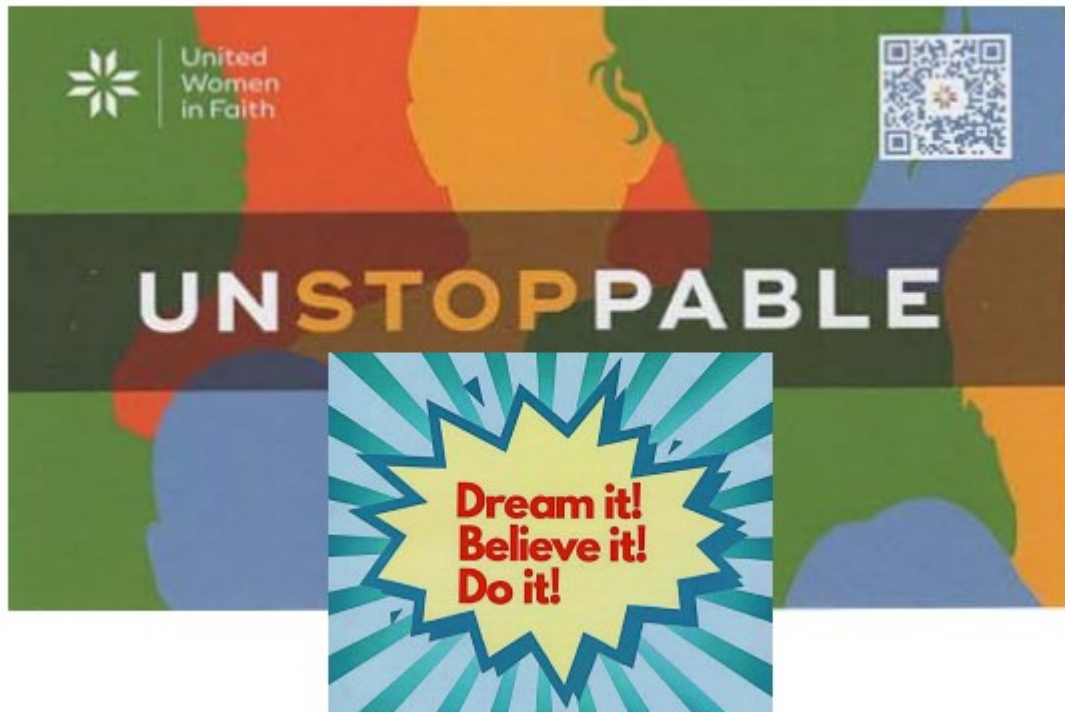
Here is the Amazon link (<https://www.amazon.com/dp/1952501407>) to purchase. You may also purchase online while registering. Study books will need to be bought in advanced. The hands-on mission this year will

be UMCOR Menstrual Hygiene Kits.

**Registration is ONLINE only, through August 10th.**

(There is no onsite registration)

Click the link below to learn more & register: <https://wnccumw.org/mission-u-2026/>



UNSTOPPABLE

Dream it!  
Believe it!  
Do it!

## Western North Carolina Conference

United Women in Faith

### 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Celebration

*Celebrating 157 Years in Mission*

Saturday, September 12, 2026  
St. Luke's UMC, Hickory, NC



GUEST SPEAKER

**Emily Jones**

National UWFaith  
Executive for  
Racial Justice



## Catawba Valley District United Women in Faith Proposed Executive Team Roster 2027

| Name/Office                                   | Street Address              | City          | ST | Zip   | Church             | Preferred Phone | EMAIL                                                                          |
|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|----|-------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>President</b><br>Tanya Lunsford            | 376 Woodlawn Avenue         | Cramerton     | NC | 28032 | Myers Memorial     | 704-678-7122    | <a href="mailto:timartintm@gmail.com">timartintm@gmail.com</a>                 |
| <b>OPEN</b><br>Vice President                 |                             |               |    |       |                    |                 |                                                                                |
| <b>Secretary</b><br>Belinda Worsham           | 4245 Rugged Hill Rd         | Maiden        | NC | 28650 | Denver             | 704-966-2288    | <a href="mailto:belindaworsham@yahoo.com">belindaworsham@yahoo.com</a>         |
| <b>Treasurer</b><br>Kim Shafer                | 281 Valley View Terrace     | Waynesville   | NC | 28786 | First Waynesville  | 704-965-2022    | <a href="mailto:kimshaferuwfsm@outlook.com">kimshaferuwfsm@outlook.com</a>     |
| <b>OPEN</b><br>Membership, Nurture & Outreach |                             |               |    |       |                    |                 |                                                                                |
| <b>OPEN</b><br>Mission Educ & Interpretation  |                             |               |    |       |                    |                 |                                                                                |
| <b>OPEN</b><br>Spiritual Growth               |                             |               |    |       |                    |                 |                                                                                |
| <b>OPEN</b><br>Communications                 |                             |               |    |       |                    |                 |                                                                                |
| <b>Social Action</b><br>Janet Bjork Colton    | 516 Rodoret Street South    | Valdese       | NC | 28690 | First Valdese      | 828-409-4132    | <a href="mailto:jntcltn61@gmail.com">jntcltn61@gmail.com</a>                   |
| <b>Program Resources</b><br>Anita Fox         | 2430 Mountain Laurel Lane   | Morganton     | NC | 28655 | Oak Hill           | 828-390-6349    | <a href="mailto:taco582001@yahoo.com">taco582001@yahoo.com</a>                 |
| <b>OPEN</b><br>Nominations                    |                             |               |    |       |                    |                 |                                                                                |
| <b>Conference Advisor</b><br>Linda Greer      | 3201 Mt. Wesley Church Road | Stone y Point | NC | 28678 | First Taylorsville | 828-244-2251    | <a href="mailto:jacklindagreer@bellsouth.net">jacklindagreer@bellsouth.net</a> |

**UWFaith Town Hall**  
**ZOOM Calls**  
**2nd Monday of each month**  
**@ 7pm**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85209872137?pwd=AXoqsxaVJOxqFo18LBxljIFY7x4hHS.1>

Got questions?

Want to hear about upcoming events?

Want to share what is going on in your Unit?

Please join us!



United  
 Women  
 in Faith

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85209872137?pwd=AXoqsxaVJOxqFo18LBxljIFY7x4hHS.1#success>