



United  
Methodist  
Women

FAITH · HOPE · LOVE IN ACTION

# The Connection

DOTHAN DISTRICT UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Volume 2019 Issue 3

FALL 2019

## LOVE in Action 2019

*Let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.*  
1 John 3:18 NIV

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Back to school and back to United Methodist Women local meetings! Conference events this year have been such a blessing: Annual Day in Demopolis, Annual Conference in Montgomery, and Mission u in Pensacola. Our conference has planned one more meaningful event this year—the Conference **Spiritual Enrichment Retreat** at Blue Lake. October 11-13 are the dates for a spiritually uplifting weekend with programs, focus groups, and worship services to feed our spirits. Our speaker is the Reverend Reba Wiley who is the new pastor with the Pine Hill Charge. She is very involved with Communities of Transformation, and she has organized the conference's first rural COT in Pine Hill. Visit <http://awf-umw.org/> to download the registration form or to register online. You don't want to miss this one!

**Our District Mission Study will be Thursday, September 19.** The location will be announced soon. Registration is 8:00 to 8:30 with the study beginning at 8:30. The study will be *Women United for Change: 150 Years in Mission*. The study provides a historical survey of United Methodist Women and its predecessor organizations and amplifies the voices that shaped the work through an overarching story of United Methodist Women changing the fact of mission.

As we finish out the year, presidents and treasurers should review the reports' schedule placed in this newsletter to ensure everything is turned in by the **end of November**. Review the requirements for a 5-Star Unit and a Mission Today Unit. If you have any questions about those items, please contact me or Carolyn McInnis (district treasurer) for clarification.

The Dothan District Leadership Team would like to visit your circles or your unit events. Let us know how we can serve you better.

Joyful blessings,

*Debbie Bracewell*

President  
Dothan District United Methodist Women

### 2019

Dothan District  
Mission Team

#### President

Debbie Bracewell

#### Vice President

TBD

#### Secretary

Marilyn Skipper

#### Treasurer

Carolyn McInnis

#### Program Resources

TBD

#### Spiritual Growth

Jane Dyer Brown

#### Membership Nurture & Outreach

TBD

#### Social Action

Jean Johnson

#### Education & Interpretation

TBD

#### Communications

Carolyn McInnis

#### Nominations

TBD

## UPCOMING UNITED METHODIST WOMEN EVENTS

### Calling u...To Celebrate

#### What is SEJ 2020 about?

#### It's ALL ABOUT YOU !



April 17-19, 2020 • Mobile, Alabama  
United Methodist Women • Southeastern Jurisdiction

We're Calling u... to enjoy exciting workshops!

We're Calling u... to enjoy great music!

We're Calling u... to celebrate 150 years of service to the United Methodist Women.

This and so much more awaits you at the United Methodist Women's **2020 Southeastern**

**Jurisdiction** event April 17-19, 2020 at the Renaissance Riverfront Hotel in Mobile, Alabama

<https://www.umwsej.org/registration>

## Spiritual Enrichment Retreat 2019

October 11-13, 2019  
Blue Lake Camp - Andalusia, AL

*Come join us at our annual spiritual retreat at Blue Lake. Hosted by the Alabama West Florida United Methodist Women, you will relax in a beautiful tranquil lakeside setting while enjoying fellowship with other women of all ages, listening to a gifted speaker (the Rev. Reba Wiley), and participate in creative focus groups that include making wooden crosses, crocheting plastic crosses and learning to do armchair yoga. All women of all ages are welcome and you do not have to be a member of a United Methodist Women's unit or a Methodist church to attend. Come one day or stay the entire weekend.*

**Last day to register before late fee is 9/30/19**

Online Registration: <https://www.awf-umw.org/events/ser-2019>  
(Printed forms for SER are included with this newsletter.)

# REPORTING DUE DATES

Local Officer to District Officer

FROM

TO

Treasurer's Report  
Unit Treasurer

By November 30  
Carolyn McInnis, District Treasurer

\*Name of Deceased Members  
Unit Secretary

By November 30  
(please report any December  
deaths by January 10)  
Jane Dyer Brown, Spiritual Growth

\*Local New Unit Report  
Unit Secretary

By November 30  
TBD, Membership Nurture & Outreach

\*Social Action Report  
Unit Social Action Coordinator

By November 30  
Jean Johnson, Social Action

\*Reading Program Reports  
Unit Program Resource

By November 30  
TBD, Program Resources

\*Mission Study Participants  
Unit Education & Interpretation

By November 30  
TBD, Education & Interpretation

Consolidated President's Report  
Unit President

By November 30  
Debbie Bracewell, President

New Officer Lists  
Unit Secretary

By November 30  
Marilyn Skipper, District Secretary

\*Included in the Consolidated President's Report

## Spiritual Day Enterprise FUMC



# TREASURER

## What is the World Thank Offering?



“The World Thank Offering is one of the United Methodist Women’s five channels of undesignated Mission Giving. Traditionally, this offering is collected during a special service or program during the fall season. This channel of Mission Giving is an opportunity for individuals to respond to God’s abundance and grace with spontaneous gifts of gratitude. The funds collected are used in the total program of mission and advocacy in the United States and around the world.” (United Methodist Women’s website)

The World Thank Offering is one of the five areas of giving that make up our district Pledge to Mission. There is no set amount that you are asked to give to this offering. It is simply an expression of your gratefulness for everything that God has given you. Our UMW Program Book has a special program in November for the World Thank Offering. If your unit has the program in November, please remember that the money must get to me by November 30 for it to count this year.

Our 2019 Dothan District Pledge to Mission is \$14,750. We are currently at 52 percent of our pledge. As you resume your local unit meetings, please consider contributing to the World Thank Offering and to the other four areas of giving. Buy a Special Mission Recognition pin for someone, buy a Gift to Mission card or a Gift in Memory card, or add to your yearly pledge. We may think these small amounts will not make a difference, but they do make a huge difference in someone’s life.

*Carolyn McInnis*

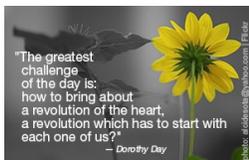
Treasurer

Give Thanks.  
Give Now.



### More Spiritual Day Photos





## SPIRITUAL GROWTH



The Dothan District's Spiritual Growth Day was held on Saturday, August 17th at First United Methodist Church in Enterprise. There was approximately 40 in attendance. The "School to Prison pipeline" focus was the topic of our program.

Denver Sasser, Ministry Leader for Celebrate Recovery (CR) at Enterprise First United Methodist Church, discussed his experiences in prison ministry. Celebrate Recovery is a Christ-based recovery program for anyone with a hurt, hang-up or habit. Celebrate Recovery is led by John and Cheryl Baker who attend Saddleback Church, which is Rick and Kay Warren's church, in Lake Forest, Ca. Celebrate Recovery Inside serves men or women in prison/jail.

Denver is working with the prisons in the panhandle of Florida, especially Holmes County. He shared some of his personal experiences from these prison visits. Inmates are in great need of spiritual growth and personal development. Step Study, a Celebrate Recovery program, is used with these men. Leaders have been identified and are assisting inside. Most realize they have committed a crime and are trying to learn to accept their stay inside, many with life sentences.

Denver never knows when he arrives if he will be allowed inside the prison due to circumstances that may have occurred inside the prison. Yet, he believes in bringing God and His love for us, showing His grace and mercy to all, to the incarcerated men and will continue to return to the prisons. Sharing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and teaching the men how to share is important. Denver wants us to know the problems of overcrowding and old facilities in prisons across the nation. He encourages us to read all the data, statistics and information found on our UMW site, [unit-edmethodistwomen.org](http://unit-edmethodistwomen.org).

Jean Johnson provided us with activities that will be used for The Walk at Tutwiler Prison for Women. (Please see more information about these activities in Jean's article.)

*Jane Dyer Brown*

Spiritual Growth Coordinator





## Information and Statistics on the School-to-Prison Pipeline



- The school-to-prison pipeline is a term used to describe how children and youth of color are re-routed by systems and institutions, funneled away from educational success and towards the criminal justice system.
- African American students are three times more likely than white students to be suspended and expelled. Twelve percent of African American girls are suspended, compared to two percent of white girls. Native American students are less than one percent of the student population, but comprise three percent of students experiencing expulsion and two percent of students suspended out of school.
- Native American youth are held in juvenile detention facilities at three times the rate of white youth.
- Thirty-one percent of students experiencing school-based arrests are African American, though African American children and youth make up only sixteen percent of total school enrollment.
- The school-to-prison pipeline is not the result of any one single action, but of many factors coming together, including:
  - Implicit Racial and Gender Biases
  - Excessive Out-of-School Suspensions and Expulsions
  - Zero Tolerance Policies
  - Status Offenses
- Together, United Methodist Women can interrupt the pipeline.
- If you would like to learn more or get involved in mission as a school-to-prison pipeline interrupter, please contact Emily Jones, Executive for Racial Justice, [ejones@unitedmethodistwomen.org](mailto:ejones@unitedmethodistwomen.org), 212-870-3773.

\* Information courtesy of the United Methodist Women website.

### From the United Methodist Book of Discipline

"We recognize racism as sin and affirm the ultimate and temporal worth of all persons. We rejoice in the gifts that particular ethnic histories and cultures bring to our total life. We commend and encourage the self-awareness of all racial and ethnic groups and oppressed people that leads them to demand their just and equal rights as members of society." (Social Principles, ¶ 162 B)

### Our Values

Racial justice is an ongoing focus of United Methodist Women mission work. We conduct regular racial justice workshops with members, and work in coalition with human and civil rights groups to track hate-crimes and to promote racial justice in the United States and the world.

United Methodist Women's Charter for Racial Justice was created and adopted by the Women's Division in 1978 and successfully adopted by the whole denomination in 1980. General Conference has consecutively readopted it, every eight years since, most recently in 2008. The Charter continues our urgent call for study and action on the principles and goals of its vision.

## DOTHAN DISTRICT UMW SPOTLIGHT ON SOCIAL ACTION

*34 Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: 35 for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; 36 I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.'* – Matthew 34-36, NKJV

As I write this newsletter article, I am preparing my heart and mind for our Dothan District Spiritual Day Saturday, August 17, because we are learning more about one of our social action priorities, that is, the prison system in America, and because we will do a hands-on project to support Kairos, a prison ministry. Read, learn and act . . . these action verbs describe what United Methodist Women are all about. I am proud to be a part of this organization because we are not just bemoaning the social issues around us; we are actually making a difference.

We made tremendous progress with Days for Girls over the past year. We finished 115 kits recently and our sewing group has a goal of 100 more for their fall sewing project. Yes, we are making a difference for women and girls around the world.

Kairos is one of the most effective prison ministries in the world. Saturday we will prepare colorful paper chain links with messages of hope and scriptures to be added to a huge paper chain for the women of Kairos #57 on September 19-21, 2019. We will also decorate placemats for the women to use for the many meals shared together with the Kairos Team. We will prepare and donate meal tickets for the women. And, we will decorate and write cards to the "Women in White" with words of support for them during this spiritual journey, one that we pray will help them turn to God and realize the extent of God's grace and mercy in their lives.

*Jean Johnson*  
Social Action Coordinator



# 2019 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<p><i>January</i></p> <p>13 — District-Wide Officer Training, 9:30, Enterprise First UMC, Fellowship Hall, District Mission Team meeting following Training                  25-26 — Conference Executive Meeting, Enterprise First UMC, Enterprise, AL                  27 — Super Sunday</p>	<p><i>February</i></p> <p>15-16 — Conference Annual Day, Demopolis First UMC, Demopolis                  23 — Dothan District Annual Day, 9:30, Abbeville UMC</p>	<p><b>MARCH</b></p> <p>8-9 — COSROW, Blue Lake</p> 
<p><i>April</i></p> <p>21 — Easter Sunday                  27 — District Mission Study, 8:00 Registration, 8:30 Welcome and Study, Dothan First UMC, District Mission Team meeting</p>	<p><i>May</i></p> 	<p><i>June</i></p> <p>2-5 — Annual Conference, Frazer United Methodist Church</p>
<p><b>July</b></p> <p>12-13 — Conference Executive Meeting, Pine Hill, AL                  19-20 — Mission u, St. Luke UMC, Pensacola, FL</p>	<p><b>AUGUST</b></p>  <p>3 — Dothan District Mission Team Meeting, Enterprise First UMC, Gathering Room, 9:30                  17 — District Spiritual Day</p>	<p><i>September</i></p> <p>19 — District Mission Study, 8:00 Registration, 8:30 Welcome and Study</p>
<p><i>October</i></p> <p>11-13 — Conference Spiritual Enrichment Retreat (SER), Blue Lake</p>	<p><b>NOVEMBER</b></p> <p>2 — President &amp; Treasurer Conference Training for District Officers</p>	<p><i>December</i></p>  <p>Come let us  <i>Adore</i>                  Him</p> 



## TALENT BANK INFORMATION ON PROSPECTIVE LEADERSHIP

(To be completed by prospective leader)

Type or Print (attach additional sheets as necessary) Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Home \_\_\_\_\_ Work \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Local Church \_\_\_\_\_ District \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Spoken \_\_\_\_\_ Racial Ethnic Group \_\_\_\_\_

Professional skills, job experience \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### Office(s) Held in United Methodist Women

Office(s)	Dates of Service
Local _____	_____
District _____	_____
Conference _____	_____
Jurisdiction _____	_____

Additional Experience on the local, district, conference or general church level (other than United Methodist Women) or in the community \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Special Talents or Skills \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Areas of Special Interest or Concern

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> secretarial             | <input type="checkbox"/> recruiting members      | <input type="checkbox"/> publicity       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> social issues           | <input type="checkbox"/> workshops       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> computer                | <input type="checkbox"/> creativity              | <input type="checkbox"/> newsletters     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> accounting/bookkeeping  | <input type="checkbox"/> recording minutes       | <input type="checkbox"/> retreats        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> organization of details | <input type="checkbox"/> public policy           | <input type="checkbox"/> music           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> nominations             | <input type="checkbox"/> public relations        | <input type="checkbox"/> youth           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> program planning        | <input type="checkbox"/> community building      | <input type="checkbox"/> children        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> administration          | <input type="checkbox"/> inclusiveness/pluralism | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) |

Do you wish to serve on which level (circle): Local    District    Conference

Which office(s) on the United Methodist Women’s Team would you most like to hold given the opportunity to serve?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> President                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership Nurture & Outreach |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vice President             | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Action                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Secretary                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Spiritual Growth              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Treasurer                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Program Resources             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chair of Nominations       | <input type="checkbox"/> Communications                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education & Interpretation |  |

Why are you interested in this position and what qualifications do you feel you have for your office(s) of choice?

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Would you be able to use your gifts and talents to uphold and strengthen United Methodist Women through the PURPOSE of the organization? \_\_\_\_\_

Is it possible for you to be away from your home or employment for:

Full Day \_\_\_\_\_      Weekend \_\_\_\_\_      Extended Time \_\_\_\_\_

Yes or No                      Yes or No                      Yes or No

\_\_\_\_\_ I am sorry but I am unable to accept an office this year. Please keep my name on file and contact me in \_\_\_\_\_.