

## District Officers

### President

Penny Colin

### Vice President

TBA

### Secretary

Bonnie Strait

### Treasurer

Brenda Hargrave

### Program Resources

TBA

### Spiritual Growth

Bonnie Shanks

### Social Action

Ora Gillespie

### Communications

Carolyn Davis

### Membership Nurture & Outreach

Mary Wilson

### Education & Interpretation

Marsha Clayton

### Nominations

Mable Lawrence, Chair  
Evelyn Teel, Member  
Carolyn Davis, Member



## From the President

We are well into 2017 and activities are already underway. Not much downtime after the holidays, but perhaps that is a good thing, and a God thing. We can never let up being the hands and feet of Christ! This past weekend many of us attended AWF UMW Conference Annual Day at Blue Lake on Friday Evening and Saturday. You missed a blessing if you didn't attend. Sixteen attended from our district. Thank you to all who were able to attend.

**Saturday, February 25<sup>th</sup>**, we will hold our District Annual Day at Prattville FUMC. We will present unit awards, have training, and then will honor the wonderful women who passed away in 2016 with a service and a special lunch provided by Prattville FUMW ladies. Please plan to attend if possible. Each Unit President will get a 2017 District Directory.

Local Unit Presidents, please encourage your members to attend District and Conference events. All dates will be posted on our website and will be included in each issue of "The Messenger's Flame". The key to our success and growth as a district is COMMUNICATION.

I know each person and unit is involved in some way in community events that involve helping and supporting our efforts with women, youth and children. Please help us inform others and promote those activities and events by sending us photos and/or a description of the program activities of your unit. Let's remember to show our support to our sisters and to pray for each other.

Our first Mission Study will be **Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup>**.

We have a very important task to perform before March 31<sup>st</sup> – the UMW census. It is painless and takes only a few minutes, but is very important to United Methodist Women.

**President Message Continued:**

All unit president and MNO coordinators should make sure this gets done for each member of your unit.

Also, learn more about Legacy 150 in this newsletter.

Faith, Hope, Love in Action

Penny Colin  
Montgomery-Prattville District UMW President

## **United Methodist Women Census**

**Presidents:** Designated presidents are asked to complete the UMW census for 2016 to help the organization meet our members' needs and allow us to grow in numbers, outreach and impact.

**Go to <http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/> and look for the box**



Census 2016  
▶ PRESIDENTS:  
Click to  
complete the  
census

**All members:** You are invited to complete a membership log. When you finish, you will be able to print a personalized membership card.

**Go to <http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/> and look for the box**



NEW!  
myUMW  
▶ MEMBERS:  
Please input  
your info here

**From Your District Treasurer – Brenda Hargrave**

**World Thank Offering**

We are each thankful for many things and people in our lives and especially to live in a free country and know that God loves each of us. I am suggesting a fun activity your members might consider for our World Thank Offering that is collected in November. Start with a small jar or box and each month add a small amount for the activity listed below. You will be amazed at how quickly the funds add up.

- |                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| <b>January</b>   | <b>Pay 75 cents if it did not snow at your house</b>                                   |
| <b>February</b>  | <b>Send your pastor a Valentine card or pay 50 cents</b>                               |
| <b>March</b>     | <b>Wear green on St. Patrick's Day or pay 25 cents</b>                                 |
| <b>April</b>     | <b>Pay 5 cents for each pair of shoes in your closet</b>                               |
| <b>May</b>       | <b>Visit or call a homebound member or pay 75 cents</b>                                |
| <b>June</b>      | <b>Clean out a closet and donate or toss items or pay \$1.00</b>                       |
| <b>July</b>      | <b>Attend Mission u or pay \$1.00</b>  |
| <b>August</b>    | <b>Purchase school supplies for your local school or UMCOR or pay 50 cents</b>         |
| <b>September</b> | <b>Attend a UMW meeting or pay 50 cents</b>  |
| <b>October</b>   | <b>Donate 2 items of food to your church pantry or local food bank or pay 75 cents</b> |
| <b>November</b>  | <b>Be thankful for all you have and donate \$1.00</b>                                  |

Have fun with this

Brenda Hargrave  
District Treasurer



## **United Methodist Women Celebrating 150 Years: 1869-2019**

**March 23, 2017  
UMW Day of Giving**

Join United Methodist Women around the Country March 23<sup>rd</sup> for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Day of Giving to The Legacy Fund, part of our five-year 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration!



### **150th Anniversary of United Methodist Women**

United Methodist Women are launching a 5-year time of study, reflection, action and giving as we anticipate the 150th anniversary of our founding, and plan for continued ministries with women, children and youth in the decades beyond.

On March 23, 1869, eight women gathered at Tremont Methodist Episcopal Church in Boston, Massachusetts, and organized the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, what would become United Methodist Women. Those women raised money to send a doctor, Clara Swain, and a teacher, Isabella Thoburn, to India as missionaries to serve the women of that nation.

Celebrate the dedication and foresight of our foremothers in mission as we lead up to our 150th anniversary in 2019.

#### **Gifts to the Legacy Fund can be made in several ways:**

- **Online at** [www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/legacyfund](http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/legacyfund)
- **By phone: 800-278-7771**  
(8 am-6pm EST, Monday -Friday)
- **Text Legacy150 to 41444**
- **By check: note "Legacy Fund"** in memo and mail to:  
United Methodist Women: Treasurer's Office  
475 Riverside Drive  
New York, NY 10115.

Each **Day Of Giving** gift will be matched dollar for dollar!

**From  
Mable Lawrence, Chairman**

*Greetings!*

*To all my UMW Sisters, as we enter 2017, we pray that each of you and your families are being Blessed in the Season. As we approach the beginning of 2017, we hope that you find in your heart that you will be willing to serve on the Montgomery/Prattville District team. We still have positions open, and I know that if you decide to join us you will enjoy.*

*Please pray for the District team that our positions will be filled. We are still prayerfully seeking someone to fill the:*

***Vice President position  
and  
Nomination position as a member.***

*If you are interested please contact Mabel Lawrence, Evelyn Teel, or Carolyn Davis.*



**From Mary Wilson  
Membership Nurture & Outreach**

Our District Annual Day, for the first time this year, will have the Memorial Service for our deceased members and will be held on February 25 instead of the fall.

Please make sure that I have current information on those who have passed so we can include them in the program for that day. We are trying to bring our district into line with what the Alabama West Florida Conference is doing.

I am finishing my tenure as Membership Nurture and Outreach Coordinator, and my tenure on the District Mission Team this year. I have enjoyed working with my sisters in this wonderful organization that is one of a kind. I look forward to working with everyone as we progress through this year together.

Mary Wilson

**Remember to mark Your Calendar  
for the  
Montgomery-Prattville Annual Day  
February 25, 2017  
At  
Prattville First United Methodist Church**

## **I Scream, You Scream, We All Scream for Climate Justice**

Climate Justice, **Climate Justice**, Climate Justice!!!

District Mission Study

**Saturday March 25, 2017**

Save the Date

Plan to come, hear, share and learn:

\*What the Bible says about our relationships with God, each other and God's creation-how we are interconnected and how what affects one relationship affects the other two.

\* How to live as neither owners nor makers of the world.

\*How we got into this "mess" called climate injustice and how we can become a part of the needed transformation; what needs to happen and how can we make it happen.

Hear information provided and shared by a knowledgeable and prestigious group of people (theologians, scientists, missionaries, et.al.) who have studied, developed, and practiced "needed tools for transforming our relationships with God, each other, and God's creation in an effort to bring about "Climate Justice".

So, save the date: **Saturday, March 25, 2017**. Place to be announced. Watch for it. Facilitators will be our District and Local Officers.

Respectfully,  
Marsha Clayton,  
District Education & Interpretation

Be Just  
Be Green

13 Steps to  
Sustainability

Become a  
"Be Just.  
Be Green."  
Advocate

Carbon  
Footprint  
Calculator

**From  
Ora Gillespie  
Social Action**



**The United Methodist Women, for 2016, joined secular and interfaith allies to kick off our annual awareness campaign for National Human Trafficking Awareness. Teaching individuals and communities how to prevent trafficking, to identify and protect trafficked persons and what can be done to aid in the prosecution, will continue in 2017.**

**Human rights for all people is one of the historic principles of United Methodist Women from its beginning. For more than 100 years, our mission has been involved in social action, often leading the church in the call for social justice.**

**We are an organization of many people/women of different races, nationalities, languages and cultures and our United Methodist Heritage reflects a history of commitment to social justice and social action. It's time for us to get started on our work for this new year.**

**What are we going to do? Let's Box 'Em Up and Stack 'Em Up!  
Read about the 2017 campaign and how your unit can participate at  
<http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/human-trafficking>  
<http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/news/box-em-up>**

**I am available if you need copies of the Charter for Racial Justice, Racial Justice Time Line or other web sites for information.**

**Social Action Coordinator  
Montgomery-Prattville District  
Ora Gillespie**



**Let's Box 'Em Up and Stack 'Em Up!**

**Where Does the \$9.75 for the AWF UMW Conference Goes?**

This is a question that is often asked by members so here is a breakdown. Your money is being well spent on conference missions as well as operating expenses and maintenance.

Dumas Wesley- Mobile:	\$1.50
Mary Ellen's Hearth (Nellie Burge)-Montgomery:	0.75
Unrestricted giving TBD	0.75
Mobile Inner City Missions-Mobile:	0.75
Hispanic Ministries-Conference wide:	0.75
Jurisdictional Assembly:	0.25
Blue Lake:	2.00
Mission u:	1.00
Administration/Membership Development:	2.00

**How can each unit become a "5 Star" one?**

Your unit can be one this year! Contribute to each of these undesignated areas of missions that are both nationally and internationally served:

Pledge to Missions:	Any amount over \$5.00
Special Mission Recognition Pin:	Minimum of \$40 per pin
Gift to Missions:	Any amount over \$5.00
Gift in Memory:	Any amount over \$5.00
World Thank Offering:	Any Amount over \$5.00

These are minimum amounts and I would encourage each unit to give generously. Our pledge this year is \$12,200 for these items and we have only received about \$3800.

Brenda Hargrave  
District Treasurer



# The Reading Program 2017

[www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/readingprogram](http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/readingprogram)

The Reading Program encourages members to think critically about current issues through an annual selection of member-reviewed books. It offers an excellent opportunity to deepen your spirituality and to broaden your understanding of our mission work.

## The Reading Program Leads to Action!

For 140 years, United Methodist Women have been involved in mission that includes prayer, study and action. The Reading Program is a study opportunity, but it should also lead to action.

The purpose of the program is to encourage United Methodist Women members to:

- Expand understanding of and participation in God's mission.
- Increase sensitivity to all human beings—their needs, interests and concerns.
- Encourage critical thinking about issues facing humanity today.
- Grow in understanding of Scripture as it relates to Christian faith in contemporary life.
- Enhance self-knowledge and act from that knowledge.
- Strengthen involvement in local and global Christian mission.

## Local UMW members can choose from 1 of 5 reading plans:

### Plan I: 5 Books Per Year

One book from each category: Education for Mission, Leadership Development, Nurturing for Community, Social Action and Spiritual Growth.

Selections can be from the 2011-2016 reading lists if not included in previous reports (including youth titles).

Regular reading of [response](#) magazine.

### Plan II: 10 Books Per Year

Two books from each category: Education for Mission, Leadership Development, Nurturing for Community, Social Action and Spiritual Growth.

Selections can be from the 2011-2016 reading lists if not included in previous reports (including youth titles).

Regular reading of [response](#) and [New World Outlook](#) magazines.

### Plan III: 15 Books Per Year

Two books from each category: Education for Mission, Leadership Development, Nurturing for Community, Social Action and Spiritual Growth.

PLUS 5 additional books from any category.

Selections can be from the 2011-2016 reading lists if not included in previous reports (including youth and children's titles).

Regular reading of [response](#) and [New World Outlook](#) magazines.

### Plan IV: 20 Books Per Year

Two books from each category: Education for Mission, Leadership Development, Nurturing for Community, Social Action and Spiritual Growth.

PLUS 10 additional books from any category.

Selections can be from the 2011-2016 reading lists if not included in previous reports (including youth and children's titles).

Regular reading of [response](#) and [New World Outlook](#) magazines.

# Remember Mark your Calendars

## Montgomery-Prattville District Events

**District Annual Day and Officer Training - February 25th  
(Prattville FUMC – Registration 8:30 a.m. Program a.m.)**

**Mission Study - Climate Justice March 25th (Location TBD)**

**Mission Study - Human Sexuality June 24th (Metropolitan UMC)**

## Conference Events Save the Date!

**March 23, 2017**

**July 21 & 22, 2017**

**Oct. 20-22, 2017**

**May 18-20, 2018**

**UMW Day of Giving**

**Mission u @ Millbrook UMC**

**Spiritual Enrichment Retreat @  
Blue Lake**

**Assembly @ Columbus, Ohio**

**We would love to include your unit activities and mission projects in *The Messenger's Flame*. Please submit articles and photos.**

## **ALERT! . . . Are you a Reader?**

**ALERT** ... our Alabama-West Florida Conference United Methodist Women newsletter is on the website and may be downloaded as a PDF. See <http://www.awf-umw.org>

If you'd prefer a printed copy of ALERT Contact the AWF UMW Communications Coordinator – Debbie Bush.

### **Stay Connected**

UMW: [www.unitedmethodistwomen.org](http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org)

AL-WFL: [www.awf-umw.org/](http://www.awf-umw.org/)

Mont-Pratt District: [www.awf-umw.org/montgomeryprattville.html](http://www.awf-umw.org/montgomeryprattville.html)

### Purpose

*United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.*