

The Flame

Florence District
PO Box 408
Florence, SC 29503

The Flame ...

MARCH 2023
www.uwfaith.or

He Is Risen



United
Women
in Faith

A Message from the President

Melissa A. Epps



Greeting to the ladies of the Florence District United Women in Faith, I hope you are doing well and that 2023 is going to be a great year for you. Again, it's a privilege to serve as your District President. The Executive team has been busy planning events. I am excited for what we have in place for the year. For detailed information see sections in The Flame and Mission Echo

Florence District Local Officers training was success. We give thanks St. Michael UMC for hosting our Local officers' training and to our special guest, Rev. Terry Flemming, District Superintendent for bringing the ladies greetings, Michelline Cooper Williams, Dean of Mission U for her uplifting morning message, and district officers for conducting training. If a local officer needs assistance feel free to reach out to District officers. Thanks to all who were able to attend Legislative Days. Our upcoming event is The Day Apart on March 11, 2023 and we are thankful for our hosting church. Day Apart will be in-person this year. I'm thanking everyone in advance on your attendance. Remember to review Florence District and the Conference Calendar for upcoming events to plan accordingly. I was able to participate in Leadership Development Days (LDD). Plenaries and sessions were inspirational, insightful, and informative. Sessions were recorded so you are able to watch recorded LDD programs.

United Women in Faith continues to collect stamps and soda can tabs. The Conference is requesting that local Units will mail these items to the designated locations; this will defray the shipping cost of the conference. Mission U will be in person at Spartanburg Methodist College July 20 – 22, 2023. Please continue to make your pledges. The conference relies on our pledges to be able to meet National pledge and to fulfil the conference obligation to serve all.

If a local unit would like someone from the district to come talk with your unit, feel free to contact me and arrangements will be made to provide assistance with programs or share information about UWIF with your ladies. We are here to assist and to grow in Christ together.

As we go day by day remember, We know that God works all things together for good for the ones who love God, for those who are called according to his purpose. -- Romans 8:25.

Joy | Love | Hope | Faith,

Melissa A. Epps

Florence District UWIF President



United
Women
in Faith

Special Emphasis Months

February - Wallace Family Life Center

April - Bethlehem Community Center/Columbia S. C.

September - Killingsworth/Columbia S.C.

October - Bethlehem Center/ Spartanburg S. C.

READING PROGRAM

2023

Books can be purchased directly from the retailer of your choice or borrowed from your local public library.

For books on previous reading lists, go to: uwfaith.org/read

To visit the Reading Program Site scan the QR Code



PLAN

- 5 books each year.
- 1 book from each category.
- Selections from the current reading lists if not included in previous reports.
- Regular reading of **response** magazine.

PLAN

- 10 books each year.
- 2 books from each category.
- Selections from the current reading lists if not included in previous reports.
- Regular reading of **response** magazine.

PLAN

- 15 books each year.
- 2 books from each category.
- PLUS 5 additional books from any category.
- Selections from the current reading lists if not included in previous reports.
- Regular reading of **response** magazine.

PLAN

- 20 books each year.
- 2 books from each category.
- PLUS 10 additional books from any category.
- Selections from the current reading lists if not included in previous reports.
- Regular reading of **response** magazine.

**Eligible years: For 2023, books from the 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021-2022 and 2023 Reading Program lists are all eligible for Reading Program reporting credit, if you have not previously read them.*

I'm Proud of You for Supporting the Legacy Fund

Submitted by: Maureen Thomas - Legacy Larson



The United Women in Faith continue to celebrate The Legacy Fund Endowment Campaign. Last year we set a conference goal of \$10,000. Each unit/circle was asked to make donations of \$1.00 per member by August so that our contributions since inception would be at least \$100,000. I was excited to announce in October at the Annual Meeting that the challenge was met. Just recently the end of the year report was submitted. You cannot imagine the joy and pride I felt for what YOU have done. As of December 31, 2022, the SC United Women in Faith donated \$16,899.34. The total contributed inception to date is \$108,024.19.

We are grateful to all members, units, family, and friends who have contributed. Your generosity ensures that the mission movement started by our foremothers in 1869 continues so that future generations of United Women in Faith can and will continue to lead, serve, and discover new ways to change the world. However, we must not stop now; the continued support of the Legacy Fund Endowment is important and ensures our mission dollars can be used to sustain programming that helps chart a course for a bright and hopeful future for women, children, and youth around the world.

We have not established a goal for 2023, yet. In the meantime, we encourage you to participate in the Day of Giving on March 23, 2023.

**As of December 31, 2022,
the SC United Women in Faith donated
\$16,899.34**

Reprint from The Mission Echo

United Methodist Women 150 Necklace and Pendant



The limited edition pendant with chain proudly displays United Methodist Women's years of service 1869 and 2019, and the colorful 150th anniversary logo in soft enamel.

\$50

Proceeds go to the Legacy Fund

To purchase:
www.umwmissionresources.org

First Black President Elected for the Arkansas Conference United Women in Faith



Maybelline Strong, was elected to serve as the first Black president of the United Women in Faith for the Arkansas Conference of the United Methodist Church. Strong is a native of Little Rock.

In a recent article (www.arumc.org), Strong stated: "As president, I want to help improve the lives of all women, children, and youth.

Not just a particular race, gender, or socioeconomic level in Arkansas but also individuals in need locally, nationally, and internationally.

We, Sisters of Grace, have a new name, new programs, and a new way to be a part of our organization,"

Photo From: www.arumc.org - Author Day Davis

Join us for bimonthly conversations with United Women in Faith, hosted by Jennifer R. Farmer.

Subscribe to the Faith Talks podcast.

Listen to previously recorded episodes at
<https://www.spreaker.com/show/faithtalks>
or wherever you get your favorite podcasts.



Scan the QR Code to access [Faith Talks Podcast](https://www.spreaker.com/show/faithtalks) website

Announcements

MARCH 23
DAY OF
GIVING

Presidential
Scholarship
Deadline
(postmarked by)
March 1st

**Spiritual
Growth**
Event via Zoom
April 22nd

COME TOGETHER
BE TOGETHER
MAY 20TH
VIRTUAL EVENT
10 AM



MISSION TRIP
ASHEVILLE
to
NASHVILLE
MARCH 27-30

We Need You!
VACANCY
Committee on
Nominations
See talent form inside

Mission u
July 20 - 22th
Spartanburg
Methodist College
(In person event)

APRIL
SPECIAL EMPHASIS MONTH
BETHLEHEM
COMMUNITY
CENTER
COLUMBIA



United
Women
in Faith

The Mission Echo, the official publication of the South Carolina Conference United Women in Faith, is published regularly four times a year.
To subscribe emailing scumf@gmail.com.

Reprint from **The Mission Echo**

The

I HAVE TALENT!

Tell me how to share it with United Women in Faith

Name: _____

District: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Circle preferred contact: phone or email



*Please return form to a member
of the Committee on Nominations*

I HAVE TALENT!

Tell me how to share it with United Women in Faith

Name: _____

District: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Circle preferred contact: phone or email



*Please return form to a member
of the Committee on Nominations*

I HAVE TALENT!

Tell me how to share it with United Women in Faith

Name: _____

District: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Circle preferred contact: phone or email



*Please return form to a member
of the Committee on Nominations*

I HAVE TALENT!

Tell me how to share it with United Women in Faith

Name: _____

District: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Circle preferred contact: phone or email



*Please return form to a member
of the Committee on Nominations*

I HAVE TALENT!

Tell me how to share it with United Women in Faith

Name: _____

District: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Circle preferred contact: phone or email



*Please return form to a member
of the Committee on Nominations*

I HAVE TALENT!

Tell me how to share it with United Women in Faith

Name: _____

District: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Circle preferred contact: phone or email



*Please return form to a member
of the Committee on Nominations*

Th Fla

March 2023

••

www.uwfaith.
org

Treasurer's Corner

Greetings Ladies,

I need help with updating 2023 Treasurers' list.

Please provide the following information to me ASAP!

Church Name:

UWiF Treasurer Name:

Contact number:

Email address:



Thank You

Contact Information: Dorothy Murray, Florence District Treasurer

P.O. Box 602, Kingstree, South Carolina 29556 * (843)-356-0398

Email: thebig_dm@yahoo.com

Florence District Annual Day Apart 2023

Our Florence District Day Apart Event will be in person this year.

The event will be at Asbury UMC/Shiloh, where the Local Unit President is Ms. Anita Simon.

are WELCOME to attend.

Location/Host: *Asbury United Methodist Church (Shiloh)*

355 Pudding Swamp Road

Lynchburg, South Carolina 29080

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Host: *Asbury United Women in Faith*

Pastor: *Reverend Corey A. Lasane*

For more information contact:

Melissa Epps; Florence District UWiF President /eppsmelissa@gmail.com/(803)-316-4971

or

Ms. Anita Simon; Asbury UWiF Unit President/Leki1380@yahoo.com/(803)-305-5974

Thank you in Advance for your participation in making this event a success!!

MISSION TODAY ACTION FORM

Please _____ Send _____ Completed _____ Form _____ To: _____

Send by this date: ____/____/____

Unit President: _____ Date: _____ Unit _____

Name: _____ Number of Members in Unit: _____

Units, which include all circles, must complete at least 10 of the following items. All units must complete #1.

Check if your unit:

- _____ 1. *Made and met its Pledge to Mission.
- _____ 2. Used the **Daily Prayer Guide at most meetings** to pray for people in mission and for our mission work with women, children and youth.
- _____ 3. Added at least one or more members to its roll.
- _____ 4. Had at least one member who subscribes to **response: the magazine of women in mission**.
- _____ 5. Had at least one member (other than a conference or district officer) attend Mission u and/or a district or local mission study.
- _____ 6. Had at least one member (other than a conference or district officer) attend the District Annual Meeting.
- _____ 7. Had at least one member (other than a conference or district officer) attend the Conference Annual Meeting.
- _____ 8. Had at least two members who wrote to at least five people listed in the **Daily Prayer Guide** – at least once during the year.
- _____ 9. Participated in **education programs for children through prayers and donations of funds, supplies or volunteer hours at schools, homes and churches. This includes Vacation Bible School participation.**
- _____ 10.* Is a Five Star Unit, contributing to all five channels of Mission Giving which are Pledge to Mission, Gift in Memory, Gift to Mission, Special Mission Recognition and World Thank Offering.
- _____ 11. Had at least one person complete one of the plans in the Reading Program.
- _____ 12. Invited a district or conference officer, other than a member of the unit, to one unit meeting during the year.

Check if your unit, circle, or subgroup:

- _____ 13. Included a **response** moment where an article from **response: the magazine of women in mission** was lifted up as a way to tell the mission story in at least three meetings.
- _____ 14. Had at least two programs from the Program Book.
- _____ 15. Implemented the Charter for Racial Justice Policies in at least two ways.

*Those items noted with an asterisk will be verified by the district treasurer. Rev.2/2022

2023 FLORENCE DISTRICT UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OFFICERS

Office	Name	Phone	Address	Email
President	Melissa Epps	(803)-316-4971	1650 Pudding Swamp Road, Lynchburg, SC 29080	Eppsmelissa@gmail.com
Vice-President	Katherine Sabb-Graham	(843)-372-9419	513 Second Avenue Kingstree, SC 29556	Ksabbgraham@gmail.com
Secretary	Pearl R. Brown	(843)-319-6450 (c) (843)-382-3564	2076 Cade Road, Lake City, SC 29518	Prbrown2076@gmail.com
Treasurer	Dorothy Murray	(843)-356-0398	P.O. Box 602 Kingstree, SC 29556	Thebig_DM@yahoo.com
Communications	Trinette McKnight	(843)-356-1856	4856 Thurgood Marshall Hwy. Kingstree, SC 29556	Tmcknightfd@yahoo.com
Program Resource	Stephanie Bolden	(843)-610-7394	2596 Black Street, Timmonsville, SC 29161	Stephaniebolden1958@gmail.com
Social Action	Carolyn W. Scott	(843)-389-7528	P.O. Box 1564 Lake City, SC 29560	Kristen.scott86@gmail.com
Spiritual Growth	Kimberly Graham	843-496-1919	614 East Cricklewood Drive Florence SC 29505	kdteach94@aol.com
MN & O	Barbara Hyman	(843)-395-0786	304 Limit Street, Darlington, SC 29532	Bhyman1969@yahoo.com
E & I	Anita Simon	(803)-305-5974		Leki1380@yahoo.com
Chair CON	Mildred Cunningham	(843)-382-8154	729 Doodle Hill Loop, Nesmith, SC 29580	Cunninghammildred4@gmail.com
CON	Connie Dennis	(843)-659-2644	3560 Pudding Swamp Rd., Turbeville, SC 29162	Cjdenniscd3@yahoo.com
CON	Lutie Brown	(843)-365-4468	212 F. Guerry Road Kingstree, SC 29556	
CON	Shirley Woodard	(843)-354-3600 (843)-356-9540	51 Montana Dr. Kingstree, SC 29556	shirley_woodard@yahoo.com
Nominations	Azilee Dickey	803-491-6699 (c) (843)-481-8493		deejie721@yahoo.com

SPIRITUAL RENEWAL WEEKENDS AT LAKE JUNALUSKA

We will celebrate with times of worship, fun, and study. The Weekends are open to women of all ages and will all be held at the beautiful Lambuth Inn. We are capping the number of attendees to 48 so please sign up quickly.

Register Now

WOMEN AT THE CROSS - MARCH 24-26



Join us during Lent for a spirit-filled weekend exploring the lives of the women who remained at the cross with our Lord through his dreadful last hours on the cross. What can we learn from these brave and faithful women? How can their example strengthen our resolve to remain close to Christ?

LESSONS FROM THE LETTERS - AUGUST 25-27

This weekend of spiritual renewal, fun, and fellowship explores the letters which Jesus wrote to seven actual congregations revealing the path to the abundant life. These lessons are as relevant to us today as they were to believers centuries ago. These letters, found in the opening chapters of the book of Revelation, are a gift of hope and peace as Jesus shows us ways to live our best life.



JOURNEY TO JOY- A NEW LOOK - NOV. 10-12



Jesus said "I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

God knows our pain, our relationship challenges, our financial setbacks, and the deep ache in our hearts. God knows that in this world, we will have trouble. But He assures us that we can take heart, for He has overcome the world.

The cost for the weekend is \$345.40 for double occupancy including accommodations for two nights, five meals, and the program fee. This discount is available until February 22. To book, please go online to lakejunaluska.com/joy, call 800.222.4930, or reply to this email.

Click on this link for a peek into the fun, fellowship, and Bible Study from a similar Women's Weekend on Hilton Head Island.

Come join us- lakejunaluska.com/joy or call 800.222.4930
I look forward to seeing you at the Lake! Leigh

South Carolina Conference United Women in Faith 2023 Mission Trip

The Asheville to Nashville Adventure

A BLESSING OF LOVE WITH GIFT CARDS

The South Carolina Conference of the United Women in Faith is preparing for the 2023 Mission Trip “The Asheville to Nashville Adventure”. This exciting time in mission will be from Monday, March 27th through Thursday, March 30th, 2023.

There are 40 adventurous women planning to take this three-day excursion. Our first

stop will be at Brooks Howell Home for lunch and a few tours. What a blessing it would be to bless the residents with gift cards to

Michaels and/or

Walmart along with craft supplies (yarn, paper, stickers) as reminders of our love and appreciation to each of them.

The adventures await with additional tours of beautiful Lake Junaluska, Scarritt Bennett and Bethlehem Centers, Nashville a United

Women in Faith National Mission Institution.

A mission endeavor is also planned for the Bethlehem Center in providing much needed gift cards to Walmart and Kroger to aid in fighting the food desert crisis within the area.



Walmart and Kroger are local stores utilized to meet the need of women, children, and youth of the community. There are no limits to the amounts to be placed on the gift cards. The South Carolina Conference United Women in Faith would like to be a blessing within their community as we are within ours. Please let

us put our faith, hope, love in action through service to bless these communities we will be visiting.

Please mail the much-

needed gift cards/craft items to my residence:

1018 Bordeaux Avenue

Sumter, South Carolina 29153

Your donations will be documented. All individual's, local units and church's will be recognized for their giving. Thank you in advance for the difference you are making in the lives of others.

Peace, love, and blessings,

Jacquelyn
Session



Mission Trip Coordinator

**Wesley Chapel
United Women in Faith
Women's Day Program
Lake City, SC**

On August 21, 2022 the Wesley Chapel United Women in Faith celebrated their annual Women's Day Program with guest preacher, Reverend Telley Lynette Gadson. Reverend Gadson, known to many as Pastor T, currently serves as the District Superintendent in the "Heartwarming" Hartsville District.



Reverend Telley Lynette Gadson

Preaching from the theme, "Who Can We Be Together? A Biblical Exploration of Luke 13," Reverend Gadson focused on "The Grace of Gratitude." She reminded the congregation that "Starting the day with gratitude gives your day a new focus. If you are too grateful, you don't have time to be hateful."

Reverend Gadson responded to the question, "Who can we be together?" "We can be thankful," she stated. "People need to know that they are appreciated." In her soul-stirring sermon, Reverend Gadson told us that the gift called grace is God's gift to us, and that mercy comes from God. She spoke of how God calls us to be obedient as with the lepers in Luke 17:11-19 who were instructed to "Go show yourselves to the priests." "Jesus is our doctor," she stated, "the Great Physician."

Mrs. Emma Martin, Local President gave remarks. Mrs. Ella M. Julius was presented with a live plant in honor and gratitude for her many years of dedicated service to the Wesley Chapel Unit.

Submitted by Dorothy McClam, Communications Coordinator

**Wesley Chapel United Women in Faith
Mother's Day Program
Lake City, SC**

The United Women in Faith of Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church celebrated and honored mothers during their annual Mother's Day Program on May 8, 2022. This year's speaker was our very own, Mrs. Betsy Graham. Mrs. Graham is the Immediate Past President of the Wesley Chapel's UWF and has served beyond her local unit. The Scripture focus was Luke 15:8-10 and the message focus was "Healing and Joy."

The speaker asked the question, "As women of faith, do we hear the call of God today?" She also asked mothers if are we preparing our daughters to answer God's call. She stated that we must listen for God is calling us. "Jesus teaches us that every person is of infinite value. We must strive to do the works God is calling us to do." Mrs. Graham reminded us that if we keep our eyes on God, we will have healing and joy on our journey. "God is calling us to do great works – to be His hands and feet. Women of faith hear the call of God and step out on faith."

The Mission Pin was presented to Mrs. Betsy Graham by Mrs. Janice Eaddy, SC Conference Vice President of United Women in Faith.

Mrs. Betsy Graham, Center

Submitted by Dorothy McClam, Communications Coordinator

South Carolina Conference United Women in Faith

COME TOGETHER *Be Together Event*

via Zoom

Saturday May 20, 2023 at 10:00 AM

Join us for a morning of fun

REGISTRATION IS FREE

Theme: *Get Hope Be Hope*

The South Carolina Conference United Women in Faith Membership Nurture and Outreach Committee is very excited to hold the Come Together Be Together event via Zoom on Saturday May 20, 2023. The Columbia District will host this fun gathering for all. The link will open up at 9:40 a.m.



Rev Mary L. Johnson

With everything we are faced with and all the anxiety we have endured, we decided that we all need to “**Get Hope Be Hope**”. Our fun event for all ages will include a passionate keynote speaker **Rev Mary L. Johnson**. Rev. Johnson is a native of the Sumter area and has served on many different boards and committees in her career. Rev. Johnson serves on the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry as the Chair of the Order of Elders. Her Motto is, “*Lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.*” (*Proverbs 3:5-6*).

We are delighted to have her on our event in May. The Welcome and Greetings will kick off at 10:00 am, Music and then Rev Johnson. We will then break into workshops.

Registration is Open

Use the QR Code or copy
and past the link.



<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/tZlftuCPp2fvH90y3rVgPsPG2M1EJWXDZDLJ>

SELECT YOUR WORKSHOP

DURING REGISTRATION

- Eating the Rainbow for Ultimate Wellness
- I am Woman Keep me Safe
- Recycle and Substantiability, Going Green
- Bible Study on “Get Hope Be Hope”

Reprint for Mission Echo

Th Flame..

March 2023

www.uwfaith.org

Save The Dates

Hello Ladies!! Here are upcoming events with QR Codes. Scan them for more information and go to the website!

2023 Day Of Giving-Virtual)



Leadership Tool Kit



Mission U




New Event Coming This Year!!

RACIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ONLINE WORKSHOP

Saturday, June 24, 2023
10:00am

We learned about a water crisis in Jackson, Mississippi, now learn about water concerns for communities of color in South Carolina.

Workshop being presented by the South Carolina Conference
United Women in Faith
Charter for Racial Justice Committee



Earn activity credit for your unit's Diamond Unit certificate by attending, sharing, and acting on this situation.

Trinette McKnight (FD Communications)

Email: Tmcknightfd@yahoo.com

Postal address: 4856 Thurgood Marshall Highway

Kingstree, South Carolina 29556

Phone: (843)-356-1856



Graphic by Canva.com



United Women in Faith

Florence District United Women in Faith 2023 Calendar

January

January 1st.....Happy
 New Year
 January 6thFD Executive Team Meeting/Asbury-Shiloh @7:00 pm/Virtual
 January 28th**"We are all part of God's Story"**
Virtual
St. Michael-Kingstree host (Zoom sign in 9:15-9:30 am)
 January 19th-31stLeadership
 Meeting

February

Special Emphasis Month - Wallace Family Life Center

Social Action Workshops

February 1stWorkshop #1 @10:00 am - February 7th.....Workshop #2 @7:00 pm
 February 16thWorkshop #3 @ 2:00 pm - February 25thWorkshop #4 @10:00 am

March

March 1st Presidential Scholarship Applications
 Due
 March 11thFlorence District Day Apart @ Asbury UMC/Shiloh 10:00 am. (in-person)
 March 23rdLegacy Fund Day of Giving, 154th
 year
 March 27th -30thMission Trip, Asheville to Nashville Adventure

April

Special Emphasis Month - Bethlehem Community Center/Columbia

April 9th Happy Easter Resurrection Sunday! Christ is Risen!
 April 22nd Spiritual Growth Event @ 10:00 am -
 Virtual

Walterboro District United Women in Faith/Host

April 29th FD Executive Team
 Meeting/Virtual

May

May 20th**Come Together Be Together**@ 10:00 am Columbia District Host/Virtual

June

June 4th - 7th SC UMC Annual Conference, Florence Civic Center, Florence SC
 June 24thCharter for Racial Justice+Environmental Justice Event @10:00 am/Virtual

July

July 1st Limitless Event @ 10:00
 am/Virtual
 July 20th - 22ndMission U, Spartanburg Methodist College, Spartanburg SC

August

August 12th Executive Team Meeting @ The G
 Ranch
(Includes All Local unit Presidents and/or Unit Representative)

September

Special Emphasis Month - Killingsworth/Columbia SC

September 30th District Annual Meeting @ 10:00
 am

October

Special Emphasis Month - Bethlehem Center/Spartanburg SC

October 20th - 21stSCCUWF 51st Annual Meeting/ St. John's UMC-Aiken/Orangeburg District

November





"Our Lord has written the promise of resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime."

by Martin Luther

HAPPY
Easter

A small, simple line drawing of a leaf with a stem and two smaller leaves, positioned to the right of the word "Easter".

**From the Florence District Executive
Team**