**A PROGRAM OF UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH**

**SPONSORED BY HOLSTON CONFERENCE UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH**

**Mission u**

**July 19 - 20, 2024**

***First Centenary United Methodist Church ●*** 419 McCallie Ave, Chattanooga, TN 37402

A heart drawn in brown ink

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Join us at **Mission u** as we explore what it means to draw closer to God and  one another.

Jesus told his followers the kin-dom was among them (Luke 17:21). What does  that mean? Who does Jesus say will inherit the kin-dom? How do we transform  ourselves and our communities in ways that bring us closer to the kin-dom and  the kin-dom closer to us? Dive into these questions and more at Mission u 2024  as we examine Scripture together and join in worship, fellowship, and action.

**Mission u 2024 offers three exciting curricula on this theme:**

**Order your copy here: uwfaithresources.org**

**Adult** — *Welcome Home* by Neomi Fletcher

The adult curriculum uses the image of home to explore how living in close  proximity to the kin-dom is like making a home with God. Participants are  invited to develop practices for building healthy, welcoming communities as  a result of being anchored in the abiding love of God.

**Youth** — *Cultivating Symbiosis: The Nature of God’s Kin-dom* by Nica Sy In Creation, we see the power of symbiosis, or interdependent relationship.  The youth curriculum explores the idea of symbiosis between our relation ships with one another and our relationship with God. By drawing closer to  one another and our world, we draw closer to the kin-dom.

**Children** — *Me in the Kin-dom* by Kathy Cook

The children’s curriculum uses the Lord’s Prayer as a lens to help us see that  we are all members of the family of God. Children will begin to understand  that the kin-dom is living with Christ and one another on earth as in heaven.

***Join us!***

**HANDS-ON PROJECT COLLECTION**

**The Bethlehem Center, Chattanooga, TN**

**We are collecting household cleaning and hygiene supplies for our families. This would include detergent, soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, etc.**

**Mission u Schedule**

**July 19, 2024**

9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. Registration

9:45 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. 1st-timer orientation (in-person only)

10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Opening Worship (all attendees)

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Class Session 1

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. Lunch break

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Class Session 2

3:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. Break

3:15 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Class Session 3

**July 20, 2024**

9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Closing Worship (all attendees)

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Class Session

**CEU’s are available for clergy only**

***PLEASE TAKE NOTE OF THE FOLLOWING IMPORTANT INFORMATION!***

**BOOKS MUST BE PURCHASED ONLINE PRIOR TO THE EVENT AT** [United Women in Faith - Shop (uwfaithresources.org)](https://uwfaithresources.org/searchresults.cfm?searchText=kin-dom), [**www.amazon.com**](http://www.amazon.com)**; OR THE SITE OF YOUR CHOICE.**

We are trying to help preserve our environment and are asking participants and instructors to bring their own coffee mug and water bottle to cut down on waste. Snacks will be provided, but you will have to provide your own if you have special dietary needs.

Each district has a scholarship available for a first-timer to attend Mission u. For more information, please contact your District President.

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE: Postmarked by Friday, July 5th.**

**ROOM RESERVATIONS CUT-OFF TUESDAY, JUNE 25th (See below.)**

*Virtual CLASS REGISTRATION FEE is* ***$30*** *to be donated to Mission Giving.*

*In-person CLASS REGISTRATION FEE IS* ***$60*** *FOR EACH ADULT.*

*$10 FOR EACH YOUTH OR CHILD.*

CHILDCARE is provided for infants up through 8 years, only if the child is pre-registered prior to the deadline of June 30th. Cost is $10.00 per child.

**ATTENDEES MUST MAKE THEIR OWN HOTEL RESERVATIONS.** You may stay at any hotel of your choice; however, a block of rooms is available at a special rate for United Methodist Women in Faith who make reservations before **June 18th** at **Staybridge Suites Chattanooga, 1300 Carter Street, Chattanooga .** Free breakfast buffet is included. The hotel is located 1 mile from First-Centenary UMC. An online registration link and phone number to book your room will be provided in your registration confirmation email.

Those persons eligible for reimbursement should submit expense forms **WITH RECEIPTS** to the Conference Treasurer during or after the event. Reimbursements will be made for hotel reservations not to exceed the rate quoted.

Online link for Mission u 2024 registration:

<https://holston-reg.brtapp.com/Missionu2024>

**OUR MISSION u LEADERS**

**Kim Hill, Dean of Mission u,** is a life-long member of Broadway United Methodist Church in Maryville, TN. She has served on several committees and as Worship Work Area Chair. She was a Member-at-Large of United Methodist Women for several years. When Square One, the evening circle, moved their meeting date from Tuesday night to Monday night, she joined them. She is also a member of the Epworth Bells handbell choir. She has been the Communications Coordinator for the Maryville/Smoky Mountain District since 2017. Her goal is to improve communications within the district. She has been married to her wonderful husband Doug for 41 years, and they have 2 daughters, Ashley and Christina. She is looking forward to serving on the Mission u team.

**Deaconess Lori L. Sluder, Assistant Dean,** has been active in UMW since 1990 and has served on the local, district, and conference level in various offices in the Johnson City, Chattanooga, and Knoxville Districts. Lori lives in Louisville, Tennessee and works as the Executive Assistant to the Bishop in the Holston Conference Episcopal Office. She has worked with Holston Conference since 2004. Her husband is the Reverend Michael Sluder, who is the Director of Connectional Ministries for Holston Conference. They have two young-adult children, Josh and Katie.



**OUR MISSION u STUDY LEADERS**

**Ms. Becky Gantz Hall (Virtual Study)** is a graduate of Tennessee Tech University where she holds a B.S. in Natural Resources. She is currently the Executive Director at Christ UMC in Chattanooga, TN. She is the Holston Conference Lay Leader, chair of the Conference Congregational Development Committee, on the Annual Conference Planning Team, and on the Conference Invitation Team. She has been a District United Methodist Women President and a Conference United Methodist Women Officer as well as a teacher at School of Christian Mission and Mission u. Becky has been a General Conference delegate in 2004, 2008, 2012, 2016, and 2019. She is very involved in community service which includes her efforts as a board member of the Bethlehem Center, on the board of Volunteers in Medicine, Mustard Tree Ministries and other charitable involvement such as mission teams to Dominica, St. Martin, Liberia, Zimbabwe, Brazil, Nicaragua, Estonia, Kenya, India, Cuba, South Sudan and more. Becky is married to David; they have two grown children and two grandsons.

**Deaconess Mitzie Sadler-Thorne (Children’s Study)** says, “I am proud to say that I have been a United Methodist all my life. I have been involved with the United Methodist Women, it seems most of my life and attended many meetings and activities with my mother. I have made so many friends as a United Methodist Woman! I am married to Rocky and have two lovely daughters Hannah and Hali, and a nephew, Seth, living with us in Narrows, VA. We attend the First United Methodist Church of Narrows, Virginia. I am also the New River District UMW President.” Mitzi’s past service includes the Holston Conference Social Action Coordinator. She was also the Dean and Assistant Dean for Mission u and has taught the children’s study at Mission u for several years. She also served as the Program Resource Coordinator or the Tazewell District. Alongside her husband, she helps facilitate the Discipleship Bible Study at Bland Correctional Center, a multi-custody facility located in Bland VA, and operated by the Virginia Department of Corrections with a housing capacity of 650 male inmates. Mitzi became a Deaconess in May of 2020 and her ministry is as Special Education Teacher at Pikeview Middle School in Princeton, West Virginia.  She shared, “This year and last have been challenging for all we teachers, students, and families because of the pandemic!" “I look forward to my time with you, my Smoky Mountain District UMW friends, and sharing my path in becoming and serving as

Deaconess. I hope to encourage others to become involved as well.”

A close-up of a person smiling

Description automatically generated**Laura McLean (Youth Study**)

Laura McLean has served as the Associate Director of Connectional Ministries for Youth and Young Adults in the Holston Conference of the United Methodist Church since 2008.

She is passionate about walking alongside young people as they grow deeper in their faith in Jesus, advocating for young people and empowering leaders.

Laura lives in Knoxville, TN with her husband and two young sons.  Laura enjoys spending time with her family, going to the mountains and all things Disney

**ADULT STUDY LEADERS**

******Reverend Laura Rasor** has been a pastor in the Holston Conference for 30 years, serving primarily in the Tri-Cities and Knoxville areas. She was born and raised in Emory, Virginia, the daughter of a college professor and a community organizer. She received her undergraduate degree from Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine, whose mascot is a polar bear and where most students spend their junior year abroad. Laura spent hers in Freiburg, Germany. She received her M.Div. from Candler School of Theology, Emory University. While at Candler, she participated in an immersive ecumenical studies program in Bossey, Switzerland, where she lived and learned in community with 51 people from 32 different countries and 15 different Christian denominations. Following seminary, she spent a year as a full-time chaplain with Grady Health Systems in Atlanta, Georgia, where she was assigned to the HIV/AIDS unit at a time when most patients were dying within 6 months of diagnosis. She currently serves as the Lead Pastor at State Street UMC

in Bristol, Virginia.  In her downtime, she and her husband, David Schoeni, enjoy riding bicycles and hiking in the mountains with their 78-pound “lap dog” Bowie.

A person smiling for the camera

Description automatically generated**Lisa Black** was introduced to United Methodist Women in 2005 as she and her husband, Pastor Bobby G. Black began their ministry journey in Kingsport, TN. Since that time until their retirement in 2018, she has had the blessing of being actively involved on several levels of local and conference service with countless women and local churches within the Holston Conference. Lisa began as a study leader in 2021 with a virtual audience and was grateful to share in-person in 2022 and 2023. She is looking forward to continuing in 2024. Lisa is the mother of two adult children, Nana to six grandchildren and one great-grandson.

**A person holding a dog

Description automatically generatedRev. Mike Feely** is the Executive Director of Mountain T.O.P. in Coalmont, Tennessee. He has been a United Methodist minister in east Tennessee, served as an interim Chattanooga city councilman, run political campaigns, and founded an urban ministry center. He grew up on Lookout Mountain, GA, graduated from Rossville GA High School, and has a B.A. from the University of Georgia. Mike also has an M.Div. from Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington DC and an M.A. in history from Missouri State University. He has taught history and world religions at several colleges and universities and serves as the vice-chair of the SEJ Commission on Archives and History, as well as the editor of *Historians Digest*, the newsletter of the Historical Society of the UMC. He has taught for many years (and for several different conferences) at the United Women in Faith’s Mission u and is a frequent speaker and guest lecturer. Mike is married to Annette and is the proud father of two daughters and two stepsons.

**Reverend Mike Sluder** grew up in Gray, TN and attended Gray UMC.  He met his sweetheart, Lori, in the youth group at church.  They have been married 41 years and have two grown children, a son, Josh, and a daughter, Katie.  Mike graduated from Emory & Henry College in 1983 with a B.S. degree in Math and Physics and earned his M.Div. degree in 1988 at The Divinity School, Duke University.  He was ordained Elder at Holston Annual Conference in 1990.  He is currently serving his seventh appointment as Director of Connectional Ministries for Holston Conference (2015-Present) of the UMC.  Previous appointments were Asbury/Mt. Wesley UMC (1988-1992), Signal Crest UMC (1992-1996), Fairhaven UMC (1996-2002), St. Mark UMC, Knoxville (2002-2007), Bearden UMC (2007-2014), & Associate Director of Connectional Ministries for Missions (2014-2015). He has been involved with Holston Conference’s presence in South Sudan and Uganda since 2007.

**MISSION u REGISTRATION**

**July 19-20, 2024**

***First Centenary United Methodist Church ●* 419 McCallie Ave, Chattanooga, TN 37402**

**Registration Deadline Postmarked by JULY 5, 2024**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ First Time Attendee? Yes No

Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

ARE YOU WILLING TO SHARE DATA WITH THE NATIONAL OFFICE? All data collected by United Women in Faith will be for the sole use of United Women in Faith to promote their programs and engagement opportunities. Most communications will be by email. Please indicate if you do or do not wish to receive information from United Methodist Women on additional program opportunities.

Yes No I prefer NOT to receive phone calls

I Am A Conference Officer: Yes No I Am A District Officer: Yes No

Church: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ District: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Clergy Lay

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

For Clergy Only: Yes, I need CEU credit (1.5 CEUs if all classes are attended).

ADULT IN-PERSON REGISTRATION: **$60**

VIRTUAL REGISTRATION: **$30** TO BE DONATED TO MISSION GIVING

Special Needs: (wheelchair, difficulty walking, etc.) Please indicate: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

In case of emergency, contact: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Names/ages of children (up to 8 years) attending with you for whom you need childcare:

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Lunch on Friday will be provided by Hour Place Restaurant and is included in your registration.**

**MAIL ALL PAGES OF THE COMPLETED REGISTRATION FORM TO:**

**SUSAN DAFFRON**

**2618 BRANTLEY PARK BLVD., MARYVILLE, TN 37804-3092**

YOUTH AND CHILDREN MISSION u REGISTRATION

**July 19-20, 2024**

***First Centenary United Methodist Church ●*** 419 McCallie Ave, Chattanooga, TN 37402

**Registration Deadline Postmarked by July 5, 2024**

Name:

Phone: First Time Attendee? Yes No

Address:

City: State: ZIP:

Church: District:

Parent/Guardian:

Address: SAME AS ABOVE: PHONE:

If not:

City: State: ZIP:

Email Address:

Special Needs: (wheelchair, difficulty walking, etc.) Please indicate:

In case of emergency, contact: Phone:

CHILDREN’S STUDY: Cost: $10 (Rising 3rd grade to Rising 6th grade)

YOUTH STUDY: Cost: $10 (Rising 7th grade to Rising 12th grade)

**Lunch on Friday will be provided by Hour Place Restaurant and is included in your registration.**

**MAIL THE COMPLETED REGISTRATION FORM TO:**

**SUSAN DAFFRON, Registrar**

**2618 BRANTLEY PARK BLVD., MARYVILLE, TN 37804-3092**

**BOOKS MUST BE PURCHASED ONLINE BEFORE THE EVENT AT**

United Women in Faith - Shop (uwfaithresources.org),

[**www.amazon.com**](http://www.amazon.com)**;**

**OR THE SITE OF YOUR CHOICE.**

**Youth and children books are not required for the class, but the books can be used**

**in your churches for youth and children’s groups.**

**A close-up of a couple of women making a heart with their hands

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**Adult Study**

**A book cover with a group of people holding hands

Description automatically generated Children looking at butterflies on a book cover

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**Youth Study**

**Children’s Study**