

United Women in Faith

The Network News
Anderson District UWFaith
South Carolina Conference
December 2023



A Note from Your President..

As I write this article, my hope is that all of you had a peaceful Thanksgiving celebration with family and friends. We all have much to be grateful for. And now December is here and the holiday season is in full swing! Remember the reason for the season and rejoice in it! And may the love of Christ be with each of you and your families.

We had a very nice 51st Annual Meeting on September 30, 2023. Our host church was Zion UMC in Anderson and our speaker Rev. Beverly Crowe-Tipton, pastor at Zion. We were thrilled to have 44 attendees representing 17 churches!

We have many activities to look forward to in 2024 and hope that you will participate in as many of them as you are able. Our national focus is on racial justice and climate justice so, many of the programs will relate to these topics. The Charter for Racial Justice focus will be a virtual book study on So You Want to Talk about Race by Ijeoma Oluo. Information on the dates can be found elsewhere in this newsletter and registration information will be in the December issue of the Mission Echo. I encourage you to join this book discussion.

Officer's training for local unit officers will be held on January 20, 2024, at Bethesda UMC in Powdersville. Registration will begin at 9:00 and training will start at 10:00. All officers, including cluster leaders are asked to attend so we can hear about changes that have been made and learn how to fulfill our positions most effectively. It's a great opportunity for fellowship and to see how our teams best work together to accomplish the mission we are called to do.

On March 23, we will celebrate our Anderson District Day Apart and this should be a fun day. Our focus will be on the Legacy Fund since March 23 is the annual giving day. Anderson District will also be the host for this year's virtual Spiritual Growth Retreat on April 6. More information on both events will be noted in our March Network News so be on the lookout!

Wishing all of you a blessed and merry Christmas and a joyful New Year!
Lynn Friedman, President Anderson District UWFaith.

"Glory to God in the highest, and on Earth peace and goodwill
Toward Men." Luke 2: 14



**South Carolina Conference of
United Women in Faith
2024 Virtual Book Talk**



January 6 @11:00

February 17 @11:00

February 24 @ 1:00

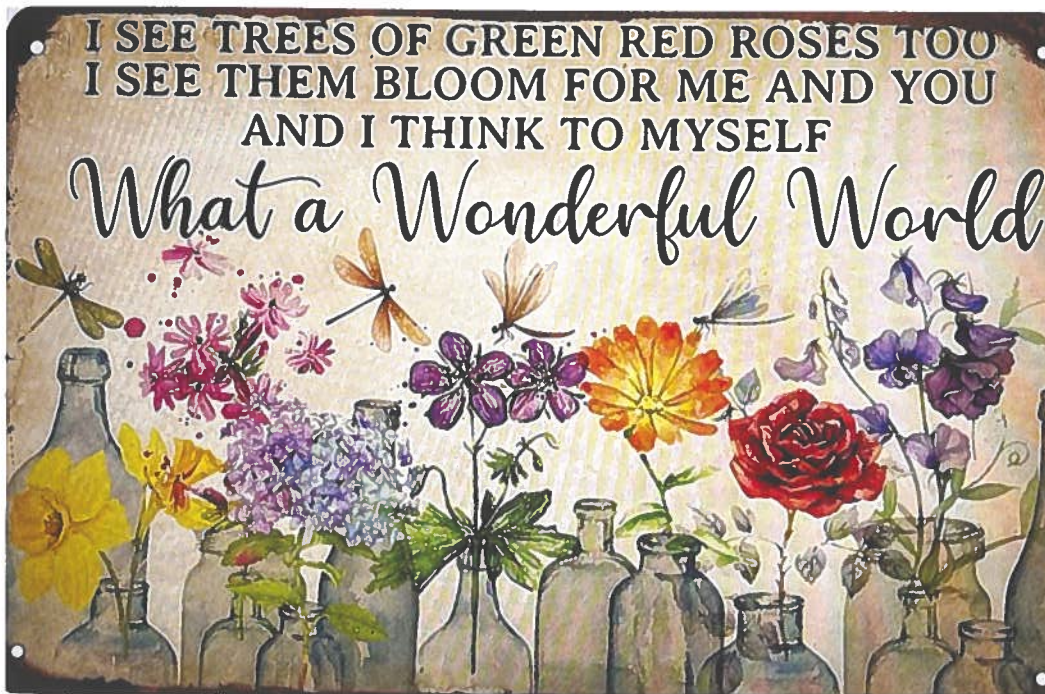
March 9 @ 1:00

**Facilitators
Barb Brooks & Jane Crawford**

A NOTE FROM OUR VP, BONNIE SURFACE.....

Annual Training for 2024

Officers, Cluster Leaders and Mission Program Coordinators from all UWFaith Units in the Anderson District are invited to attend annual training on January 20, 2024 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., with registration beginning at 9 a.m. Our host will be the UWFaith Unit of Bethesda UMC, located at 516 Piedmont Rd., Easley, SC 29642. Mark your calendar, because 2024 is just around the corner! Please share within your units and encourage your leaders to attend this informative session.





United Women in Faith



From the desk of the Treasurer:

All the units have done a great job completing your forms and getting them to me in a timely manner. This treasurer position has been a good learning experience for me and with you all being so efficient it has made it easy. THANK YOU!

4th quarter Remittance < 9-01 to 11-30> is due December 5th.

Hope to have a good turnout for officer's training in January. If you need anything before then please feel free to reach out to me.

May you always be blessed and find peace & joy throughout this holiday season. Give Praise and Glory to God and you will feel his presence in your daily walk.

**Your Sister In Christ
Eileen Blowers
289 Roy F Jones Hwy
Sunset SC 29685
etblowers@gmail.com**



KEEPING US CONNECTED!

From: Mary Rose Gathman, UWFaith Anderson District Secretary

I have been tasked with making a roster of ALL the United Women in Faith unit officers in Anderson District, and I need your help. Thus far I have been getting the information from the UWFaith officer's forms that were turned in at the September 2023 Annual Anderson District meeting. But not everyone turned in a form for one reason or another. The information that is needed is:

- Name of church
- Each officer's position, i.e., president, vice-president, treasurer, etc.
- Each officer's name for that position
- And each officer's contact information: phone number, email, and address

If your unit has not turned in the form and still wish to do that, you certainly can. But if you just wish to email me the information, you can do that too. Maybe you only have a few officers; that's perfectly fine. For most units, it's been difficult filling positions. We do what we can. Should you have any questions, feel free to contact me: call, email, or text: 864 633-4064, scifigal@bellsouth.net. **Thank you very much for helping us keep connected!**
Mary Rose Gathman



“that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith.” Romans 1:12

2024 Anderson District United Women in Faith Leadership Team

President

Lynn Friedman, 2nd year of a 1st 2-year term
628 Pointe Wildwood Drive
Seneca, SC 29678
864-723-7090
lynnfl13@msn.com

Vice President

Bonnie Surface, 2nd year of a 1st 2-year term
409 Frontage Road
Clemson, SC 29631
540-997-0545
bonniesurface@yahoo.com

Secretary

Mary Rose Gathman, 2nd year of a 1st 2-yr term
118 Richland Drive
Easley, SC 29642
864-633-4064
scifigal@bellsouth.net

Treasurer

Eileen Blowers, 2nd year of a 1st 2-year term
289 Roy F. Jones Highway
Sunset, SC 29685
864-506-2981
etblower@gmail.com *etblowers@gmail.com*

Communications Coordinator

Deborah Williams, 2nd year of a 1st 2-year term
115 Glen Cove Road
Starr, SC 29684
706-436-5844
cecgrandmama2000@yahoo.com

Secretary of Program Resources

Carol Weatherford, 1st year of a 1st 2-year term
104 Terrace Drive
Seneca, SC 29673
864-247-5364
dweather104@aol.com

Membership Nurture and Outreach

Mission Coordinator

Elaine Jones, 2nd year of a 1st 2-year term
5 Eberhardt Ct. Greenville, SC 29611
(H) 864-269-3858, (C) 864-979-6821
Georgiajones19678@gmail.com

Social Action Mission Coordinator - Vacant

Spiritual Growth Mission Coordinator
Donna Hopkins, 1st year of a 2-year term
405 St. Paul Road
Easley, SC 29642
864-915-5872
maracell405@bellsouth.net

Nominating Committee Chair - Vacant

Nominating Committee 1 from each cluster & 2 more
Jane Hallums, 1st year of a 2-year term
321 Mary Ann Street
Easley, SC 29640
864-859-0537
janehallums@charter.net, hallumsevelyn@gmail.com

**Education and Interpretation
Mission Coordinator - Vacant**

Cluster Leaders

Brenda Davis, Zone1, Year 2
287 Ann Street
Westminster, SC 29693
864-710-2282
foxclayd@yahoo.com

Judith Polson, Zone 2, Year 2
116 James L. Orr Drive
Anderson, SC 29621
864-353-4877
jpolson29621@yahoo.com
Zones, 3, 4, and 5 - vacant

Historian - Vacant

Ex-Officio

Cathy Ford
702 Woodfield Drive
Anderson, SC 29621
864-231-6740
cathylford@gmail.com

Beth Addis
703 Autumn Oaks
Anderson, SC 29621-2686(C) 864-314-5932, (H) 864-224-6005
baddis1108@yahoo.com



From Elaine Jones, Membership Nurture Outreach Coordinator.....

The Annual Meeting of United Women in Faith Anderson was September, 30th, 2023 at Zion UMC. 44 members attended and 17 churches were Represented at the meeting.

United Women in Faith Officers' meeting was November 11th, 2023. I attended the Membership Nurture Outreach meeting.

Dates to remember:

"Come Together, Be Together, Saturday, May 18th 2024. Theme is "God is The Sower of Love and Mercy via Zoom.

Unit Survey: Presidents of each unit completed the census survey online. To be completed through June of 2024.

2024 Southeastern Jurisdiction Quadrennial Meeting April 19-21,2024 Chattanooga, TN **See the Mission Echo for Details.**

Elaine



Kicking Off Reading Program 2024!

Carol G. Weatherford, Program Resource Coordinator

The United Women in Faith Reading Program has been very meaningful to me for five years. The books are very good and helped me grow and think about a variety of topics. Serving as Secretary for Program Resources for Anderson District will give me an opportunity to give back and to share what a blessing it is to participate. Whether you have participated in the past or are looking forward to this experience for the first time, please make earning a UWFaith Reading Program certificate one of your goals for this year. This article is intended to help you reach that goal.



The first and easiest step is just to choose a book! Here are a two I've enjoyed recently:

A very uplifting book is *A World of Wonders*. The author writes about some of the awesome things she's experienced in her life that seemed most awesome. Some of these experiences may be familiar and some will be new. For me, one new thing she writes about is dragon fruit. I had never seen one but shortly after reading about it, I was walking through a grocery store and there was a display of dragon fruit. My family is trying it for the first time this Thanksgiving week!

Another book on this year's list that both amazed and intrigued me was *Bookwoman of Troublesome Creek*. Troublesome Creek is a real place in Kentucky where the blue people- yes, I said blue people- lived. I didn't know there are people with blue skin, but they do exist. Like my daughter, many people may have already heard of this unique condition, but whether you are familiar or not this book is an engaging exploration of the challenges this group has faced and is difficult to read without stopping.

For a full listing of books, check the UWFaith.org website. On the home page in the upper right-hand corner click on MENU. Then, under the heading *What We Do*, click on EDUCATE. Scroll down to THE READING PROGRAM link and click on it. Look for links to the current book list, past book lists, the current 2024 book catalog and/or the 2023 book catalog. Books from any list from the past 5 years (2019-2023) plus the current list (2024) currently count towards your certificate.

You will also find the rules for program Plans 1-4 here, and how other things can count like Faith Talks, Voices from the Field, Response Magazine, and movies. Remember for Plan 1, read one book in each of the five categories. For Plan 2, read two books in each category. After you have completed Plan 2, you may read additional books from any category for Plans 3 and 4. Many books are available through the SC State Library system, local libraries and some are available for free from Kindle Unlimited or to purchase as eBooks.

In addition, there are wonderful children's and youth books in all 5 categories. They count. You can get them to share with others in your circle. You can also read them as part of the program at Circle meetings. If you purchase these, you can then give them to your children or grandchildren or donate them to the Sunday School program. Continued...

Kicking Off Reading Program 2024 continued....

Bonus Books count as two books, one in each of two categories. If you attended Mission U., the study book is a bonus book. If your unit hosted a Bible study using the same study book following Mission U and you attended, the study book is a bonus book. Otherwise, it counts as one book.

An important thing I did not understand my first year is that you need to write down the books you read in each category and mail it to me before September 1, 2024. The form for your record is also on the UWFaith.org Reading Program webpage.

Happy Reading! Take a book with you all the time and a few minutes to read will find you. For example, it can make waiting for an appointment that much easier, or you can read every night for 20-30 minutes before sleep. It calms you and you will be surprised how much reading you can get done. You will be blessed!

Carol



A Note from Donna Hopkins, our new Spiritual Growth Coordinator...

As we look ahead into a new year, let's remember Jesus's admonition that we look outward to those in need! In today's society of instant, flashy and overdone, it is easy to feel we can't possibly have anything to offer.

However, every gesture of goodwill makes a difference to someone. Remembering to say 'Thank you 'for a kindness can potentially make someone's day. Returning our shopping cart to the appropriate place prevents the cart guy from walking extra steps. Speaking softly to the person raising their voice in frustration can defuse a potential unnecessary argument. Holding our tongue when someone lashes out at us prevents hurt feelings.

If these small things can make a difference in others 'lives, imagine the impact we can make by each of us making a small contribution toward those in need. My \$1 and your \$1 and your \$1 and your \$1 and your \$1 has now become \$5...imagine, if each and every one of us gave, just how much good we could do for women and children in need!

Donna



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.

- ___ 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. He 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.

A NOTE FROM DEBORAH WILLIAMS, COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR
ANDERSON DISTRICT UWFaith.....



AS SOME OF YOU KNOW, THIS WILL BE MY LAST ISSUE OF OUR NEWSLETTER, THE NETWORK NEWS. I WANT TO PROFUSELY THANK EILEEN BLOWERS FOR MENTORING ME IN THIS "CHAPTER" OF MY LIFE IN LEARNING HOW TO EDIT THE NEWSLETTER AND, HER SINCERE ENCOURAGEMENT.

BLESSINGS TO ALL THE READERS OF THIS NEWSLETTER AS IT HAS BEEN A BLESSING FOR ME TO PUT IT TOGETHER.

WISHING YOU ALL A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY, HEALTHY NEW YEAR!

DEBORAH

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: _____

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Email: _____

Circle preferred contact: phone or email



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

No skills required - just a faithful heart to meet the our purpose for women,
children, and youth.

Please share with us the name of someone who you feel would be willing to
serve on the leadership team.

Send to: Jane Hallums 321 Mary Ann St. Easley SC 29640

864-859-0537 Janehallums@charter.net

You dont have to be a United Methodist to be....



United
Women
in Faith

We're a sisterhood acting in faith to tackle the hard work of the world without hesitation.

MISSION: We seek to connect and nurture women through Christian spiritual formation, leadership development, creative fellowship and education so that they can inspire, influence and impact local and global communities.

VISION: We are a powerful, fearless force driven by God's love and united in sisterhood. With a focus on women, children and youth, we act for justice and transform communities.

We face the realities we see in the world, even when they are not the ones we would like to see. However, our goal is not to bear witness simply to harms but also to God's love by acting boldly to change those harms.

ACTION: Bold action, like faith, takes courage. Our bravery is inspired by God's love and our powerful commitment to improve the lives of women, children and youth. United Women in Faith works for justice through compassionate service and advocacy to change unfair policies and systems that harm women, children and youth—from racial and gender injustice to economic inequality, climate issues and more.

Make Plans NOW

2024 JURISDICTION

Get Together!



Southeastern Jurisdiction Quadrennial Meeting

WHERE: Chattanooga, Tennessee

WHEN: April 19-21, 2024

Registration opens September 2023

Early Registration: \$210 (thru December 2023)
Late Registration: \$240 (after December 2023)

THE TABLE IS OPEN TO EVERYONE - NO NEED TO BELONG TO UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH, SO BRING A FRIEND!

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MISSION GIVING

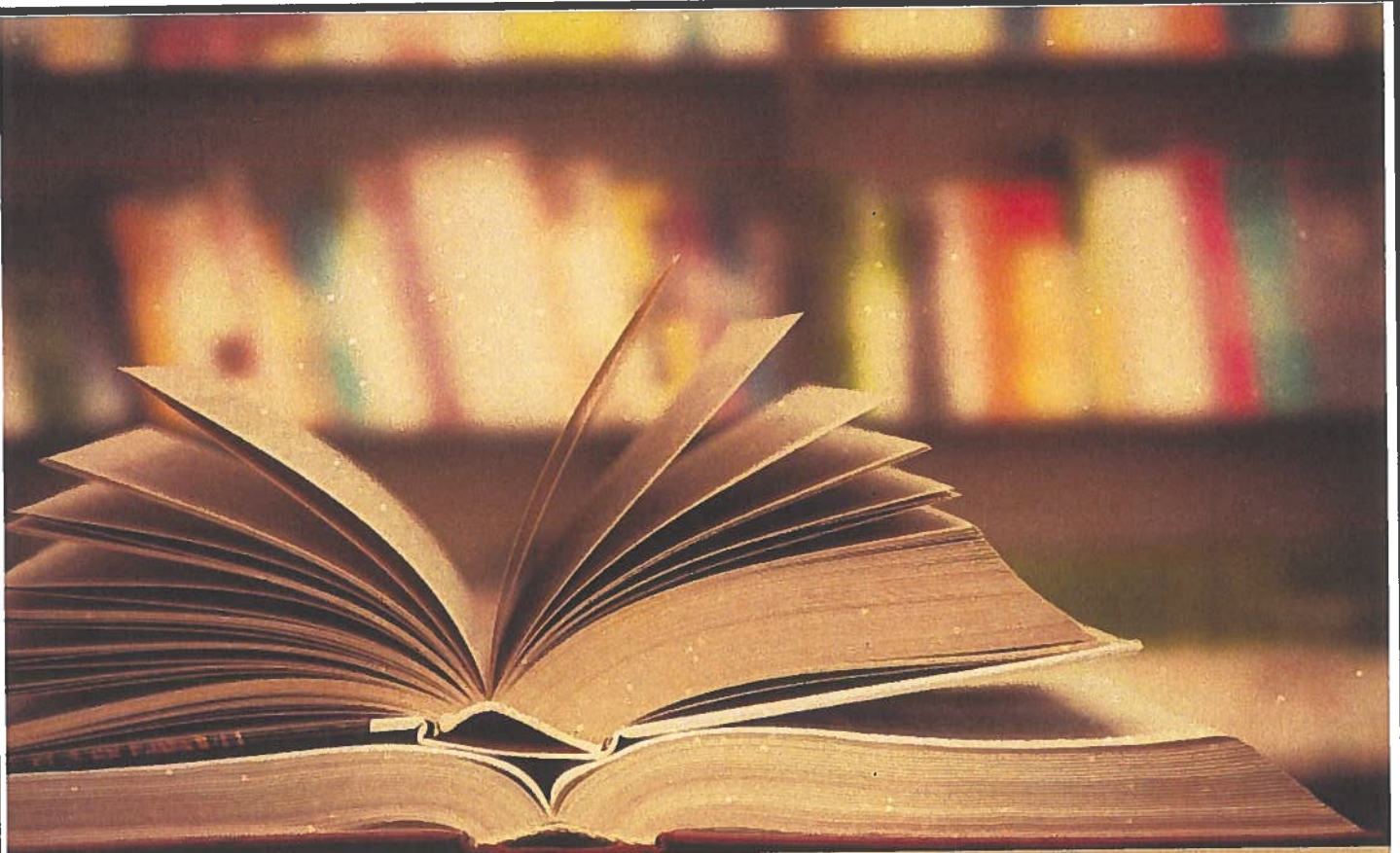
SAVE YOUR DOLLAR BILLS.....

with a "J" on them for "Jesus" and "Jurisdiction"
AND "G" for "God".

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For additional information, go to our website at: www.sejuwf.org



**South Carolina Conference United Women in Faith
Join Us For A
Book Study**

“So You Want To Talk About Race”

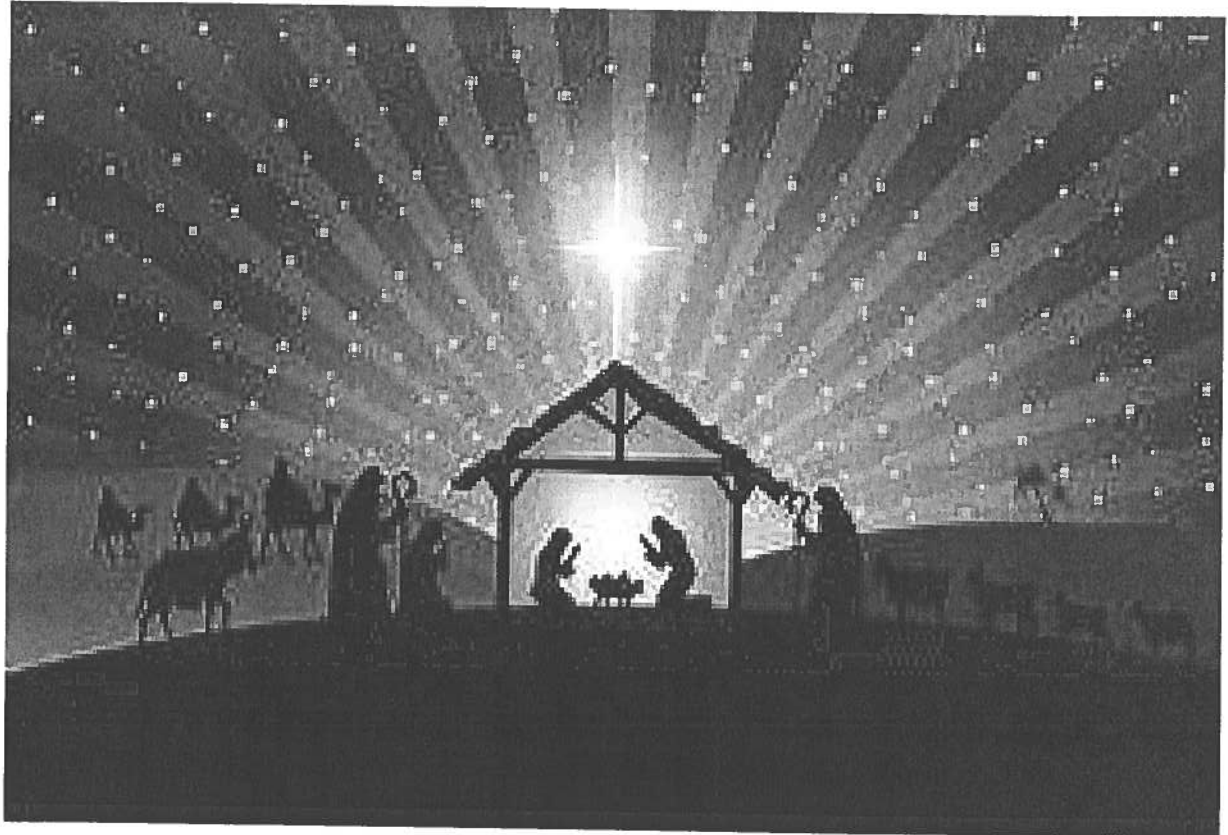
In this New York Times bestseller, Ijeoma Olul offers a hard-hitting, user-friendly examination of race in America. “So You Want to Talk About Race” attempts to make the seemingly impossible possible: honest conversations about race and racism, and how they infect almost every aspect of American life.

This book is on the UWFaith Reading Program list. Units can use this study as an activity credit towards your Diamond Unit Charter for Racial Justice certificate. Invite your district and local units to participate.

Conference dates are:

January 6 - 11:00 am, February 17 - 11:00 am, February 24 - 1:00 pm, and March 9 - 11:00 am

The study will be led by Barb Brooks and Jane Crawford virtually.



Log on to UMCSC.ORG / Missions / United Women In Faith

For more information from the Mission Echo and also find prior Network Newsletters

Scroll down to to the bottom for the link National UWFaith for resources and the book study info.



**United
Women
in Faith**



South Carolina Conference United Women in Faith 2024



United
Women
in Faith

• Anderson District

- January 6** 11:00 am - Book Study @ Bethesda UMC Powdersville -
516 Piedmont Rd Easley, SC 29642
- January 20** Local District Officer's Training-Virtual and In-Person **In Person**
- February – Wallace Family Life Center, Special Emphasis Month*
- February 8** 6:30 pm – Social Action Workshop #1 - Virtual
- February 15** 6:30 pm - Social Action Workshop #2 - Virtual
- February 17** 11:00 am - Book Study - Virtual
- February 24** 10:00 am - Social Action Workshop #3 - Virtual
- February 24** 1:00 pm - Book Study
- March 9** 11:00 am - Book Study
- March 23** Legacy Fund Day of Giving, 155th year
- March 31** **Easter** Day Apart Save the Date 3-23 In Person TBA
- April – Columbia Bethlehem Community Center, Special Emphasis Month*
- April 6** 10:00 am – Spiritual Growth Event - Virtual
- April 19-21** SEJ – Tennessee
- April 23 – May 3** UM General Conference – Charlotte, NC
- May 18 – 9:30 am** Come Together Be Together - Virtual ● Anderson District to HOST
- June 9-12** SC UMC Annual Conference, Greenville, SC
- June 22** 10:00 am - Charter for Racial Justice Event – Virtual
- July 6** 10:00 am - Limitless Event – In-Person
- July 18-20** Mission u, Spartanburg Methodist College, Spartanburg, SC
- September – Killingsworth Special Emphasis Month*
- September** **District Annual Meetings – Virtual and In-Person**
- October – Bethlehem Center -Spartanburg, Special Emphasis Month*
- October 25-26** SCCUWF 52nd Annual Meeting – Rock Hill
- November 9** District Officers Training - 9 am /Columbia District UWF host
- December 7** 10:00 am - Limitless Event – In-Person
- December 25** **Christmas**