MARIANNA/PANAMA CITY

Circuit Writer

AUGUST 2021

DISTRICT:

NOVEMBER: UMW Sunday in Local Churches (Start planning now.)

CONFERENCE:

FIND DETAILS HERE:

awf-umw.org

OCT. 8-9: Spiritual Enrichment Retreat, Blue Lake

NOV. 6: Conference Training for District Officers, 8:30a.m.-3:30 p.m., Location TBD

Next *Circuit Writer* Deadline:

NOVEMBER 1, 2021
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"Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth" I John 3:18 (NIV)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Hope, Joy, Peace, Trust, Power

Greetings to My Dear UMW Friends,

We're still hanging on, confident that God is in control, knowing He will see us through the chaos of today's world. How very timely that one of our Mission u studies, *Finding Peace in an Anxious World,* is available! Anxiety in many forms is certainly on the attack as serious Covid issues continue, hurricane season intensifies, and global unrest builds.

I hope several of you will be able to attend the upcoming
Spiritual Enrichment Retreat on October 8-9 at Blue Lake.

Time & Location

REGISTER BEFORE 9/23/21.
See* awf-umw.org *for forms.

Oct 08, 3:00 PM – Oct 09, 2:30 PM
Blue Lake Methodist Camp, 8500 Oakwood Ln, Andalusia, AL 36420, USA

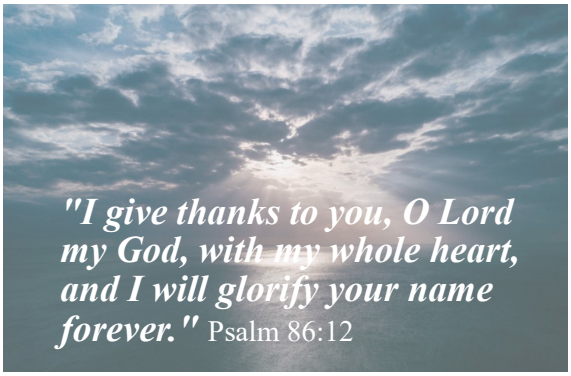
About the Event

Come join us for a great 24-hour period of Fellowship, Worship and Activities. Blue Lake is once again open, and you will experience an uplifting and enjoyable time with other United Methodist Women and Christian ladies. Our speaker, Rev. Jean Tippit, will talk with us using Romans 15:5-6 as the emphasis. Four different times have been set aside for group activities, plus a Karaoke time.

Hope to see you there!

Serving the Lord with gladness,

Deanie DeFelix



From the Secretary's Pen

Janis Johnson

As I write this article, there is now an increase in Covid infections among the non-vaccinated and even some cases among those who are vaccinated. Just as it seemed possible to begin making plans for resuming in-person events in our lives, we are now being asked to wear masks indoors and maintaining other precautions to curtail the spread of the Covid virus. Not a pleasant situation at all!

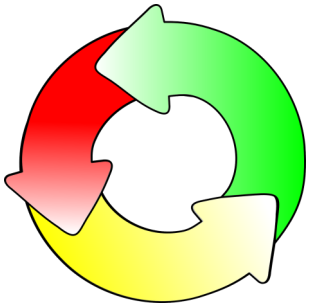
At my church, we are concluding the first book in the Disciple Fast Track study. This study focuses on the Old Testament from Creation to the falls of Israel and Judah, the kings (some good, more often bad), and the words of the Prophets to both kingdoms. In the history of the Israelite people, we see times when they followed and obeyed God; then there are periods when they worshiped idols and disobeyed his laws in a reccurring pattern.

Both of these remind me of the cyclical nature of life. There are times of hardship, trials, and testing; there are times of joy, peace, and stability. That has been the pattern from Creation until the present day. Only one thing remains constant in all of this, and that is the compassionate love of God, the one thing we can depend upon in all of life's circumstances.

While many of us are experiencing unprecedented anxiety from this pandemic world, we must do our best to address the pressing need to continue the compassionate work God expects of our United Methodist Women. Since the Secretary is the key to recordkeeping for each local unit, her minutes should reflect the following:

- A summary of specific discussions that occur,
- Names of all persons making motions, persons seconding motions, and a record of the vote result.
- If the motion is not clear, she will have to make sure of clarity from that person, writing clear, brief notes, not full sentences. (Using a recording device is very helpful.)
- Preparation of final version for approval should take no longer than two weeks.

Alabama-West Florida Conference UMW Secretary Debbie Bell notes that secretaries are to "be organized; keep and share copies of any correspondence; check if quorum is met at meetings; respect confidentiality; check in with the president; prepare for meetings well in advance; and summarize any discussions effectively." (*Alert*, Aug. 2021)

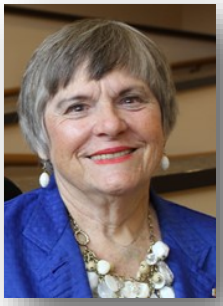


Even in our troublesome times of today, let us never forget that the God of compassion and love that we see from Creation and throughout the Bible is still in charge. He will be our strength, our guide, our anchor in the current turbulent days. We will grow through this with a deepened faith and knowledge that our God reigns and EVERYTHING is under His control.

Blessings,
Janis

Spiritual Growth

Martha Spiva



Keep checking the conference website for information about registering for our in-person Spiritual Enrichment Retreat at Blue Lake. AWF-UMW Spiritual Growth Coordinator, Tutti Johnson and her team are hard at work planning a very uplifting program for us. Mark your calendar for OCT. 8-9, a perfect time of year to enjoy Blue Lake!

We are also hoping to have our Moss Hill Day Apart again in the early spring of next year. Start praying now that plans for these retreats come to fruition; we desperately need to come together for a strong recharging and reconnecting with each other and Our Heavenly Father. Hope to see you there,

Martha

This note I received speaks to the dedication of our fantastic United Methodist Women in the Marianna-Panama City District

[My Headline: **Our Willing Spirit Refuses to Give Up!]**

As for **St. Andrew UMW**, we are developing our plans for mission--hopefully with an emphasis toward children/youth by projects supporting the schools. We had 7 people in our congregation with COVID recently, so we didn't have in-person church the next Sunday. We had the first day of VBS then had to scrub it because of COVID. They canceled all in person activities for 10 days. We are trying to be as active as possible--as frustrated as we are with [challenges], our local women have a strong bond.

Hugs and gratitude to you for all that you do,
Peggy Kundo

The struggle is real! Your AWF Conference Executive Team is working hard to help all of us to keep our UMW Spirit alive and thriving. Pray that we can find better ways to offer support to our sister units.

Tidbits from the Treasurer

Peggy Pelt

Hi, Ladies:

Here's where we stand in our UMW givings based on what I have received so far:

Pledges	$3,944
Gifts to Mission	40
Gifts in Memory	165
World Thank	67.81
SMR Pins	80
Sub-Total	$4,296.81 **

(These gifts qualify a unit for a 5-Star certificate and apply to our District's pledge.)

Prayer and Self-Denial	$417
Conference Love Offering	985
Sub-Total	$1402

(These monies do not apply to the District's pledge.)

Total Giving **$5,698.81**

**These givings put us at 39% of our $11,000 pledge.

Again, we need an average of $38 per member to meet our Pledge plus $10 per member for the Conference Love Offering. I know it has been another difficult year for us but I know we can do it. We did last year. In fact, we exceeded our pledge a bit.

We are a resilient group of ladies. With God's help we will make it -- again!

Peggy Pelt
ppelt@comcast.net

PROGRAM RESOURCES and E & I

Elizabeth Bell

Dear UMW Friends,

Attending Mission u via Zoom was different, but it was very inspiring! I hope several of you may have attended the sessions that Geraldine (Deanie) and I were not a part of.

My first study on Friday was *Finding Peace in an Anxious World* led by Debbie Bracewell and Celeste Eubanks. It was based on the *Serenity Prayer*, and the four chapters in the book are Serenity, Acceptance, Courage, and Wisdom. Each chapter may be studied in about an hour and could be used as a study book in circle meetings.

My second study on Saturday was *Bearing Witness in the Kin-dom, Living into the Church's Moral Witness through Radical Discipleship.* This study leads us to think about how to bring justice into today's conflicting world. Our moral task as a church is to live into this kin-dom by first seeing the injustices around us and then working to bring more just solutions.

Since these study books are on our Reading Program List. I hope you will read and study them during this year.

Elizabeth

Serenity

Acceptance

Courage

Wisdom

MARIANNA-PANAMA CITY DISTRICT
***ALABAMA-WEST FLORIDA CONFERENCE**

2021 United Methodist Women Calendar
All times are Central time.

Find forms and other resources online:

www.awf-umw.org

Oct. 23	Fall District Gathering / Annual Day: TBD
*October 8-9	AWF-UMW Conference Spiritual Enrichment Retreat (SER) Blue Lake Assembly Grounds
NOVEMBER	Schedule a Sunday this month for UMW Emphasis. *Invite a District or Conference Officer to attend.* (UNIT TREASURER'S REPORT DUE in NOV. to Peggy Pelt)
DECEMBER	UNIT CONSOLIDATED PRESIDENT'S REPORT IS DUE TO DISTRICT PRESIDENT DEANIE DeFELIX BY DECEMBER 5, 2021

NOTE: District start times may be adjusted, based on meeting formats.

Lunch, if served, is $7.00. Please call in lunch numbers the Monday before the event unless it is a holiday; then it will be a Tuesday.