



The Messenger's Flame

Montgomery-Prattville District UMW

Fall 2018

District Officers

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Reda Brooks

Vice President
TBA

Secretary
Mable Lawrence

Treasurer
Brenda Hargrave

Program Resources
TBA

Spiritual Growth
Bonnie Shanks

Social Action
Ora Gillespie

Communications
Carolyn Davis

Membership Nurture & Outreach
Reba Wooten

Education & Interpretation
Marsha Clayton

Nominations
Chair - TBA
Evelyn Teel, Member



From The President's Desk

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark your calendars and plan to join the UMW car caravan to Clanton. Please come. This is a special plea to ALL churches to please send women to represent your church body. ALL Women Ministry groups are invited to bring as many representatives as possible. New at this event will be door prizes and a traveling trophy that will go home with the group who brings the most women.



TAKE A BOW AND PAT YOURSELF ON THE BACK

Our District Team met and voted to concentrate on nurturing current members and reaching out to ALL WOMEN MINISTRY GROUPS IN OUR DISTRICT. UMW has a reputation for making things happen and we need every woman of the United Methodist Church to help us uphold our legacy. UMW advocates for abolishing human trafficking, racial justice, immigration justice, maternal/child health, economic inequalities and much, much more.

COMING SOON IN 2019

You are invited to join a UMW Cluster Book Club Every UMW woman and other Women Ministry ladies are strongly encouraged to engage in a day of learning through five book walks. You will earn a certificate for Plan One and put your church on the Book Club Map.

UMW NEEDS

Please contact me as soon as possible if your church would like to host any event that shows TBA.

Don't Miss the Special Invitation for the Meet, Greet, and Swap Exchange



ALL WOMEN MINISTRIES FROM EVERY CHURCH

MONTGOMERY/PRATTVILLE DISTRICT MEET, GREET, SWAP LOCAL MISSION EXCHANGE JANUARY 5, 2019

LOCATION: TBA

BRING: Favorite cup (Help us go “green”.)
Local Mission Ideas and Artifacts

PURPOSE: I am asking you to attend this meeting so that we can get to know each other and to plan and extend our local mission activities. Many of you are doing extraordinary things that impact the lives of women, children, and youth in your own communities and I need you to share those ideas with all our groups. You are the base of our district being successful, so it is extremely important that we work together. Call me if you need more information.

Please make sure that at least TWO members from your WOMEN MINISTRY GROUP is present. Email name of church and names of participants.

*I look forward to seeing and meeting with each of you.
FAITH HOPE AND LOVE IN ACTION*

*Reda Brooks, President
Montgomery/Prattville District
United Methodist Women
redabrooks@att.net
334-358-5477*

Bonnie Shanks



Spiritual Growth Coordinator

Save the Date!

Join Your UMW Sisters from across the Montgomery-Prattville District
October 2nd, 2016

Saturday, September 29, 2018

for our annual Spiritual Enrichment Retreat

Clanton First UMC

207 8th Street North, Clanton AL 35045

**The Spiritual Enrichment Event will be in the
Helen Parrish Activity Building behind the church.**

9:00-12:00

Registration 8:30-9:00

A light Continental breakfast

And

Lunch will be provided

Gloria Wilson of Whitfield UMC will lead us on a journey into

Experiencing Centering Prayer

Develop Centering Prayer practices

and

[Learn about Lectio Divina \(Sacred Reading\)](#)

Learn about the Importance of Making Silence a Part of Your Prayer Life





**Brenda Hargrave
Treasurer**

It is hard to believe but 7 months of 2018 have come and gone, and it is back to school for another year. Two weeks ago, I sent a letter to the unit President and Treasurer with a report of the funds received from your unit so far this year. Many of our units did not meet over the summer months so we are behind in our giving. Thus far, the Montgomery/Prattville District has submitted the following funds toward our Pledge for Missions:

Pledge to Missions:	\$4442.50	(includes \$64.50 for Change for Change)
Special Mission Recognition Pin:	240.00	
Gift to Missions:	100.00	
Gift in Memory:	120.00	
World Thank Offering:	127.00	
Total towards our Pledge:	5029.50	

Our District made a pledge of \$12,200 for 2018 so we have \$7170.50 remaining. November 30 is the last day for me to receive funds from your unit to be counted for 2018. I would encourage you to discuss your unit's finances when you meet again. To be a 5 Star unit, you must contribute to all five of the areas above and I hope each of our units will strive for this.

Additional funds received that are not part of the 5 Star Program and are considered over and above donations:

Prayer and Self Denial:	\$520.00
Conference Love Offering:	292.50

If you have any questions or need assistance, please feel free to contact me at 285-5788 (H) or 322-4086 (C).

Brenda Hargrave



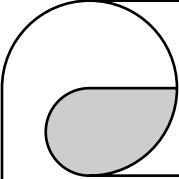
Marsha Clayton
Education and Interpretation
Coordinator

Greetings to the Wonderful UMW Women of the Montgomery-Prattville District, AWFUMW Ladies, we have almost made it through another year in the world of UMW. Through the eyes of this District Education and Interpretation Coordinator, I see a time when, even though our numbers may be declining, many of us are still focused on, relying on, and insisting on this very significant “institution” in the life of our church women. There may be other avenues that afford us some of the same opportunities that we are privileged to in UMW, but the UMW organization and its mission have a unique way to bring us together, do good work, and be the supportive community God intended us to be.

The position of District E&I Coordinator oversees the annual district-wide mission studies and the progress of our wonderful directive tool, Mission Today, a great guide to what we need to be doing locally in UMW. This year we were blessed to have the study on “Living in a Covenant Community” which reminded us of who our neighbor is and how we are to live in a wholesome communal environment and the study on Missionary Conferences of the United States where Tutti Johnson opened our eyes to more in-depth activities and needs of three US conferences to which we are lending support. Thanks so much to the open hearts and open doors of Wetumpka First UMC and Montgomery First Church for hosting these studies in such a warm and friendly manner.

Mission U gave us a glimpse into 2 studies for 2019: “**Embracing Wholeness**”, which challenges us toward stronger and healthier relationships with all creation, with ourselves, and with God in ways that may not have been examined or even thought of previously, and “**What About Our Money? A Faith Response**” which explores our relationship with money and how we individually and collectively respond to economic inequalities in light of our faith. Debbie Bracewell has already graciously consented to lead the study on money at Greenville UMC on Saturday, March 16, 2019. Mark your calendars now to attend. The study, “Embracing Wholeness” will be led by our district coordinators in June 2019 at a time and place TBA. Be watchful.

To all E&I Coordinators, and/or Presidents, and/or Vice Presidents, please get your annual reports of mission study and Mission Today participation to me as soon as possible. As always, I deeply appreciate all of you and my opportunity to serve UMW.



From Reba Wooten Membership Nurture & Outreach



MEMBERSHIP

This is an important aspect of your unit. It is important to maintain an updated membership list, including new, lost and deceased members. Take the opportunity to ask non-members to join, including young women and teens. You may plan an event and ask each member to bring a non-member.

Personal contact is important. You may never know when someone will respond when approached personally. You may have a goal to increase your membership by at least one.

NURTURE

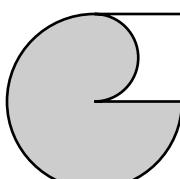
Once you have members it is important to keep in touch with them. You may send birthday cards, e-mail them, or give them a call. Remind them of meetings or other local activities. Be sure to include everyone when setting goals, planning projects or attending District Mission studies, other District events as well as Conference events

OUTREACH

We need to all work on increasing the membership of United Methodist Women, especially younger women and teens. As we look at our congregations, I am guessing you see many ladies that are potential members. Don't hesitate to invite them. You may be surprised at the response you will receive. Make sure your programs are interesting and applicable to our beliefs.

Good luck as you prayerfully continue to serve Him.

Reba Wooten





**Ora Gillespie
Social Action
Coordinator**

Social Action: Love Your Neighbor As Yourself

United Methodist Women have studied many issues this year in our mission program. All of the subjects planted a little seed of Faith, Hope and Love. Let us begin with the Faith Seed.

We must believe that big things can, and do, grow from small seeds. Greet your neighbor with just a Smile, a warm voiced Hello, or a Wave of the hand in recognition of their presence. Imagine what one seed of Faith can do. Remember that " Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." (Hebrew 11:11)

When we ask God for something, don't be surprised when he gives you that and more. We must have Hope even when we do not see God working.... He Is Working! We need to do good deeds and let it become a daily habit and automatic part of your life. Are you happy and love that warm feeling you get after you have helped your friend, neighbor or stranger?

Eight (8) times in the Bible we are told to LOVE our neighbor. This is one of the Bible's most repeated commands. Whether they appreciate you, or respond to your love, Jesus' command is still valid: You must show love to your neighbor in a practical way. If we really love our neighbor, the first thing to do is pray for them. Through our request in prayer, God is given requests to work in our neighbor's lives.

Who is my neighbor?.....A neighbor is someone, who is near-by, wherever you are. Us loving our neighbors is a part of God's plan to bring them to him and our love demonstrates what God and His kingdom are like.

My sisters in Christ, our love should not be just words and talk; it must be true love, which it shows itself in *action*.

Ora Gillespie
Ora Gillespie
Social Action Coordinator

Do you need a Mission Project?

Maternal and Child Health

The 2017 Prayer and Self Denial program about the lack of feminine hygiene products for girls and women following childbirth in underdeveloped countries opened the eyes of 4 churches in the Montgomery-Prattville District (Clanton, Mulder, Metropolitan and Millbrook).

Girls cannot attend school during these 5 days a month because they do not have access to hygiene products or cannot afford them. It is believed that girls who stay in school are less likely to marry early or die in childbirth and they are more likely to train or educate their families. Following childbirth many women develop infections because they do not have clean hygiene products.

One solution to this problem is to provide girls with their own Hygiene Kit which contains 3 pair of underpants, a soap dish and bar of soap, a wash cloth and 6 washable pads with safety pins for closure, and a zip lock plastic bag for soiled pads. All these items are enclosed in a pretty draw-string bag. The pads are very absorbent, washable and expected to last 2-3 years.

The first shipment of 60 Hygiene Kits for girls and post partem mothers was sent in December 2017. We now have 52 more to ship this month. Our kits went to Haiti where Rev. Steve MacInnes and his wife Tish were missionaries. Pastor Steve is a member of the AWF Conference and currently is serving a church in the Montgomery-Prattville District but still maintains contact with Haiti.

For more information about this program, Days for Girls, their web site is

www.daysforgirls.org

or

contact Millbrook First at 285-4114



Brenda Hargrave, Treasurer

The Reading Program 2018

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).

Mark Your Calendars

MONTGOMERY/PRATTVILLE DISTRICT UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

2019 Calendar of Events

Theme: ***Love in Action*** Scripture: 1 John 3:18

"My dear children, let's not just talk about love; let's practice real love." (The Message)

JMW and two ops from every other women ministry group	Meet, G LocatiA	ALL	Meet, Greet, Swap Local Mission Exchange Location: TBA
JAN 12	District Team, Unit Presidents, Vice, Two Reps		Executive Mission Team Meeting Location: Millbrook
FEB. 2	ALL		District Annual Day/Officer Training/Memorial Service Location: Whitfield U M Church
March 16	All invited		Mission Study Location: Greenville First
April 27	District Team, Unit Presidents, Vice, Two Reps		Executive Mission Team Meeting Location: Millbrook
MAY 18	ALL		Book Club Cluster Day Location: TBA
JUNE 15	ALL		Mission Study Location: Trinity/Prattville
JULY 27	District Team, Unit Presidents, Vice, Two Reps		Executive Mission Team Meeting Location: Millbrook
SEPT 14	All invited		District Spiritual Enrichment Retreat Location: Locust Bluff UM Church
OCTOBER 26	ALL		Book Club Cluster Day Location: TBA
NOVEMBER (Recommended)	ALL		UMW Day celebrations per Local Unit Be Invitational!

NOVEMBER 9

District Team, Vice,
Presidents, Two Reps
from other Women
Ministries

Review, Evaluations, Planning, Calendar for
2019
Submit monies and forms
Location: **Millbrook**

ALABAMA WEST FLORIDA CONFERENCE UMW

HOPE — "... We have this HOPE..."

We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, where our forerunner, Jesus, has entered on our behalf. He has become a high priest forever — Hebrews 6:19-20 NIV



**Bishop David Graves
Resident Bishop
Alabama-West Florida Conference**
**invites United Methodist Women
to prayerfully prepare for
and attend Town Hall Meetings.**

Meeting Dates

To Help You Prepare

Spiritual Enrichment Retreat

Rev. Dr. Connie Mitchell Shelton

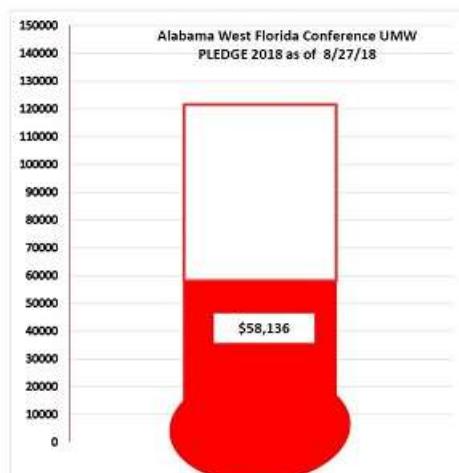
October 19-21, 2018

**Blue Lake
United Methodist Assembly Grounds**



Registration Forms and Information

PDF EXCEL



8/27/18	Pledge	Paid	Balance
Bay Pines	12,200	8,181	4,019
Demopolis	12,000	3,702	8,298
Dothan	14,750	8,961	5,790
Marianna/PC	12,800	3,451	9,349
Mobile	20,000	14,608	5,392
Mtg/Oplk	12,500	1,985	10,515
Mtg/Pratt	12,200	5,030	7,171
Pensacola	25,000	10,460	14,540
Events - Offering		1,759	-1,759
PLEDGE TO MISSION	121,450	58,136	63,314

United Methodist Women members prayerfully make pledges to their local organization. Their Mission Giving contributes to local mission, spiritual formation, programs for membership development and outreach in the community. The pledge journeys from the LOCAL to the DISTRICT and then to the CONFERENCE United Methodist Women. The pledged amount designated for mission is sent to the national body and budgeted for ministries with women, children and youth in the United States and all around the world. Women are involved in mission at each step of the way.

United Methodist Women mission giving is in compliance with The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church 2016, Paragraph 256, Section 5, Article

Click [HERE](#) and read pages 72-97 THE HANDBOOK 2017-2020 - Funding the Mission

2019 AWF UMW DATES

THE REMITTANCE FORM

FOR ALL LOCAL TREASURERS - all money must be to the District Treasurer by Nov 30th

Local Unit:		District	
Conference	Alabama West Florida	DATE	
I	UNDESIGNATED GIFTS	<i>Your change can change a life</i>	Total
1. Pledge to Mission		Regular Pledge	\$ -
2. Special Mission Recognition (Pin)		<i>If you want SMR pin, fill out below. Minimum Cost \$40 (see bottom for all)</i>	
Recipient's Name		Sent to name & address	Value*
			\$ -
3. Gift to Mission		#	(cards - \$5 each) list below
		#	# cards
		Baby	On Your Special Day
		Birthday	Peace
		Christmas	Thank you
		Congratulations	Thinking of You
		In Service of Christ	\$ -
4. Gift in Memory			
5. World Thank Offering			
TOTAL UNDESIGNATED GIFTS (to be counted on 5-Star *)			
II DESIGNATED GIFTS		AMOUNT	
6. A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial			
7. Supplementary Gifts: If other UMW Agency not listed, write in			
3001146 A Brighter Future for Children and Youth			
3001148 Assembly Offering			
3001149 Scarritt-Bennett Center			
N721222 DUMAS WESLEY			
U000002 UMCOR (name Project/Adv #)			
SUBTOTAL SUPPLEMENTARY GIFTS:			
III AWF UMW CONFERENCE GIVING		AMOUNT	
Per Member		<i>Formerly Conference Specials: will be broken out by the vote of the AWFC UMW Executive Committee. Any local unit can send funds directly to old Conference Special agencies, however, the district and conference will not send for you any longer.</i>	
\$	10.00	AWFC UMW LOVE OFFERING	# Members
		TOTAL DESIGNATED GIFTS (stays in Conference:)	
IV TOTAL REMITTANCE Check #:		TOTAL:	
Treasurer:		Check #	
Phone:		Email:	
Section I - requirements for 5-star *		<i>Return form with check to District Treasurer. Any funds not listed above will be returned to you to send by your unit to the Agency.</i>	
\$40 basic pin, \$60 with sapphire, \$100 with pearl, \$200 with emerald, \$500 with ruby, \$1,000 with diamond, \$2,000 with two diamonds.			

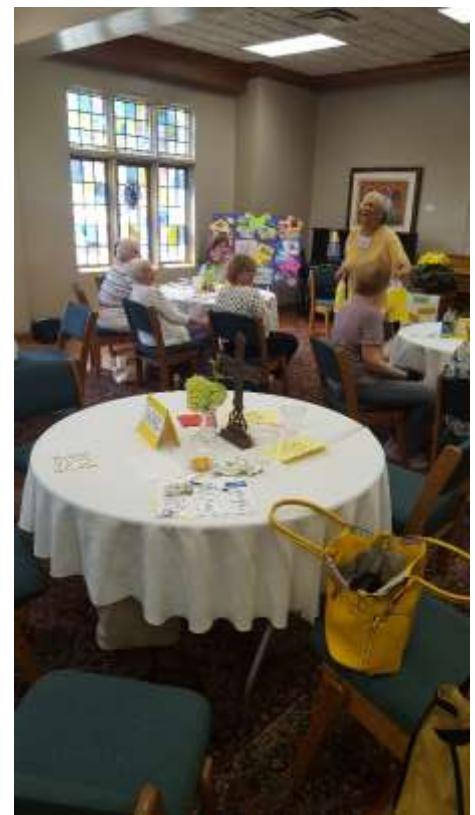
Montgomery-Prattville District UMW

District Mission Study #2 for 2018

Presenter: Tutti Johnson, AWF Conference Coordinator, Membership, Nurture, and Outreach

"Missionary Conferences of the United Methodist Church"

Saturday, June 23, 2018 – Montgomery First UMC



**Montgomery-Prattville District UMW
At
Mission U Event -2018
St. Luke's UMC
In
Pensacola Florida – July 20 & 21**



We would love to include your unit activities and mission projects in *The Messenger's Flame*. Please submit articles and photos, if available, to
Cdavis854@bellsouth.net



Carolyn Davis, Communication Coordinator



Mable Lawrence, District Secretary

ALERT! . . . Are you a Subscriber?

You too can become informed of Alabama-West Florida Conference United Methodist Women events and activities by subscribing to Alert today!

Send your request to Debbie Bush, Communications Coordinator: Savannahgirl2759@gmail.com. She will give instructions for mailing a \$4.00 check, made payable to Alabama-West Florida Conference United Methodist Women.

You may receive a copy of ALERT free by email. Email savannahgirl2759@gmail.com with your request and you will be added to our email list.

ALERT is also online at www.awf-umw.org

Stay Connected

UMW: www.unitedmethodistwomen.org

AL-WFL: www.awf-umw.org/

Mont-Pratt District: 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.