



United
Methodist
Women

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

ALERT

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2017 Conference Officers

President	Debbie Bell
Vice President	Joan Simmons
Secretary	Cathy Givan
Treasurer	Jean Creswell
Prog. Resources	Sally Ozan
Communications	Debbie Bush
Nominations Chair	Lorna Wiggins

2017 Mission Coordinators

Spiritual Growth	Nancy Shealy
Social Action	Laurel Akin
M.N. & O	Tutti Johnson
Ed. & Interp	Shirley Hodges

2017 Committee on Nominations

Lorna Wiggins	Reda Brooks
Zan Jones	Cheryl Mothershed
Linda Green	

President SEJ UMW Betty Helms

UMW National Vice President
Clara Ester

Webmaster Vera Moore

Register now for Annual Day February 10 & 11 at Blue Lake!

Welcome to our first Annual Day in the new Calendar Year! Join us at Blue Lake, February 10-11, 2017 to meet our new Bishop, Rev. David Graves. He will be our guest speaker on Saturday in addition to serving communion.

Our processional will see the changing of banners from the 2016 presidents to the 2017 presidents. It's also the day we recognize the district receiving the Special Mission Recognition award, the Reading Program award and the "Many Colors, One Spirit" Banner award.

On Friday evening our speaker is Chris Ziebach, founder of Camille Place. The facility is located at an undisclosed location for protection of the children. Their organization is committed to Christ and the call to rescue innocent children who have been sold into slavery—a painful reality, but one we must be educated on. Read more about Camille Place at

<http://www.camilleplace.com/about-us>.

The registration form for Annual Day is in this Alert.
See you in February!!!

Joan Simmons, Incoming Vice President



FROM OUR INCOMING PRESIDENT:

FAITH ... “of greater worth than gold..” 1 Peter 1: 7 (NLT)

Thanks be to God, we made it to our seats on our final flight back home. The airplane aisles are a bit skinnier than I recall, or I could be a little wider in my hip area. Nope, I'm going with the skinnier aisle on the plane! The young girl in my assigned seat on a full flight looks at me as I read my seat number, she says, “this isn't 19?” No, it's 22. Several of us stand to accommodate her issue with reading numbers! I'll blame that on Google, and not the school systems. My travel buddy and I take our seats, buckle up and I think I hear this *tap tap tap* right underneath my seat. I think I silently say, “I hope that's someone arranging the luggage or something” but shortly the pilot assures us, “Ladies and Gentlemen we'll be delayed just a few minutes while Maintenance does a small repair to our landing gear, we'll let you know when all is OK to take off!” If I could find the thought I experienced at that moment, I think I'd say something like “is there another plane we can use?” For those of you that know me, that is the best descriptive I can write for the thoughts in my head, at that moment.

But God being Good as He is, got that repair (to my moment of anxiousness) in order and we're on our way back home for a 10:45PM destination landing. I didn't worry any more about if the landing gear repair would work at our landing— at least I'd be home!

That's my introduction for my first Conference article for our year-end newsletter. With God's help, I will do all I can to LEAD to our destination! I am grateful for everyone's vote of confidence as I am guided to effectively live our PURPOSE. That flight story is from my recent attendance at Leadership Development Days (LDD) where I met others in the same role for United Methodist Women (UMW) from around the country. I was given a packet of information and included in there was a checklist. As I've been transitioning already some duties, that checklist doesn't seem so undoable. Our 2017 Conference Executive Mission Team is very qualified and experienced in the task of our Mission endeavor for women, children and youth.

Please make your plans in the coming year to visit our district, conference and National websites for the answer to the question “What does United Methodist Women do?” As you read the newly designed “Pledge to Mission Card” you will notice the answer is so helpful when encouraging new members to “join us” just for this event or that workshop; we Pray, financially support, nurture and advocate to improve the lives of women, children and youth.

<http://www.awf-umw.org>

Debbie Bell, President (2017-2018)
Alabama/West Florida-United Methodist Women (AWF-UMW)
251-232-6898 or 251-649-4772
9640 Sky Vista Dr.
Semmes, AL. 36575
mawbel36575@yahoo.com



**Remember, 2017 AWF-UMW Annual Day,
February 10-11 at Blue Lake
See inside ALERT for registration form.**

Save the date!



“The Power of Bold” will be the theme of the 19th quadrennial Assembly of United Methodist Women in Columbus, Ohio, May 18-20, 2018. Learn more at <https://umwassembly.org/news/>

Participate in the 2016 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



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



Cares and Concerns

Winn Marsh is appointed Personal Concerns Coordinator for Alabama-West Florida Conference United Methodist Women. You may contact her at winnmarsh@aol.com or 850-624-9709 to request prayer for your personal concerns. Winn will share the information according to your wishes.

Our 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.

Faith

The theme 2017 for United Methodist Women of the Alabama-West Florida Conference is **FAITH**! I would like to challenge each of us to search God's Word to see what is said about **FAITH**. I tried to locate all of them but there are hundreds of verses—too many to count! God is speaking to each of us in different ways to teach, inspire, comfort, and mainly to love us. No matter where we are in our life's journey his wonderful words of life are there. In the year ahead, I will ask you, "What is your favorite message about **FAITH**? I have my favorite—what is yours?"

God is going to bless us beyond measure in the New Year. May he increase our **FAITH**!

See you in February!

Always your servant,

Nancy Shealy, Spiritual Growth Coordinator



Social Action: Stop Human Trafficking

United Methodist Women joins interfaith and secular allies every January 11 to observe National Human Trafficking Awareness Day. This day also kicks off Intercept the Traffickers, our annual awareness campaign to teach individuals and communities how to prevent trafficking, to identify and protect trafficked persons and what can be done to aid in the prosecution of these criminals.

For 2016, United Methodist Women, including many from our conference, raised our umbrellas to raise awareness of human trafficking. Read about the 2017 the campaign "**Box 'Em Up!**" and how your unit can participate at <http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/news/box-em-up>

Let's Box 'Em Up and Stack 'Em Up!
Super Bowl LI is on February, 5, 2017

We have fought human trafficking for more than a decade. Join us in raising awareness.

Laurel Akin, Social Action Coordinator 2017-2018
laurel36330@gmail.com



Nominations

For those who missed the Fall Event in October, the following slate of officers was nominated, elected and installed for the 2017-2018 term of office: Debbie Bell, president; Cathy Givan, secretary; Jean Creswell, treasurer; Shirley Hodges, education & interpretation; Laurel Akin, social action; Sally Ozan, program resources. Joan Simmons was nominated, elected and installed as vice president to complete the 2015-2016 term of Betty Smith, who resigned due to pending surgery. Linda Green, Zan Jones, and Cheryl Mothershed were elected to the nominations committee. Tutti Johnson and Nancy Shealy are continuing in their roles as coordinators for membership nurture and outreach and spiritual growth, respectively. Lorna Wiggins and Reda Brooks continue to serve on the nominations committee.

Only one office was left vacant for 2017-2018: communications coordinator. Joan Simmons returned the talent bank forms for her district, which she had carefully annotated and brought up to date. There were several candidates for communications coordinator and she highly recommended Debbie Bush from the Pensacola district. Debbie has a lot of experience with computers and edited the Pensacola district newsletter. I spoke with her and she agreed to serve.

You can see how much talent bank forms help the nominations committee! I would ask the district presidents who have not returned the talent bank forms that I gave them at the Fall Event to send them to me or give them to me at Blue Lake on Annual Day. PLEASE, PLEASE ask your units to get talent bank from their members! We have so many talented people—we just need to know their experience and willingness to serve.

United Methodist Women has so many blessings and one of the greatest has been the officers who have sacrificially served all of us. We deeply appreciate the years of service that Lynn Hamric, Margaret Larson, Zan Jones, Charlotte Hobson, Cynthia Brown, Sheila Hare, Betty Helms, Betty Smith and Ruth Ann Powers have given to us. They are an integral part of our organization and we want them to always stay a part of us.

In closing, I ask your prayers for Charlotte Hobson and Betty Smith, and all others who are experiencing health problems. We are keeping you close to our hearts.

*Lorna Wiggins,
Chair of Committee on Nominations*



Meet Our New Communications Coordinator, Debbie Bush

Debbie served in the Pensacola district as communications coordinator and president for four years each. She says, "I am honored to serve as your Conference Communications Coordinator! I have missed my sisters in Christ these past several years since I have been active. For those of you who do not know me or remember me, I have been married to Eric for 28 years; our daughter Mariah is 19 years old and finishing up her second year in college (many of you remember Mariah coming to Blue Lake with me since she was 18 months old) and Mariah is an Honorary Member of United Methodist Women since 2007. I work a full-time job and enjoy reading, crafting, shopping, talking to people and praising the Lord through songs. I look forward in being a part of a wonderful organization again and spreading God's work through our work in UMW."

In Christian love,

Debbie Bush



Reading Program: 2017

Extended Reading List! While supplies last, 2011 books can be used to fill requirements for the Reading Program. PLUS - 2011 titles are on sale for \$2.00 - \$5.00. (Originally up to \$35.00) Go to <http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/readingprogram/findbooks> to find lists from 2011-2017.

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.



response:
the magazine of women in mission!



Keep up with United Methodist Women in our districts, conference and nationally, and find many resources on our website, www.awf-umw.org. There you will find links to just about anything "United Methodist Women," thanks to our website manager, Vera Moore!

**ALABAMA-WEST FLORIDA CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN
GENERAL REGISTRATION FORM**

**2017 ANNUAL DAY
FEBRUARY 10-11, 2017
BLUE LAKE UNITED METHODIST CAMP
1/27/17 (A \$10 Late Fee will apply to all registrations)**

SCHEDULE	DATE	TIME	LOCATION			
CHECK-IN	Fri 2/10/17	3:00PM	Oakwood Solarium			
DINNER	Fri 2/10/17	5:30PM	Dining Hall			
PROGRAM	Fri 2/10/17	7:00PM	Chapel	Speaker, Cris Ziebach	Camille's Place	
Breakfast	Sat 2/11/17	7:30AM	Dining Hall	Friday overnights ONLY		
CHECK-IN	Sat 2/11/17	7:30AM	Gym			
Refreshments	Sat 2/11/17	7:30AM	Gym			
PROGRAM	Sat 2/11/17	8:30AM	Gym	Processional	Business Session	
				Business Session	Speaker, Bishop Graves	
				Communion	Bishop & District Super.'s	
Adjourn	Sat 2/11/17		Gym	Debbie Bell, Conference President		
LUNCH	Sat 2/11/17	12:30PM	Gym			

All Participants MUST Register, even for 1 day. One Health Form must be submitted per calendar year. If you have sent one in, please check the box to the right.

Name	Email
Address	City State Zip
Phone	District Local Unit/Church
<input type="checkbox"/> FIRST TIME TO Alabama West Florida Conference United Methodist Event	

Only fill out one of the sections. Either Lodging if spending the night or Commuter if only 1 day

LODGING-Multiple Day

SLEEPING AREA	Occupancy	Before Deadline Per Person	After Deadline Per Person	Roommate Name (Roommates must mail Registration Forms & Full Payment Together)	Enclosed Total
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LINWOOD

	Double	\$ 69.75	\$ 79.75		\$
	Single *	\$ 92.25	\$ 102.25	none	\$

CENTER SECTION

	Triple	\$ 59.75	\$ 69.75		\$
	Double	\$ 66.75	\$ 76.75		\$
	Single *	\$ 87.75	\$ 97.75	none	\$

* Single rooms are limited; therefore all request may not be honored.

OR

COMMUTER OR SINGLE DAY, no Sleeping Accommodations

Registration Fee / Blue Lake Fee / 1 Meal	\$ 30.75	\$40.75		\$
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Make all checks payable to AWF-UMW

Mail to: Jean Creswell, Conference Treasurer
PO Box 250
Arlington, AL 36722

jean@pinebelt.net
334-385-2521 (after 5:00 p.m./weekends)
334-385-5015 (work day)

Special Needs (dietary or physical):

Please notify Cathy Givan, Conference Secretary, 1398 East Cotton Rd, Eclectic, AL 36024 / 334-541-3163 / cathy3163@hotmail.com of any special needs or requirements

ALABAMA WEST FLORIDA CONFERENCE			
UNITED METHODIST WOMEN HEALTH FORM			
For the Calendar Year		2017	
Authorization for Emergency Medical Treatment Form			
Name		DOB	
Home Phone	Work #	Cell #	
Physician's Name		Phone #	
Health Insurance Company		Policy #	Group #
Allergies to medications:			
Other Allergies (food, animals)			
Conditions that treating personnel might need to be aware of:			
In the event emergency medical aid/treatment is required due to illness or injury during my stay at a UMW event, I authorize ALWF UMW to:			
Name	Relation	Phone #	Alt. Phone #
Name	Relation	Phone #	Alt. Phone #
PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE BELOW PLANS			
Consent Plan			
In the event emergency medical aid/treatment is required due to illness or injury during my stay at a UMW event, I authorize ALWF UMW to:			
1. Secure and retain medical treatment and transportation if needed.			
2. Release my health information to the authorized individual or agency involved in the medical emergency treatment.			
3. I hold harmless the AL-WFL Conference United Methodist Women, the ALWF Conference, The United Methodist Church and/or the owners of the facility for which the event is taking place for any act or failure to act during a medical emergency.			
Non-Consent Plan			
I DO NOT give my consent for emergency medical treatment/aid in the cases of illness or injury. In the event emergency treatment/aid is required, I wish the following procedures to take place:			
I hold harmless the AL-WFL Conference United Methodist Women, the ALWF Conference, The United Methodist Church and/or the owners of the facility for which the event is taking place for any act or failure to act during a medical emergency.			
Your Consent Signature		Date	
Witness Signature		Date	



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 unitedmethodistwomen.org/legacyfund
- By phone: 800-278-7771 (8 am-6pm EST, M-F)
- 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.

Check out our stories: a Living Timeline at <http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/livingtimeline>

Save the Date!

Feb. 10 & 11, 2017	Annual Day@ Blue Lake
March 23, 2017	UMW Day of Giving
July 21 & 22, 2017	Mission u @ Millbrook
Oct. 20-22, 2017	Spiritual Enrichment Retreat @ Blue Lake
May 18-20, 2018	Assembly @ Columbus, Ohio

United Methodist Women
Alabama-West Florida
Conference
Laurel Akin
104 Windwood Lane
Enterprise, AL 36330



First Timers!



Fall Event October 2016



**President Lynn Hamric with Blue Lake
Executive Director Steve Lewandowski**



Officer installation was conducted by Dawn Wiggins Hare