



# The Connecting Link

SMOKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

Holston  
Conference

Smoky  
Mountain  
District

Local  
Unit

MARCH 2022

## Upcoming Events

Spiritual Enrichment Event †  
Spiritual and Selfcare Retreat  
Zoom  
March 26, 2022

Rise Event †  
April 23  
Hybrid Event

Tablescapes Fundraiser for  
Wesley House  
April 30, 2022

Day Apart Event  
May 14, 2022  
Soul Care  
Mountain View UMC

Assembly 2022  
May 20-22, 2022  
Orlando, FL or Virtually

Mission U 2022 †  
July 22-23, 2022  
Cokesbury UMC or  
Zoom

Social Action Event  
August 27, 2022  
Random Acts of Flowers  
Place TBD

New Visions Event  
Fall 2022

Annual Meeting  
November 5, 2022

The † symbol denotes a  
Conference or Jurisdiction event.  
For more information or to  
register for conference events,  
visit our website:  
<http://holstonUMW.org/>



## THE JOURNEY

The year 2022, has gotten off to a great start. Except for January 1, all Saturdays in January were filled with United Women in Faith meetings and events. On January 15, the Smoky Mountain District Leadership Team and Unit Presidents met to plan District events for the year. Unit Presidents shared information about how their Units were coping through the COVID pandemic. The Holston Conference United Women In Faith Social Action event, *Do No Harm: Understanding and Challenging the School-to-Prison Pipeline*, hosted by Emily Jones, National United Women in Faith Staff, was on January 22. At the end of the event, Donna Mosby, Holston Conference United Women In Faith President, asked us what could we do in our Districts to dismantle and stop the School-to-Prison Pipeline. On January 29, we participated in the first ever Conference, District and Unit Officer training session. Those training were either National United Women In Faith Staff or SEJ Officers. Some stated that it was the best officer training session ever!

Donna's question from the Social Action Event remained in our minds. What are we going to do to dismantle and stop the School-to Prison Pipeline? A timely opportunity arose to advocate for equity in Knox County Schools, thanks to our own Jamie Singer. We learned that there would be a work session on February 7, and that the agenda included a proposed equity policy. Very quickly, plans were made for the Smoky Mountain District and the Tennessee Valley District United Women In Faith to be at the meeting as well as to have a few United Women In Faith speakers. Those who could not attend, supported by emailing School Board members and praying. United Women in Faith showing their faith, hope and love, sprang into action! We understand this is a huge problem and one meeting will not fix it, but it was a step in the right direction. Perhaps, that is all God requires is that we take the first step and then the next and the next...

Assembly 2022, **Turn It Up!** will be held in Orlando, FL, on May 20 – 22, 2022. Online registration is available. Registration through April 22, 2022, is \$365 for in person and \$235 for virtual. The Smoky Mountain District United Women in Faith have scholarships available. Please let me know if you are interested in new ways and paths and all United Women in Faith as we acquire new wineskins.

Mission u 2022 will be held both in person and virtually. In person will be at Cokesbury UMC in Knoxville, TN. The dates are July 22 – 23, 2022. The theme is *Who Can We Be Together? Building Communities of Hope and Joy*. We will look to Luke 13 to give us a "bigger and broader vision of the community Christ is calling us to be in times of loss, grief and massive disruption.



United  
Women  
in Faith

## United Methodist Women is now United Women in Faith

We've taken a new name to better reflect how we answer our calling today. It's an exhilarating time, as we commit to even greater inclusivity, action, and impact. We remain women of passion and power, united by God's love in our mission to support women, children, and youth.



## SUSANNAH'S HOUSE BREAKS GROUND

Since 2013, Susannah's House has provided intensive outpatient treatment for pregnant mothers with substance abuse disorder. It was a perfect place for mothers and their children with classrooms and a playground. Hundreds of vulnerable moms have found sobriety, life after trauma, love, and acceptance.

Next to the building was a large vacant lot that we envisioned for future housing for mothers who were homeless or living in unsafe places. Ground has been broken on phase 1 of our dream house. Whaley Construction trucks have begun the excavation and Mike Stevens Homes and friends will build the beautiful, safe home for 8 moms and 8 babies.

Many have given love gifts and purchased bricks for our "Walk of Honor."

Please let us know if you can help with donations of materials or workmanship or volunteer your time. You can also go to our website—[General 1 — Susannah's House \(susannahshouse.org\)](http://General 1 — Susannah's House (susannahshouse.org)) for other ways to support Susannah's house.

Rebekah Fetzer  
Executive Director

## TABLESCAPES

There are many things that we have missed due to the COVID pandemic and one of them is Tablescales. The annual Wesley House fundraising is returning on April 30. The Smoky Mountain District United Women in Faith Leadership Team will sponsor a table decorated by Lori Sluder and Susan Daffron. Our table theme is Spring Where You Are!

We are so excited to be able to have an in-person Tablescales again! There will be a silent auction and entertainment from The Grannies. What a fun way to support Wesley House.

If your Unit would like to sponsor a table or just buy a seat at one of the tables, please contact Sharon Earl, 865-524-7185. Online table sponsor registrations may be made at [www.wesleyhouseknox.org/tablescales](http://www.wesleyhouseknox.org/tablescales).

Hope to see you there!

## EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION



This year the offering for A Call to Prayer and Self Denial goes to deaconesses and home missionaries.

Deaconesses and home missionaries are approved through a process established by United Women in Faith, consecrated and commissioned by a bishop at settings approved by the Board of Directors of United Women in Faith. They shall have a continuing relationship to The United Methodist Church through United Women in Faith.

Deaconesses and home missionaries are available for service with any agency or program of The United Methodist Church. Deaconesses and home missionaries may also serve in United Methodist Church agencies or programs, provided that approval is given by United Women in Faith in consultation with the bishop in the receiving area. (1913.4, 2016 *Book of Discipline*)

Those serving in Holston Conference are:

Cindy Campbell, MyRide SE Tennessee Coordinator, SE TN Agency on Aging & Disability, Chattanooga

Donna Camper, Bristol Recovery Road for Women, Inc

Margaret Frazier, Colonial Heights, Kingsport, Director of Youth Ministry

Terri Craft Goodin, Special Education teacher, Union County Schools

Lisa Nichols, Jubilee Project Executive Director in Sneedville

Mitzi Sadler-Thorne, Princeton, WV, a school-teacher and ministry in prisons

*Continued on page 3*

## SPIRITUAL GROWTH

### Hooray for Spring 2022!

Dear United Women In Faith Friends,

As I write this, there are remnants of Winter, but when you see this, glorious Spring will be upon us! The early trailing arbutus will long have poked their fragrant heads up and their blossoms have blown like snow along Chestnut Top Trail in the Smokies. The daffodils and jonquils will have gone, but my lilacs will be in full-bloom and day lilies awaiting their turn!

Spring, a time of hope and new beginnings and the Resurrection! We as organized United Women in Faith have much to hope for now as the New Wine for New Wineskins initiatives point us onward.

Hope and newness are words to also describe how we feel as we move forward with our old friend, United Women in Faith, as she presents herself in a new cloak for tulip time and Easter. She will bring us fresh ideas but also remind us that Spring is also a time for pruning. That's just what we'll do, as we change.

Just as with our flowers and shrubs, newness will come as more women of all ages seek the joy of gathering as United Women in Faith in a streamlined, welcoming way. All this may sound a bit nebulous but many resources have been provided to assist us in understanding what's coming. To help, go to [www.unitedmethodistwomen.org](http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org) for videos and access to Mighty Networks for Soul Care inspiration, and read *Response Magazine* articles: July/Aug2021, "Caring for the Soul - United Methodist Women Pilot First Soul Care Retreat" and Nov/Dec 2021 issue "New Wineskins for New Times United Methodist Women Updates for Change" both written by Yvette Moore, Director of Public Relations and Marketing.

Yvette shared Mark 2:21-22 (NIV) explaining how we must move forward in newness to be more inclusive. *"No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment. Otherwise, the new piece will pull away from the old, making the tear worse. And no one pours new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and both the wine and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins."*

*Continued on page 3*

## LOCAL UNIT SECRETARY – PLEASE KEEP US UP TO DATE ON OFFICER CHANGES



During these pandemic months, we have made new ways to keep in touch with our sisters in United Women in Faith and our communities. Postal mail, phone calls, texts, email, and ZOOM help bridge the loneliness gap for those who are not able to socialize as before.

Keep up the MISSION work. Pray for one another each day and find ways to encourage, inspire and support one another. Our mission is still to focus on supporting God's word and work with women, children and youth.

Everyone always wants to know what is going on, and it is impossible to communicate if we do not have correct contact information, so please keep me up to date on your Local Unit officers.

I have distributed all Local Unit Officers (the information I have) with all Local Unit Presidents. Please contact me at any time if you have questions! **We truly appreciate your willingness to serve as a Local Unit Secretary.** We literally could not carry on our business of mission to women, children, and youth around the world without you!!!

Blessings!

**Sandra Guinn**  
**Smoky Mountain District United Women in Faith Secretary**  
408 E 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave.  
Lenoir City, TN 37771  
sjguinn336@charter.net

## THE JOURNEY

*Continued from page 1*

What would be possible if we tend to the needs of our communities in small yet radical ways as Jesus did?" Scholarships are also available.

As our new logo and theme suggests, let us **Live in Peace...Build Up One Another**, Romans 14:19.

Blessings,  
Susan

## EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION

*Continued from page 2*

Think God might be calling you into ministry as a lay person?

During a period of discernment, we listen for the call of God on our lives. The Deaconess-Home Missioner Discernment event is an opportunity to explore God's call to vocational ministry as a Deaconess or Home Missioner of The United Methodist Church. During these 2-3 days we explore scripture, hear and share call stories, and learn what it takes to be in relationship as a Deaconess or Home Missioner, all in a retreat-like setting.

Discernment Events are held at various times and locations throughout the year. Space is limited.

Interested in attending a discernment event? For more information, please e-mail [deaconess@unitedmethodistwomen.org](mailto:deaconess@unitedmethodistwomen.org).

Ginny West Case  
Education and Interpretation

## SPIRITUAL GROWTH

*Continued from page 2*

New opportunities await us with new NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP, MISSION U, SOUL CARE RETREATS and more.

Jesus Christ himself taught care of the soul by example when he rose early in the morning for time alone for prayer to center himself before a full day of crowds and service. That's what Soul Care Retreats are: a new approach to member enrichment focused on giving care to your whole person—mind, body and spirit.

Smoky Mountain District Day Apart will be held on May 14 at Mountain View UMC and Serenity Gardens. Our program will be on Soul Care and our speaker will be Rev. Kim Goddard. Time will be offered for meditation and sojourn in the Serenity Garden. Lunch will be served at 12 noon. Registration form included on page 8 and on our website and Facebook page. A Zoom option will also be available. As new wine changes and expands—so does old wine. None of our members, new or current, stop growing and changing. We all need new wineskins. Our new wineskins will benefit everyone!

Wishing you blessings!  
Cassie Sylvester

Note: Excerpts taken from articles in Response Magazine July/Aug2021 & Nov/Dec 2021 issues

## TREASURER'S REPORT

I am very pleased to report that the Smoky Mountain District United Women In Faith sent in over \$37,000 in Pledge to Missions for 2021. Although we did not meet our Pledge of \$52,000, I still feel that this amount is definitely something we can be proud of. For 2022, our Pledge has been set at \$53,464. I ask all of you to please prayerfully consider at your Unit meetings how we can all increase our giving to the District. Every penny of Pledge funds collected goes to United Women in Faith mission projects.

The Five Channels of Giving that count towards our Pledge are (1) Pledge to Mission, (2) Special Mission Recognitions, (3) Gift to Mission, (4) Gift in Memory, and (5) World Thank Offering.

As you receive this newsletter, the fiscal first quarter will have ended and we will be in the second quarter. Second quarter remittances are due to me by May 20<sup>th</sup>.

If you have any questions at all regarding our giving, please give me a call or email!

Blessings,  
Kim Henry  
Treasurer  
865-789-3793  
kimodb63@gmail.com

## LOCAL UNIT NEWS

### ST. MARK KNOX United Women in Faith

St. Mark Knox United Women In Faith has a long tradition of assembling Valentine goody bags and boxes for our college students. It is a sign whether they are attending college locally or away from home, that we love them and pray for them and their success.

This year we assembled 10 bags for college students, 2 for our church nursery workers, and 1 for our much loved office administrator.



## SELF-CARE IS NOT SELFISH



## SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT EVENT AND SPIRITUAL SELF-CARE RETREAT

Join us on Zoom on March 26 at 10AM for our Spiritual Enrichment Event and Spiritual Self-Care Retreat. Link to the Zoom meeting is:

<https://zoom.us/j/97645775228?pwd=M0ozdm5Jei9YdWE5V1hSYld5VXdGQT09>

Meeting ID: 976 4577 5228

Passcode: 254496

Dial by Phone

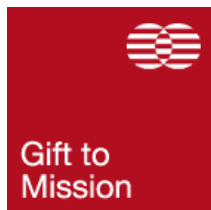
+1 (312) 626 - 6799 US

Take an hour for yourself and join us for this much-needed event. We all need a little self-care.

Take a look at the self-care graphic and practice one of these when you feel stressed and overwhelmed.

If you need more information to join the meeting, please email me at kimhillumw@gmail.com.

## GIFT TO MISSION CARDS



A Gift to Mission honors someone in her or his name with an undesignated Gift to Mission of at least \$5.00. Gift to Mission is one of the five channels of Mission Giving. Mission Giving supports the total program of mission carried out by United Women in Faith. With your gift, you honor someone, and you make a difference in the lives of women, children, and youth...around the world.

### What is on the Inside?

Each of the Thank You, Baby, Thinking of You, Congratulations, In the Service of Christ, Special Day, and Peace cards have a message printed on the inside.

The Happy Birthday and Merry Christmas cards are blank on the inside.

All of the cards have a message on the back of the card to indicate that a Gift to Mission has been given in the recipient's honor through United Women in Faith...and includes a short description of an example of a mission project supported by Mission Giving.

Contact Kim Henry, District Treasurer, to order cards. Her email is kimodb63@gmail.com and her phone number is 865-789-3793.

Ginny West Case



## SOCIAL ACTION

### SAVE THE DATE

#### Annual District Social Action Event

August 27, 2022

Ladies, it is never too early to mark your calendars and save the date for our annual district-wide Social Action event. Since both local units and Conference United Women in Faith have invested efforts and time and energy on the two topics chosen by the conference, I chose an organization close to home which benefits many surrounding counties in our district as well as nationally.

**Random Acts of Flowers** is a national non-profit organization that repurposes flowers from the community and gives what would otherwise be "waste" a second life by creating beautiful bouquets to deliver to individuals in healthcare facilities.

Director Mick Reed will be our featured speaker and a love offering will be accepted to further their mission. In advance of the event, I am asking our United Women In Faith ladies as you do your garage selling, spring cleaning, or decluttering, to save any vase, glass or plastic, 4'-10' in size. These are their specified size requirements. This vase drive will further their efforts as they can brighten or change a person's day by their botanical delivery. This charity is exclusively supported by private donations. So, not only vases are necessary to fund their mission, but monetary gifts as well.

More details to follow in the coming months, but for now, start collecting those vases. We may even have a competition between units to see who collects the most!

Also, we are currently in need of a **HOST** church for the event. If your church would be willing to host, please contact me by email or phone. Thanks in advance.

Your Sister in Christ,

Alice Nichols  
Social Action Event Coordinator  
Smoky Mountain District

[Alice.nichols27@gmail.com](mailto:Alice.nichols27@gmail.com)

865-803-6739

## SOCIAL ACTION

Putting the “Social” in Social Action:

Have you ever had a party at a school board meeting? Recently at the “Do No Harm” Social Action Zoom event, the women of Smoky Mountain District were challenged to find local opportunities to interrupt the school to prison pipeline. Only 1 week after the event, Daniel Watson from the Knox County School Board requested “women of faith” to speak in support of Knox County’s proposed Equity Policy. The policy is a formalization of an effort in the Knox County Schools strategic plan that has been ongoing since 2008. This effort has reduced student suspensions and implemented student positive behavior supports rather than focusing on disciplinary action as a first step. The proposed Knox County Schools Equity policy is right in line with Women United in Faith’s national effort to interrupt the school to prison pipeline.

The Flash call to social action went out 5 days before the School Board work session (7 February 2022) and 21 United Women in Faith from across the Holston Conference showed up and showed out in their red outfits in support. It was a quite a scene where United Women in Faith from the Smoky Mountain District mingled with the Tennessee Valley District Women United in Faith, Justice Knox, the Knoxville Urban League, Centro Hispano and other partners advocating for equity. The United Women in Faith was the largest group at the meeting!

One of the fringe benefits of attending the meeting is that during breaks, attendees had access to the executive team at the school system and the elected officials. Although some on the board seemed confused as to the definition of equity during the meeting and were therefore reluctant to vote favorably, the superintendent agreed with Donna Mosby, Holston Conference United Women In Faith chair at the break that school board training could include this topic. God works through us at every opportunity, and it was a joy to hear all the public forum speakers educate the board and support the equity policy. (KCS TV has the February 7, 2022, work session posted to their YouTube channel videos. The public forum starts at 3:56).

If you want to send out a flash call to attend a school board or county commission meeting where you live, you have many friends who will be willing to join your effort. Start with our Social Action Chair Alice Nichols who will give you all the tools and tricks to have the largest impact. The change may take time to be realized, but United Women in Faith are strong when we join together in our mission.

Tips and Tricks for effective Advocacy at public meetings:

Collect and distribute information provided by the government entity

Know the rules for public forum

Come prepared with snacks, as these meetings can be long and public forums are usually at the end

Prepare background materials about United Women In Faith and our position on the topic and provide them to elected officials just before the meeting starts

Bring signs to hold on your lap during the meeting that support your topic

Wear United Women in Faith red and take photos/be visible if the meeting is taped



Gathered at Church Street United Methodist Church headed to the KCS Board meeting



At the KCS Board meeting Feb 7, 2022

# Smoky Mountain District United Women in Faith

## 2022 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

As COVID cases have continued to increase in the Southeast, we continue to exercise caution in planning our events. You will be notified with each event whether it will be virtual, in-person or mixed.

<b>MARCH</b>	<b>Women's History Month</b>
March 26	Holston Conference United Women in Faith Spiritual Enrichment Event "Spiritual & Self-care Retreat" (online event)
April 23	Holston Conference United Women in Faith RISE Event "Climate Justice Campaign: Just Energy for All" (hybrid event)
April 30	Wesley House Tablescares SMD UWF table theme will be Spring Where You Are!
<b>MAY</b>	<b>Asian American &amp; Pacific Islander Awareness Month</b>
May 14	Smoky Mountain District United Women in Faith Day Apart Mountain View UMC and Serenity Gardens "Soul Care"
May 20-22	National United Women in Faith Assembly 2022 (hybrid event) "Turn it Up!" Orlando, Florida. Registration: <a href="https://assembly2022.org">https://assembly2022.org</a>
<b>JUNE</b>	<b>Immigrant Heritage Awareness Month</b>
June 5-8	Holston Annual Conference
July 22-23	Holston Conference United Women in Faith Mission u Event Luke 13: A Transformative Biblical Curriculum for Adults, Youth and Children (hybrid event) Cokesbury United Methodist Church North, Knoxville, Tennessee
August 6	Holston Conference United Women in Faith Social Action Event (hybrid event)
August 27	Smoky Mountain District United Women in Faith Social Action Event "Random Acts of Flowers"
Fall 2020	Smoky Mountain District United Women in Faith New Visions Event
November 5	Smoky Mountain District United Women in Faith Annual Meeting





# District Day Apart

SMOKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

## SOUL CARE RETREAT

May 14, 2022

Mountain View United Methodist Church  
3200 Maryville Pike  
Knoxville, TN 37920

Registration begins at 9:30 am  
Program begins at 10:00 am  
**REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS MAY 6.**

Our program will be on Soul Care and our speaker will be Rev. Kim Goddard  
Time will be offered for meditation and sojourn in the Serenity Garden.  
Lunch will be served at 12 noon..



### REGISTRATION FOR DISTRICT DAY APART

*Please complete and return OR email to Sandra Guinn at [sjguinn336@charter.net](mailto:sjguinn336@charter.net)  
by **May 6** to register.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Unit: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Is this your first UWF event? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Childcare: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ Names/Ages \_\_\_\_\_  
No \_\_\_\_\_

Cost: \$10.00 payable at the door. Including lunch  
\$2.00 for Program only

**PLEASE BE SURE TO INCLUDE YOUR HOME OR CELL PHONE NUMBER!**

*Mail or email completed registration form to:*

Sandra Guinn  
408 East Third Avenue  
Lenoir City, TN 37771  
[sjguinn336@charter.net](mailto:sjguinn336@charter.net)



United  
Women  
in Faith

**Smoky Mountain  
District United  
Women in Faith**

Communications Coordinator  
Kim Hill  
1504 Aberdeen Drive  
Alcoa, TN 37701

Email:  
kimhillumw@gmail.com

Non Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
Paid  
Knoxville TN  
Permit No 582

Address Service Requested

**DAY OF GIVING 2022**

United Women in Faith members continue to put their faith, hope, and love into action on behalf of women, children and youth in our communities and around the world. On **Day of Giving, March 23<sup>rd</sup>**, you can ensure that future generations of women can continue this vital legacy.

This year our theme is "Embracing the Future", we will have a very special **6-hour Live Day of Giving Facebook Event**. Programming was specifically chosen to cover the full breath of our work as United Women in Faith. Viewers will be able to watch panelist discussions, specialists on justice issues, uplifting speakers, meaningful worship, live music and much, much more!

**. Invite your friends and join us March 23<sup>rd</sup> on Facebook at 10:00 am EST and stay with us throughout the day to experience meaningful connections to your donations at work. <https://fb.me/e/Tp00GXU9>**

- Online at: [unitedmethodistwomen.org/150](https://unitedmethodistwomen.org/150)
- By phone: 1 800-278-7771 (8 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST, M-F).
- Mail check to:  
United Women in Faith  
Attn: Legacy  
475 Riverside Drive, 15th floor  
New York, NY 10115  
(Please include "Day of giving" in memo)
- Text "Legacy 150" to 41444 on your mobile device