

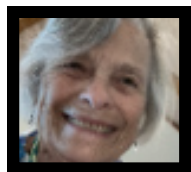
faith

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sisterhood

UWFaith Appalachian District News First Quarter 2026

AppaLadies in Mission



President

Happy New Year and welcome to 2026! I sincerely hope that each of you had a wonderful and blessed Christmas season. As Appalachian District's newly elected President, I am excited to start this 2026 journey with you - seizing opportunities to put love into action to improve the lives of women, children, and youth. In our UWFaith General Secretary and CEO's (Sally Vonner) *response* article, "Put Love into Action in 2026", she advised that when setting our intentions and goals for 2026, we pray the Wesleyan Covenant Prayer inviting us into all the ways that surrendering our full selves and trusting in Jesus is the ultimate intention. She notes a few of the opportunities we, as United Women in Faith, have in 2026 to put our love into action: (1) come to Assembly in Indianapolis and get fired up to change the world because we are UNSTOPPABLE (2) continue to support our National Mission Institutions through our presence and giving, as many of them continue to face significant budget cuts at a time when their communities need them most; (3) extend selfless giving through the Call to Prayer and Self-Denial offering. The 2026 theme is "The Future is Now: Invest in Our Children" - our gifts will support vulnerable children through the work of the National Missions Institutions. **Together, we can reach our 2026 goals!**

Linda Greer has emailed or snail-mailed 2025 report forms to all active units. Unit Presidents and Contacts, if you did not receive them, please contact me or Linda or go onto our District website, www.appumw.com, to get your forms. You may mail them or email them to Linda at the physical address or email addresses listed on the form. As your 2025 outgoing President, Linda should receive 2025 report and will share information with me. Please keep a copy for your records. If you have not sent your report because you did not get it done on time, please send it to Linda as soon as possible. Sending it late is better than not at all. Please ensure that your 2026 list of officers with their contact info, especially email addresses, is included with your report so your officers can receive their copies of "AppaLadies in Mission" and any email correspondence from me.

I hope that each of you will attend all of our Appalachian District UWFaith events as well as our Western North Carolina Conference UWFaith events in 2026. Our Appalachian District Leadership Team met the second week of December to plan our events for this new year. See the event schedule in this newsletter and mark your calendars so you don't plan other events on the same dates, especially activities for your units.



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.



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United
Women
in Faith

We are having our Mission Study in March this year. I am excited that we are partnering with the Catawba Valley District again and having our Mission Study together at First Hickory UMC. Our Prayer Breakfast will be in April. See the flyers for both events included in this newsletter.

For the most part, we have kept our “Nurturing Partners” the same as last year. A “Nurturing Partner” in United Women in Faith is a designated individual at the district level responsible for fostering relationships with local units, encouraging participation, and ensuring units feel connected to the wider organization through regular communication, visits, and providing access to resources and opportunities for growth and leadership development. The Nurturing Partner chart is included in this newsletter. Feel free to invite your Nurturing Partner to a unit meeting – or, she may just give you a call and invite herself!

The full district officer list with contact information is also included in this newsletter – notice there are a few vacancies that need to be filled. Please contact a member of our Committee on Nominations or any district officer if you or someone you know may be interested in filling one of these vacant positions.

I would like to close with a prayer from the Prayer Guide - Creator, we lift ourselves up to you. May you nudge us in our comings and goings, in thoughts and trials, restoring the broken and filling our spirits for your glory. (Contributor: Cheryl Fox-Bender, Order of Deaconess and Home Missioner, New Creation Counseling Center, Tipp City, Ohio)

Feel free to contact me whenever you have questions. If I don’t know the answer, I am confident that I can reach out or refer you to someone on the District or Conference team, and they will have an answer.

Love and Blessings,
Jan Taylor



Vice President

Greetings!

Here we are at the beginning of a new year! I am excited to be your new vice-president! Let us pray that this year will be one that draws us closer to God and His help in fulfilling our mission. Appalachian and Catawba Valley Districts UWFaith will host our 2026 mission study at First Hickory UMC on Saturday, March 14. “Practicing Hope” was the Mission study from 2025 and was a wonderful and spiritual event. Please give prayerful thought to attending. Food, fun, and most importantly, fellowship with our sisters in Christ is essential to our spiritual health. Ladies, be sure to use the program materials that assist you with your mission, vision and purpose of the UWFaith.

If you have any recommendations, suggestions, or comments, please feel free to reach out to me via text or email.

Blessings to each of you,
Jean Stelter

John Wesley’s Covenant Prayer
I am no longer my own, but yours.
Put me to what you will, place me with whom you will.
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.
Let me be put to work for you or set aside for you,
Praised for you or criticized for you.
Let me be full, let me be empty.
Let me have all things, let me have nothing.
I freely and fully surrender all things
To your glory and service.
And now, O wonderful and holy God,
Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer,
You are mine, and I am yours.
So be it.
And the covenant which I have made on earth,
Let it also be made in heaven.
Amen.



**Mission, Education,
and Interpretation Coordinator**

Hi everyone, and Happy New Year! I am excited to see that our district mission study topic this year will be “Practicing Hope”. It is an adult program designed to explore the concept of hope, particularly in challenging situations such as environmental disasters, genocide, and neofascism. In an increasingly uncertain world, it poses important concerns about the nature of hope and our ability to imagine a future for the next generation. The curriculum explores several facets of hope, including its definition, origins, practical foundation, and acknowledgement as a ritual. It places a strong emphasis on developing hope that recognizes present realities, (refugia), restorative hope to ease dire circumstances, and hopeful possibilities even in the face of transgression (repair). Through scripture study, group discussions, and individual spiritual practices like breathwork and “soul work,” it fosters the growth of hope and the enjoyment of its practice. The goal of the study is to expand knowledge of its core, identity, and origins, presenting hope as a ritualistic activity that fosters development and happiness. By engaging in activities that foster hope, we can all significantly boost our joy and positivity.

Authored by Tabatha Holley, a former pastor and established writer affiliated with the 2024-2025 Sojourners Opinion Writing Cohort, the curriculum is an initiative of A Space to Land, LLC, which aims to offer holistic, interfaith services to diverse communities through events like funerals and weddings, alongside workshops and conflict mediation. The upcoming study session will be facilitated by Sandra Williamson, the WNCC UWFaith Historian, who previously contributed as a Conference Mission u leader in 2025. The District Mission Study is scheduled for March 14, 2026, at First UMC Hickory. (See the flyer included in this newsletter.) Hope to see you there!

Yours in Christ,
Terri Williams



Spiritual Growth Coordinator

Spiritual Growth Coordinator

Greetings! I am excited about the upcoming Appalachian District United Women in Faith Annual Prayer Breakfast. The date is Saturday, April 18, 2026, at First Taylorsville UMC. Please see the flyer in this newsletter for making your local unit reservations and please send the names of your members who passed during 2025 to me. Please also send a photo of your deceased member(s) (if available) and any information about your member(s) to my email (sherrysummer@charter.net) or by mail (120 Shady Oak Terrace, Hudson, NC 28638.) Registration and payment should be sent to Nancy Reigel, District Treasurer. This is a special time to remember our sisters who completed their earthly journey in 2025 - please plan to attend. Our theme this year is “Reflections”, and the scripture is II Corinthians 3:18, “All of us are looking at the glory of the Lord as if we were looking in a mirror. We are being transformed into that same image from one degree of glory to the next degree of glory. This comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.” (CEB version) Registration begins at 9 a.m., and Breakfast is from 9:30 a.m. to – 10:15 am. The program and worship begin at 10:15 a.m. and end at approximately 12 noon. Registration cost for breakfast is \$5 per attendee. The Hands-on Mission project will be donations to the Bethlehem Community Center in Winston–Salem.

Thank you,
Sherry Summerlin



Interim Treasurer
Giving is Always Good! Always!

Appalachian District Sisters,

What a difference you made in the lives of women, children, and youth around the world during 2025. Yes, you achieved and surpassed your 2025 Pledge to Mission. You also added to that second tier giving with donations to a Prayer and Self Denial offering, support of UMCOR projects, and bolstered the underlying ongoing strength of the future of UWFaith with your donations to the Legacy Fund. Congratulations and a resounding THANK YOU from those whose lives you have improved and continue to improve!

Yes, we the members of the Appalachian District met our Pledge to Mission Giving of \$30,000 with some to spare. Underlying that was \$21,341 in Pledge giving; \$1,765 in Special Mission Recognition, recognizing those you wanted to honor with a pin for their special contributions to Mission; \$2,683 in Gifts to Mission; \$1,720 Gifts in Memory; \$2,602 in World Thank Offering and \$50 in Walk for Mission. All of these surpassed 2024 Giving. Even better, all of this portends an ongoing strong future for United Women in Faith and our Mission.

Looking forward to 2026:

Our Conference Love Offering Dedication is: A “Gift to Mission” in honor of those who are dreaming, believing, and doing on behalf of women, children, and youth around the world.

Our Conference Financial Goal is for “Each unit to make a pledge to mission and to meet that goal.” In 2025 we came very close to achieving this goal – most Appalachian District local units achieved the second part of the goal, “meet their pledge”. In 2026 we will reemphasize the need for making a pledge....and meeting it. This goal is certainly achievable for 2026!

But, why do these numbers matter? Because they are not just numbers; they are how we, as members of United Women in Faith, use the monies they represent to put our purpose into action. Excellent examples of these can be found in the stories you can find in the January/February 2026 issue of *response* magazine. Stories of the important work of our National Mission Institutions (NMIs) across the US; NMIs, such as, our Bethlehem Center in Winston Salem and The Alliance Center for Education in Charlotte. And beyond that, stories of the support for the changing for good, like the Communication for Change article which tells of a 3-day writers’ workshop in Kerala, India offered by United Women in Faith in partnership with the Indian Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge. This workshop enabled participants to not only refine their craft but also re-vision themselves as agents of change through their words - a skill that will stay with them throughout their lives -change that endures.

These stories are what we celebrate when we celebrate Mission Giving. I look forward to continuing that celebration into 2026.

Blessings,
Nancy Reigel



Next District Event
Mission Study
Saturday, March 14, 2026
Partnering with Catawba
Valley District
“Practicing Hope”
Led by Sandra
Williamson



Social Action Coordinator



Becoming More Aware of the School-to-Prison Pipeline Understanding and Addressing a Critical Issue in Education

Why Awareness Matters

The School-to-Prison Pipeline refers to the troubling trend where disciplinary policies and practices in schools contribute to students, particularly those from marginalized communities, entering the criminal justice system. Understanding this issue is the first step toward dismantling it.

Ways to Become More Aware

- **Educate Yourself and Others:** Read research articles, attend webinars, and follow advocacy organizations focused on educational equity and juvenile justice.
- **Examine Local Policies:** Review your school district's disciplinary policies. Are they restorative or punitive? Advocate for policies that prioritize counseling and conflict resolution over exclusion.
- **Engage with Community Initiatives:** Join local forums or community groups working to reform school discipline and promote restorative justice practices.
- **Listen to Student Voices:** Students often experience these policies firsthand. Encourage open dialogue and support platforms where they can share their experiences.
- **Support Legislative Change:** Stay informed about state and federal legislation aimed at reducing the pipeline. Contact your representatives to express support for reforms.

Call to Action

Awareness is the foundation for change. By educating ourselves, advocating for fair policies, and amplifying student voices, we can help ensure schools remain places of learning, not gateways to incarceration.

Blessings,
Elizabeth Conrad



Communication Coordinator

Greetings,

Many members, united in one purpose!

We are all women united in our desire to make a difference. Here, you will find many ways to get involved and make a positive impact.

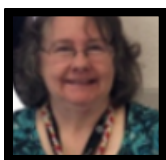
Get involved and tell me about it so I can tell everyone!

**Blessings and Peace,
Traci Snyder**

Design Your Own UBUNTU Day in October!

This year, units are encouraged to do work in
your communities!

Take photos and send them in!
Tell us what you did!



Committee on Nominations Member



Greetings and Happy New Year from the Committee on Nominations. We are thankful that Tami Gosselin has accepted a nomination for Secretary, but we still need a treasurer and another member of the Nominations Committee. Instead of making New Year's Resolutions, think of new ways you can challenge yourself to serve God. Where is God calling you to step out of your comfort zone? Do you feel a calling to join our District Team and help fulfill our purpose of turning faith, hope, and love into action by empowering women, children, and youth globally through spiritual growth, leadership development, supportive fellowship, and advocacy for justice and peace?

I am excited to rejoin the Committee on Nominations because I know what a joy it is to see people accept the calling to use their gifts and talents and to develop as leaders to serve others. I invite you to consider joining our team. The Committee on Nominations is a great way to join the team and see how everyone works together to fulfill our mission. While Nancy Reigel has graciously filled the position of Treasurer for us the last few years, it is time for another person to learn from her expertise. If you or someone you know would be interested in serving as Treasurer or on the Committee on Nominations or perhaps you feel led to be the Membership, Nurture, and Outreach Coordinator, feel free to contact me at (828) 728-0371 or any member of the District Team.

Blessings,
Brenda Kimberlin



Secretary of Program Resources

Hello fellow United Women in Faith. I pray that we all have a great 2026. One of the ways I recommend to make the year better is to get your unit involved in the Reading Program. There are so many books that address social issues, spiritual growth and just good stories. I read an article in *response* magazine about a unit's initiative to get everyone reading. Each time they met, someone read one of the children's books from the program. This not only led to discussion, but counted as a book read for the challenge. I decided to try this with my unit. I chose a book, and provided a reading log for each lady. Just getting to write a book down broke the ice for our ladies. We shared a book at several meetings, so most members were able to achieve the first level of one book in each of the five categories. I also shared information about some of the books on the list that I personally had read to build interest. Our participation increased from three in 2024, to thirteen in 2025. One of our first time participants completed level III. We are certainly going to continue sharing books in meetings, and I encourage you to try this also.

Happy reading and Happy New Year,
Margaret Cooper



**United Women in Faith
Legacy Endowment Fund Update**



We, the Appalachian District and the Western NC Conference, have continued to promote and strengthen the Legacy Fund. The Conference received a giving report through September 30, 2025 on our conference cumulative giving to the Legacy Fund...which is \$565,367.65...third in the nation! Our Legacy giving so far for the year 2025 is \$19,923.07. The cumulative amount now in the Legacy Fund is \$51,994,013, or 86.66% of our \$60 million national goal. So...we are now within \$8,005,987 of our goal! That sounds amazing when you think about our beginning with a goal of \$60 million. Thank you for your continuing support of the Legacy Fund! Thank you for continuing to include a Legacy moment each time we gather. We need to continue to keep the Legacy Fund in front of everyone as we work toward our \$60 Million national goal. It would be especially exciting if we could reach that goal by the Assembly next May!

Nancy Reigel
Appalachian District Legacy Fund “Energizer”



Parliamentarian.

Greetings

Martha Phillips is the WNCC Parliamentarian. She has provided the following information for me to share with you, local unit parliamentarians. The Parliamentarian is an expert in parliamentary procedures who provides explanations and advice.

She shall:

- a) explain parliamentary procedures, utilizing Robert’s Rules of Order;
- b) assist in correctly stating motions and rules of debate, etc.
- c) assist with creating and amending Standing Rules;
- d) maintain a copy of the Standing Rules;
- e) sit in proximity to the presiding officer during meetings;
- f) assure adherence to meeting agendas;
- g) assist with election and voting procedures;
- h) keep track of the order of those wishing to speak, motions, amendments, voting, etc.;
- i) support the District President in maintaining order and adhering to time schedules;
- j) Nurturing Partners—each Executive team member is assigned churches or individuals to visit at least one time a year. After receiving the list, team members should contact their list, introducing themselves and asking for a convenient time to visit. They may be asked to present a program. The District President may ask team members to contact their list to remind them of upcoming events or other communications;
- k) attend all District meetings and events;
- l) Attend conference training for your office once a year.

More information will be shared in our next edition of the newsletter.

Peace and grace,
Sherry Summerlin



**Dream it!
Believe it!
Do it!**

Assembly 2026

What's Assembly 2026 all about?

It's a celebration of who we are and what we can achieve together. Assembly is our chance to unite, recharge, and deepen our faith.

What you can expect:

INSPIRING SPEAKERS: Hear from women leaders who will spark your passion and energize your purpose.

POWERFUL WORSHIPS: Experience deep reflection, renewal, and connection in faith.

WORKSHOPS: Gain tools to create meaningful change in your life and your community.

SISTERHOOD: Connect with women from around the world who share your commitment to justice and Soul Care.

It's time to talk, time to dream, and time to build because when women of faith put our love into action, we are unstoppable. Come be transformed at Assembly 2026!

For more information contact:



United
Women
in Faith

ASSEMBLY 2026

May 15-17, 2026
Indianapolis, Indiana

uwfaith.org/assembly



**Dream it!
Believe it!
Do it!**

Appalachian District UWFaith 2026 Nurturing Partners

Jan Taylor 336-468-0313	Jean Stetler 828-264-6629	Terri Williams 336-426-2250	Nancy Reigel 828-268-0637
First North Wilkesboro Sparta *Smethport -West Jefferson *Warrensville Grassy Creek - State Road Charity - Elkin First Lenoir	Banner Elk Deerfield FaithBridge - Blowing Rock West Jefferson *Altamont - Newland *Jonas Ridge	New River Coop Parish *Piney Creek *Mount Zion-Piney Creek West - Mooresville *Ebenezer - Elkin *Maple Springs - Ronda	First Taylorsville Millers Creek New River Coop Parish *Shiloh - Sparta *Cox's Chapel-M of Wilson,VA Yadkinville Clifton - Warrensville
Tami Gosselin 704-936-6608	Traci Snyder 828 -308-3452	Brenda Kimberlin 828-728-0371	Sherry Summerlin 828-728-4936
Williamson's Chapel-Mooresville Fairmont - Statesville Park Avenue - Mooresville Breath of Life-Mooresville McKendree Chapel-Mooresville	Hiddenite/StPt Parish *Hiddenite *Liberty *South River	Colliers - Lenoir First Granite Falls Asbury - Hamptonville Linville	Union Grove Wilkesboro Jefferson *Mount Herman - Lenoir *Cedar Valley - Lenoir
Elizabeth Conrad 704-223-7877	Terri Clark 828-612-2637	Donna Parks Hill 336-466-1230	Marcia Faw 336-667-6181
Hudson Union - North Wilkesboro *Hanes Grove - Hamptonville *St. Paul - Hamptonville	New Covenant - Lenoir Wesley Memorial - Statesville Bethany - West Jefferson New Salem - Statesville	Boone Crossfire-North Wilkesboro Sutherland - Creston *Elk Park *Pine Grove - Spruce Pine	Watouga Cooperative Parish *Henson Chapel *Mabel *Valle Crusis-Banner Elk *First Elkin *White Rock - Thurmond
Rhonda Waters 828-320-6260	Annette Echard 828-754-5526	Linda Greer 828-244-2251	Matha Phillips 828-467-3167
New Beginnings Hiddenite/StPt Parish *Bethel - Statesville *Philadelphia-Stony Point *Elmwood - Statesville *ChapelHill - Statesville	*Baton - Granite Falls *Littlejohn - Lenoir Newland	Broad Street(Statesville) *First Troutman *Scotts Chapel-Statesville Wesley Chapel -Troutman Mosaic - Statesville	Williamson's Chapel.

Units in Bold Font are active units.

* Indicates churches are in same charge.





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

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

2026 APPALACHIAN DISTRICT OFFICERS

POSITION	NAME	CHURCH	PHONE #	EMAIL
PRESIDENT	Jan Taylor	Wilkesboro	336-468-0313	j.kay.tay@gmail.com
VICE PRESIDENT	Jean Stetler	Wilkesboro	828-264-6629 H 828 964-1396 M	Jstetler52@gmail.com
SECRETARY	Tami Gosselin	Central { Mooresville }	704-936-6608	tami.gosselin@gmail.com
TREASURER	Nancy Reigel	Boone	828-268-0637	nancy@reigelridge.com
SPIRITUAL GROWTH COORDINATOR	Sherry Summerlin	Hudson	828-728-4936 H	sherrysummer@charter.net
MISSION EDUCATION & INTERPRETATION COORD.	Terri Williams	New Beginnings	336-426-2250	simplyme3075@yahoo.com
MEMBERSHIP NURTURE & OUTREACH COORD.	VACANT			
SOCIAL ACTION COORD.	Elizabeth Conrad	Wilkesboro	704-223-7877	elizconrad82@gmail.com
COMMUNICATION COORD.	Traci Snyder	First Taylorsville	828-308-3452	tsnyder@caldwellschools.com
SEC. PROG RESOURCES	Margaret Cooper	Wilkesboro	336-292-6971 M	margaretwcooper@icloud.com
NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE				
CHAIRWOMAN	TBD			
NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE Class of 2026	Brenda Kimberlin	Littlejohn	828-728-0371	bjkimberlin22@gmail.com
NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE Class of 2027	Donna Hill	Wilkesboro	336-466-1230	donnaparkshill@gmail.com
NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE Class of 2028	Rhonda Waters	South River Hidd/StPt Parish	828-320-6260	rwaters5748@gmail.com
NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE Class of 2028	Marcia Faw	Millers Creek	336-667-6181	fawmarcia@gmail.com
NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE Class of 2028	Annette Echerd	New Covenant	828-754-5526	awechedard@gmail.com
NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE Class of 2028	VACANT			
HISTORIAN	Terri Clark	Hudson	828-612-2637	rockyknobnana@gmail.com
PARLIAMENTARIAN	Sherry Summerlin	Hudson	828-728-4936 H	sherrysummer@charter.net
LEGACY FUND ENERGIZER & WEBSITE MANAGER	Nancy Reigel	Boone	828-268-0637	nancy@reigelridge.com



Please mark your calendars and avoid scheduling other events on these dates.



Saturday, March 14 – Mission Study – First UMC Hickory with Catawba Valley District

“Practicing Hope” led by Sandra Williamson

Saturday, April 18 - Prayer Breakfast and Memorial Service Site – TBD

“Reflections” – Speaker Pastor Karen Roberts Saturday,

Annual Celebration Date - TBD Site – TBD Speaker - TBD

Saturday, November 7 - Membership and Leadership Development Day (MLDD)

Site – TBD Speaker - TBD

2026 Calendar of Conference Events

March 23 Giving Day All UWFaith Members

May 14 -17 UWFaith Assembly 2026, Indianapolis, IN All UWFaith Members

June 11-13 Spiritual Growth Retreat, Lake Junaluska All UWFaith Members

June 18 - 21 WNCC UMC Annual Conference, Lake Junaluska

Aug. 21-22 Mission u, Catholic Conference Center, All UWFaith Members

Sept. 12 Annual Celebration, St. Lukes United Methodist Church, Hickory All UWFaith Members

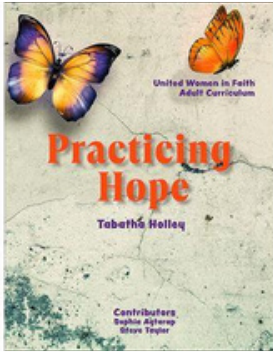
Oct. 17 Leadership Development Day, LDD All District Officers (Virtual)

Dates TBD - Ubuntu Days of Service (various locations) All UWFaith Members

Appalachian/Catawba Valley Districts

United Women in Faith

Mission Study 2026
First Hickory UMC



311 Third Avenue NE Hickory, NC 28601

Saturday, March 14, 2026

9:00a.m. - 1:30p.m.(includes time for lunch)

Practicing Hope

Study Leader: Sandra Williamson

If child care (young children) is needed – Contact Janet Colton (828-502-5979) by March 1st

Registration begins at 9:00 a.m.; Program/Study begins at 9:30 a.m.

No Cost: Bring your own lunch; drinks (tea, coffee, water) and simple desserts will be provided.

This study explores several facets of hope, including its definition, origins, practical foundation, and acknowledgement as a ritual, and places a strong emphasis on developing hope that recognizes present realities (refugia), restorative hope to ease dire circumstances, and hopeful possibilities even in the face of transgression (repair).

Attendance at this study will fulfill requirements for Mission Today Criteria #4.

Conference Hands-on Mission Project: Gift cards (ACE Hardware, Lowe's Home Improvement, Home Depot, MasterCard, VISA, or Walmart) for [Brooks-Howell Home](#) in Asheville, NC

Love Offering: A gift to mission in honor of our United Women in Faith who make hope a reality.

Directions to First Hickory United Methodist Church

From East/Northeast (Sparta, Elkin, Jonesville, Ronda, Yadkinville and Statesville): Take I-77S to Statesville;

From Statesville, take I-40W to Exit 125 toward Hickory; keep right at the fork and follow signs for Lenoir-Rhyne University— merge onto Lenoir-Rhyne Blvd SE; in 1.4 miles, turn left onto Highland Ave., SE; in .3 miles, turn right onto 6th St Pl SE and in .3 miles, keep right to stay on 3rd Ave. NE.; First UMC will be on the right (across the street from the Patrick Beaver Memorial Library and Catawba Science Center.)

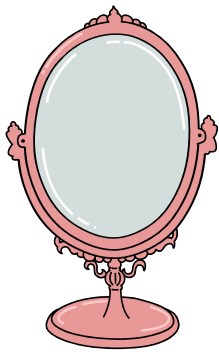
From West (Morganton): Take I-40E to Exit 125 toward Hickory/Lenoir-Rhyne University; Keep left at the fork and follow signs for Lenoir-Rhyne University; turn left onto Lenoir Rhyne Blvd. SE; in 1.4 miles, turn left onto Highland Ave., SE; in .3 miles, turn right onto 6th St Pl SE and in .3 miles, keep right to stay on 3rd Ave. NE.; First UMC will be on the right (across the street from the Patrick Beaver Memorial Library and Catawba Science Center.)

From South (Mooresville, Shelby, Lincolnton, Gastonia): Take 321N to Exit 42 for NC-127N (keep right at the fork); in 3.2 miles, turn right onto 1st Ave NE, then left onto Main Ave NE; at the traffic circle, take the 1st exit and stay on Main Ave. NE and in 400ft turn left onto 3rd Ave NE; keep right to stay on 3rd Ave. NE and First UMC will be on the right (across the street from the Patrick Beaver Memorial Library and Catawba Science Center.)

From North (Boone, Lenoir, Granite Falls): Take US-321S; turn left onto Clement Blvd. NW; in 1.4 miles continue straight onto 2nd Ave. NW and at the traffic circle, take the 2nd exit onto Main Ave. NE; in .1 mile turn left onto 3rd Ave. NE and keep right to stay on 3rd Ave. NE; First UMC will be on the right (across the street from the Patrick Beaver Memorial Library and Catawba Science Center)

From Wilkesboro, Taylorsville, Hiddenite: Take NC-16S and turn right onto St. Peters Church Rd; in 2.1 miles, take a slight right onto Springs Rd; in 6.6 miles, turn right onto 9th Ave. NE and in .8 miles turn left onto 8th St. NE – use the 2nd from the right lane to turn right to stay on 8th St NE, in .3 miles turn right onto 3rd Ave. NE and keep right to stay on 3rd Ave. NE; First UMC will be on the right (across the street from the Patrick Beaver Memorial Library and Catawba Science Center.)

NOTE: Parking is available beside the church on 3rd St NE and behind the church in the parking lot.



"REFLECTIONS"

Prayer Breakfast 2026

Appalachian District

United Women in Faith

Saturday, April 18, 2026, 9am-12 Noon

First Taylorsville UMC, 1400 NC-16, Taylorsville, NC 28681

Speaker: Reverend Karen Roberts, Senior Pastor at Wilkesboro UMC

"2 Corinthians 3:18 is a Bible verse describing believers, with unveiled faces, reflecting the Lord's glory and being transformed into His image from glory to glory by the Spirit."

We honor and remember our Sisters in Faith who experienced their final transformation in 2025.

9:00 -9:45 AM	Registration & Breakfast
9:45 AM- 10:00 AM	Gathering Music
10:00 AM - 10:15 AM	Welcome and Announcements
10:15 AM - 11:45 AM	Worship and Memorial Service

Love Offering will be a Gift in Memory of those being remembered.

Hands-on-Mission: Bethlehem Center of Winston Salem

Please bring GiftCards for the purchase of needed items (Walmart \$25 minimum); or bring washable markers, washable paints jumbo crayons, jumbo pencils, colored pencils, children's books.

Advance registration is required. Cost is \$5 per person. Please send reservations for Prayer Breakfast and names for Memorial Service using the attached forms. Deadline for Registration, Memorial Service information and requests for childcare is April 1, 2026.

If childcare is needed, please contact Sherry Summerlin at (828) 234-0850 by April 1.

Driving Directions to First Taylorsville UMC

From Boone: 421StoHwy16S;FollowHwy16S.; Cross overHwy 64. Church is on your right

From Wilkesboro/N. Wilkesboro/Millers Creek: Follow Hwy16 S.; Cross over Hwy 64. Church is on the right.

From Sparta: Hwy 18StoHwy16S.;Cross over Hwy 64. Church is on the right.

From Yadkinville/Elkin/Jonesville: Hwy 421 N to Hwy 16 S.;Cross over Hwy 64. Church is on the right.

From Lenoir/Hudson/Granite Falls: Hwy 127 N to Hwy 16 S.;Cross over Hwy 64. Church is on the right.

From Mooresville: Take I-77Nto I-40W; take exit 148 (US-64/NC-90) and turn right onto US-64W, take the NC-16exit toward Taylorsville/Conover; turn left on NC-16S; Church is approximately ½ mile on the right.

From Statesville: Hwy 64 W.,Exit 254 onto Hwy 16 S.; Church is approximately ½ mile on the right.

From Union Grove: Hwy 901N, Lefton Hwy 115, Right on Linneys Mill Rd to Sulphur Springs Rd; turn right on Rocky SpringsRd, Left on White Plains Rd, right on Hwy 90 W, left onto Adams Pond Lane, Right onto Hwy 64 W, Exit 254 toward Taylorsville/Conover and turn left onto Hwy 16 S. Church is approximately ½ mile on the right.



REGISTRATION FORM – 2026 APPALACHIAN DISTRICT PRAYER BREAKFAST

Name of Unit _____ # _____ attending X \$5 = _____ (Check enclosed- make checks payable to Appalachian District UWFaith) Mail to: Nancy Reigel, 375 Troy Norris Drive, Boone, NC 28607 (Due by Wednesday, April 1, 2026)

List names of attendees: _____



2026 Prayer Breakfast Memorial Service
Registration and Breakfast will begin at 9 AM

Please complete the form and return it to Sherry Summerlin by April 1, 2026. Print clearly the names of those UWFaith to be remembered at the Memorial Service (for the year of 2025). ***PLEASE INCLUDE A PHOTO IF POSSIBLE.*** Also, list your name and phone number for information to be verified if needed.

Name of Unit: _____

Person reporting: _____ Phone # _____

Name of Person representing Unit during the Memorial Service _____

Office held in Unit _____ (If no one from your unit will be present the District VP will represent your unit.)

List names of those to be remembered....Please Print Clearly. Thank you!

1. _____

List something unique about this Sister(s) we are remembering: _____

2. Please send to: Sherry Summerlin, Appalachian District Spiritual Growth Coordinator, 120 Shady Oak Terrace, Hudson, NC 28638, or email to sherrysummer@charter.net

Deadline: Wednesday, April 1, 2026.

United Women in Faith - Appalachian District Scholarship Application 2026

Annually, the Appalachian District offers stipends of up to \$150 each for attendance at the following events:

- 2** for either the Western North Carolina Conference United Women in Faith Spiritual Growth Retreat or Mission u;
- 1** for a teen girl to attend one of the above events.

Each unit is urged to encourage applications from your unit based on only two conditions:

- ✿ A person who has never attended before
- ✿ A person who is interested in learning more about United Women in Faith

Please appeal to women in your unit to apply for one of these great opportunities to grow their faith!

Applicants for the Spiritual Growth Retreat stipends must email or postmark applications by May 24, 2026.

Recipients will be chosen by the District Executive Committee by June 1, 2026.

Applicants for the Mission u stipends must email or postmark applications by July 3, 2026.

Recipients will be chosen by the District Executive Committee by July 13, 2026.

This application is for: (check one)

- ☐ Spiritual Growth Retreat at Lake Junaluska, NC, June 11-13 (Thu.-Sat.), 2026.(Registration dates TBA.)
- ☐ Mission u at the Catholic Conference Center, Hickory, NC, August 21-22 (Fri.-Sat.),2026. (Registration dates TBA)
- ☐ Teen Application for Spiritual Growth Retreat at Lake Junaluska, NC, June11-13(Thu.-Sat.), 2026.
- ☐ Teen Application for Mission u at the Catholic Conference Center, Hickory,NC,August 21-22 (Fri.-Sat.), 2026.

Notes: Recipients will need to pay the expenses for the event and then turn in a completed Expense Reimbursement Form with receipts to the District Treasurer.

Check our website www.wnccumw.org to view updated Registration Dates and Event information as they are posted.

Full Name

Phone(s)

Street Address

City

State

Zip Code

E-mail Address _____ Local Church _____

Please share why you want to attend your chosen event and how you plan to use the knowledge you will gain:

Recommendation statement from a fellow United Woman in Faith:

Signature

Date

Phone

Return completed form to Appalachian District President Janice Taylor, 580 Waddell Rd., Roaring River, NC 28669 or

j.kay.tay@gmail.com

For questions, call Jan at 336-468-0313.