

# Beacon District



Our theme for 2020

Is to "Love"

Jesus summons us to love the poor, the immigrant, the prisoner, the homeless, the lonely and the lost with willing and grace-filled hearts

"Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God." 1John 4:7 NRSV

## The Purpose of The United Methodist Women

The organized unit of United Methodist Women 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

## Why United Methodist Women Engages in Social Action

United Methodist Women members engage in social action drawing from our biblical and theological Christian tradition and our Wesleyan heritage. We look to the Bible and to United Methodist Church social policy and prioritize the needs of women, children and youth as we determine the primary issues for social action. We also draw on our rich 150-year heritage of engagement in mission as advocates for justice.

How Can United Methodist Women Members Get Involved? We can all do something toward building a just world, to "proclaim the year of the Lord's favor," as the Bible and as our Book of Discipline command us to do.

**1. Choose an issue.** Look in your community, your neighborhood or even the world. Find an issue that interests you. United Methodist Women is always involved in social issues and can be a source of support for you. Examples of issues are economic justice, racial justice, child advocacy, women's concerns, environmental justice, health care and global concerns (such as

child labor, human rights violations, self-determination and others). Always ask why the conditions exist. Develop a list of ways you can work to alleviate the reason for the problem in the area of public policy at the institution level and at the individual level.

**2. Narrow your focus.** Social problems can be very complex. If you try to deal with the whole problem you will become frustrated and overwhelmed. So find a focus. For example, you may choose child advocacy and work on an after-school program for children of working mothers. The key is to find an aspect of the problem that you know you can manage.

**3. Learn about the problem.** Knowledge is power. (a) Contact your social action coordinator. (b) Join the Social Action Network at [www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/act/network](http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/act/network). (c) Participate in the Reading Program: [www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/programs/readingprogram](http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/programs/readingprogram). (d) Stay abreast on issues that affect women and families by visiting [www.unitedmethodistwomen.org](http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org). (e) For daily United Methodist Women news and information on United Methodist Women concerns, follow us on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/UMWomen](http://www.twitter.com/UMWomen). (f) Like us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/UMWomen](http://www.facebook.com/UMWomen). The more you know about a problem, the better equipped you are to deal with it. If you are dealing with a local issue, you should use the resources available in your community that can provide you with information, such as your local government, your church and other churches, United Methodist Women's groups and local organizations. If you are dealing with an international issue, there are also many sources of information, such as United Methodist Women through the United Methodist Office for the United Nations, newspapers and local and national organizations.

**4. Design a plan of action.** You have to set realistic goals. Then plan clear ways to achieve them. Identify the sources of support that you have within the United Methodist Women organization, such as staff contacts for social action, spiritual growth, education and interpretation, and membership nurture and outreach. In your conference and in your district you have many resources that can be useful to you. Contact your conference leadership for program resources. Use your resources. Identify other resources in your community, church and local United Methodist Women's unit. You can also collaborate with a local group that is already actively working on an issue. Involve others.

**5. Act.** Your action can take many forms: (a) Education of others: Share with other people the skills necessary to effect social change. This is one of the fundamental steps toward the construction of a just society. (b) Political action: This includes actions such as letters to elected officials, vigils and public prayers, acts of protest, voter registration and radio and television ads. (c) Social and economic action: This can take several forms, from boycotting or refusing to buy a product to participation in rallies, marches and public demonstrations. (d) Issue advocacy: Advocate for changes in unjust laws and regulations that relate to specific social issues. (e) Advocate to end violence toward women in conflict zones and in their homes: Work with local and state governments to protect survivors of human trafficking and bring their perpetrators to

justice. Speak out in partnership with the homeless and those who are losing their homes due to foreclosures. Organize forums with elected officials. (f) Get involved in media literacy and in your community: Monitor media messages and images. Advocate for fairness in news coverage, equal representation of women and wholesome television entertainment. Join the Green Team and work with local environmental groups to protect the earth, create green spaces and support sustainable development. Serve others by working in soup kitchens, food banks, community gardens and meal delivery programs. (g) Pray: Remember, prayer is one of the most powerful sources of support and change in our lives. Let the power of prayer support you in your actions for justice. (United Methodist Women Website: Social Action)

**EVERYONE IS INVITED**  
**To the North Carolina Conference**  
**United Methodist Women Annual Meeting**  
**Saturday, November 7, 2020 10:00 AM**  
**Via Zoom**

## **UMW 2020 Annual Meeting Registration**

### **COME CELEBRATE OUR MISSION AND MINISTRY**

Each year the North Carolina Conference United Methodist Women meet to worship, fellowship and conduct the business of the conference. In light of this year's group gathering restrictions, the North Carolina United Methodist Women will celebrate 48 years of organization via Zoom. Please register for this event so that we can get you connected via Zoom. There will be no same day registrations accepted this year.

– On-line registration must be submitted no later than Thursday, November 5. Registration Link: <https://nccumw.org/annualmeeting/>

## FROM YOUR DISTRICT TREASURER: Gayle Eason

I want to commend the Local Units for a job well done! The current pandemic has not stopped you from caring for the women, children and youth who are helped by the mission money our United Methodist Women give. We know that many Units have not been holding meetings during the pandemic, and yet we are so close to reaching our 2020 pledge goal.

To date the Beacon District has collected \$23,255.00 for UMW Mission work. To meet our 2020 Beacon District pledge of \$30,000, we need to receive \$6,745 from our Local Units during the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter. I pray that we will step out in faith and that we will meet our 2020 pledge. Every penny counts!!

**REMINDER: The 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter ends on November 30. Please have your 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Remittance to me by December 8, 2020.** I will be compiling and sending my year end report to our Conference Treasurer on December 8. Any local unit reports and remittances received after December 8, 2020 will be held and reported in the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter of 2021.

Thank you for all you do to support our UMW Purpose and the women, children and youth around the world. Matthew 5:16 “Let your **light** so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven”. In these unprecedented and trying times, **YOU** have been and continue to be a Beacon of Light for those in need.

Blessings to all,

Gayle Eason, Beacon District UMW Treasurer

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252 771-5645 (H)

252 339-6798 (C)

## EDUCATION & INTERPRETATION: Carol Kuhn

This past year has been a challenge for all of us, but we made it. We were only able to hold one in-person Mission Study, but through Zoom there were two others. Our Beacon District ended up with 42 of our members participating in the studies. Thank you to all the ladies who took the opportunity to attend whether in person or via Zoom.

The year 2021 will bring new adventures for all of us. It will definitely not be the “we have always done it this way” year. It will be all new and exciting. As Mission u had to be cancelled this year, there are only four people trained to facilitate the studies. Currently the plan is to

have the facilitator lead through Zoom and those who feel comfortable can gather at locations with Zoom connection and others can attend from home through Zoom. Yes, we will miss some of the fellowship, but we will be able to continue our education in missions.

Our first mission study for 2021 will be held on February 20th. The study will be “Finding Peace in an Anxious World”. The book is excellent and very helpful, especially during these times. The study will consist of four hours with a two hour session in the morning, then a lunch break, followed by another two hour session. Hopefully, we will start at 10, end for lunch about 12, then start again at 12:30 or 1 and go until 3. We will need locations with internet capability to sign into Zoom for this study. Facilitator not confirmed yet.

In March, we will learn more about the 150 years of Women in Mission. As some of you have attended part of this study, you can attest to the fact that the United Methodist Women have a very long and interesting history with personal risks and great rewards. Date, time, and facilitator have yet to be determined for this study.

If you are willing to host a Mission Study ,please let me know.

We also request that each person attending a study complete the form (link below) for each mission study.

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1tgUAe\\_fAyxWSvltHmR2tMp5c7F0IHNOgaNiH1I37\\_-o/viewform?ts=5f9066d9&edit\\_requested=true](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1tgUAe_fAyxWSvltHmR2tMp5c7F0IHNOgaNiH1I37_-o/viewform?ts=5f9066d9&edit_requested=true)



Yours in Christ,  
Carol Kuhn, Education and Interpretation Coordinator

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252-619-9007

## **SPIRITUAL GROWTH, Nell Stallings**

John 13:34 “ A new command I give you: ..... As I have loved you, so you must love one another.”

As Jesus was preparing to endure his fate on the cross, he turned to his disciples calling them his children. He went on to tell his followers how they would need to relate to each

other after he was gone. “Love one another,” he commanded them. By offering a command here, Jesus did not focus on the feeling of love, but on the decision to love. Love is first a decision, not an emotion.

But a command to love is not easy to obey. It’s good news to hear that this is a “new command.” Jesus has given us a model for this love through his ministry. He said to love one another as I have loved you. In community with him, we discover the power to love sacrificially too.

When we love as he has loved, we will become a powerful attraction for people who do not know Him. Others can see that we are truly children of God.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, may my love for others attract them to you. And may United Methodist Women be a loving community to those who seek you. May we all be faithful models of your love. Amen

Greetings and blessings to all you UMW members who are enduring this coronavirus quarantining and staying at home. Our lives have changed and been challenged since this virus has entered our world. I hope that all of you are well. Our work continues in the world in spite of all that has happened. It may have even increased because the needs in the world are greater. I wish you well. Our plans for the spiritual growth enrichment event are still in the plan development. We still hope that this will take place in May.

Many blessings!

Nell Stallings

Spiritual Growth Secretary

Beacon District

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## **PROGRAM RESOURCES- Jessie Rivers**

### **Reading Program 2021:**

Download the 2021 Reading Program Catalog at United Methodist Women Website.

The Reading Program is a cherished United Methodist Women tradition that brings together members in mission as they explore, share and discuss the books.

To participate, select one of our four plans and start reading! From captivating novels and heartfelt biographies to urgent messages about issues such as climate change

and mass incarceration, there's something for everyone. Reading Program books are divided into five categories and are available for people of all ages and reading levels. As you read, track your progress using the [Reporting Form](#). When you submit the Report of Completion Requirements, you will be recognized with a [Certificate of Recognition](#). Enjoy the reading!

## MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR- **Melissa Pasek**

Melissa Pasek, our Membership Coordinator, had sent an article for this newsletter letting everyone know the annual Methodist Home for Children Pay It Forward Campaign was Tuesday the 20th of October. The goal was \$150,000 this year. I went online to the Pay It Forward 2020 campaign and found out that \$186,665 was donated by 486 Donors. Sorry, Melissa, that this newsletter didn't make it out before October 20th, but very happy that the campaign was so successful. If you would like to make a donation to Methodist Home for Children, go to [bit.ly/MHC-PIF](http://bit.ly/MHC-PIF). Karin Heughan



### THE LEGACY FUND ENDOWMENT CAMPAIGN

There are many ways to contribute to the Legacy Fund Endowment Campaign. You can send your one-time contribution or plan a monthly commitment, make a planned gift or speak with us if you have questions or need additional information.

United Methodist Women Development Office  
475 Riverside Drive, 15th floor, New York, NY 10115  
212-870-3705; [legacy150@unitedmethodistwomen.org](mailto:legacy150@unitedmethodistwomen.org)

Give online: [unitedmethodistwomen.org/legacyfund](http://unitedmethodistwomen.org/legacyfund)  
Together, we are building our legacy!

The Legacy Fund received \$400,803 on the Day of Giving in 2020. The NC Conference has sent in \$60,743 to date. Almost half of the 60 Million Dollar Goal has been received.

To be informed



Faith Talks are monthly conversations with United Methodist Women hosted by Jennifer R Farmer, Spotlight PR. Each conversation explores themes and resources that empower us to put faith, hope and love into action.

I have enjoyed listening to the conversations on Faith Talks. The talks were very interesting and informative.

### UPCOMING FAITH TALKS:

- **Thursday, November 5 at 2:00 pm ET** • Faith Talks: Faith in the Midst of Uncertainty • [register now](#)
- **Thursday, November 19 at 2:00 pm ET** • Faith Talks: International Women and Missions • [register now](#)
- **Thursday, December 3 at 2:00 pm ET** • Faith Talks: Advent • [register now](#)
- **Thursday, December 17 at 2:00 pm ET** • Faith Talks: Giving • [register now](#)
- **Thursday, January 7 at 2:00 pm ET** • Faith Talks: Creating a Sustainable Lifestyle with Emily Jones • [register now](#)
- **Thursday, February 11 at 2:00 pm ET** • Faith Talks: Sustaining Faith with Emily Jones • [register now](#)

Response, an award-winning publication, is the official magazine of United Methodist Women and is published by the national office. Each issue will touch your heart, stir your soul and challenge your mind. Topics and issues cover spiritual growth, mission outreach and reports on our local, national and international work. The response podcast features audio versions of some of the articles from each issue.





## 2020 Beacon District Calendar

### JANUARY

- 01 New Officers Assume Duties  
11 10:00 a.m. - District Leadership team meeting - Trinity UMC, South Mills

### FEBRUARY

- 08 10:00 a.m. - EAST Sub-District Meeting - Mt. Carmel/Manns Harbor  
29 9:30 a.m. - Mission Study - Bethel/Wares Chapel UMC

### MARCH

- 01 World Day of Prayer  
07 10:00 a.m. - SOUTH Sub-District Meeting - First UMC/Williamston  
28 10:00 a.m. - NORTH Sub-District Meeting - Newland UMC

### APRIL

- 17-19 SEJ Mobile, AL  
25 9:30 a.m. - Mission Study - Duck UMC

### MAY

- 02 Church Women United - Friendship Day  
16 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. - NCConference UMW Spiritual Enrichment Encounter; Haymount UMC  
30 9:30 a.m. - Mission Study - Creswell UMC

### JUNE

- 17-20 Annual Conference of the NC Conference UMC - Greenville (President)  
27 Beacon District Mission Encounter (tentative)

### JULY

- 11 9:00 a.m. - District Finance Committee Meeting - Hertford UMC(Committee includes: Treasurer (Chair), President, Vice President, Secretary, Mission Coordinators for Social Action, Membership; Education & Interpretation and Spiritual Growth)  
23-25 Mission u - Methodist University, Fayetteville, NC

### AUGUST

- 01 ALL REPORTS DUE EXCEPT CANDLE BURNING AND NEW OFFICER REPORT  
15 9:30 a.m. - Conference Finance Committee Meeting - Wake Forest Family Center, 905 South Main, Wake Forest, NC (ATTENDEES INCLUDE: District President, Treasurer, Coordinator for Education & Interpretation)

### SEPTEMBER

- 12 10:00 - District Leadership Team Meeting - Trinity UMC, South Mills  
18-20 Mother Child Retreat, Camp Don Lee

### OCTOBER

- TBA Conference UMW Annual Meeting - place TBA  
24 Beacon District UMW Annual Meeting - Hertford UMC

### NOVEMBER

- 01 Church Women United World Community Day  
07 9:30a.m.-12:30p.m. Conference UMW-DO-IT-DAY, St. James UMC 2000 E. 6th St. Greenville, NC

**2021 Beacon District Calendar**

- January 16 Leadership Team Meeting –Trinity UMC, South Mills – 10:00 A.M.
- February 6 Sub-district Meeting – East, Time and Location TBA
- February Mission Study – Time and Location TBA
- March 6 Sub-District Meeting – South, Time and Location TBA
- March 20 Sub-District Meeting – North, Newland UMC – 10:00 AM
- April Mission Study – Time and Location TBA
- May Spiritual Enrichment Event – Time and Location TBA
- June District Encounter –Time and Location TBA
- July 10 Finance Committee Meeting –Time and Location TBA
- July 22-24 Mission u – Methodist University – Fayetteville
- August
- September Leadership Team Meeting – Time and Location TBA
- October Annual Meeting – Time and Location TBA
- November 6 Conference Do-It-Day – St. James UMC, Greenville – 9:30-12:30
- December

**2020 NC Conference UMW Calendar****JANUARY**

- 01 New Officers issue duties  
 03 Edenton St. UMC, 225 Virginia Road, Edenton, C 27932  
 4:00 pm Mission u Committee Meting, Mission u Nominations Committee Meeting  
 6:00 pm Dinner  
 7:00 pm District Presidents Meeting, Conference Program Committee Meeting  
 04 9:30 am Leadership Team Meeting, Edenton St. UMC, 225 Virginia Rd. Edenton  
 04 District Mailing List for KEDE to KEDE Editor

**FEBRUARY**

- 08 KEDE Deadline (Spiritual Enrichment Event, Southeastern Jurisdictional Quadrennial Mtg)

**MARCH**

- 02 World Day of Prayer

**APRIL**

- 03 Conference Leadership Team Legislative/Mission Event, Raleigh, NC  
 04 9:30 am Leadership Team Meeting, Methodist Home for Children, Glenwood Ave., Raleigh, NC  
 13 KEDE Deadline (Mission u & Mother-Child Retreat)  
 15 Final Deadline Book of Reports to Secretary  
 17-19 UMW Southeastern Jurisdictional Quadrennial Meeting (SEJ) Renaissance Riverview Plaza Hotel

**MAY**

- 02 Scholarship Committee, Teleconference Meeting 1:00pm-3:00pm  
 02 Church Women United - Friendship Day  
 05-15 Untied Methodist Church General Conference, MN  
 16 Spiritual Enrichment Event, 9:00am-3:00pm, Haymount UMC, 1700 Ft. Bragg Rd., Fayetteville, NC

**JUNE**

- 17-20 Annual Conference of the NC Conference United Methodist Church; Greenville, NC

**JULY**

- 15-18 United Methodist Church Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference  
 23-25 Mission u - Methodist University, Fayetteville, NC  
 24 Mission u Nomination Committee - Luncheon Meeting  
 23 & 24 Mission u Committee Meeting

**AUGUST**

- 14 KEDE Deadline (Annual Meeting Issue)  
 15 Finance Committee Meeting, 9:30, Wake Forest Family Center, 905 South Main, Wake Forest, NC

**SEPTEMBER**

- 01 All reports due to Coordinators & Presidents  
 12 Leadership Team Meeting, 9:30 am; New Creation UMC, 4705 Old Chapel Hill Rd., Durham, NC  
 Standing Rules Committee lunch Meeting  
 18-20 Mother-Child Retreat, Camp Don Lee, Arapahoe, NC

**OCTOBER**

- TBA Mission u Committee - Methodist University 4:00 pm, Fayetteville, NC  
 TBA Conference UMW Annual Meeting - Methodist University, Fayetteville,  
 Mission u Nominating Committee Meeting @lunch  
 15 2021 District Officers Report due to conference Secretary

**NOVEMBER**

- 01 Church Women United World Community Day  
 07 Conference UMW DO-IT-DAY, 9:30am-12:30pm St. James UMW, 2000 E. 6th St., Greenville, NC  
 14 KEDE Deadline (Spiritual Enrichment Event Issue and 2021 Calendar)