

CIRCUIT WRITER

SEPTEMBER
2023

COMING EVENTS

OCTOBER 6 & 7:

AWF-UWF
CONFERENCE
SPIRITUAL
ENRICHMENT
RETREAT,
BLUE LAKE

OCTOBER 28:

DOTHAN, MARIANNA,
PANAMA CITY FALL
ANNUAL MEETING,
GRACEVILLE, FL UMC
9:00 AM
REGISTRATION

NOVEMBER 4:

LEADERSHIP
DEVELOPMENT
LUNCH & LEARN FOR
DISTRICT
PRESIDENTS &
TREASURERS, 8:30 –
3:30 VIA ZOOM

NOVEMBER 20:

LOCAL CPR FORMS
DUE TO DISTRICT
PRESIDENTS DUE TO
DISTRICT
PRESIDENTS

UWFAITH SUNDAY
CELEBRATION

SAVE THE DATE!
APRIL 13TH, 2024
MOSS HILL - A DAY
APART; DETAILS TO
BE ANNOUNCED

SAVE THE DATE!
APRIL 19-21, 2024:
SOUTHEASTERN
JURISDICTION
QUADRENNIAL
MEETING
CHATTANOOGA, TN



President's Ponderings
CONNECTIONS

Deb Ketzel
President

It just seems like it has been summer for a long time this year. The warm temperatures and humidity seem to have stayed with us longer than normal this summer. We have been so isolated from the heat by staying indoors for safety. However, I am ready to connect, to grow, to become more fully a part of my world, caring for others.

I have been connecting this summer with my family and friends. Through visits of people on vacation to telephone calls more regularly, to sending cards of encouragement, I have been busy making and bringing back some connections with family and friends I have not seen for a while. I have set aside time of prayer for them, especially when they are sick or going through a crisis. So, making connections has made the summer go by a little quicker.

Another way I connected this summer, was through attending *Mission u*. Throughout the hot days of July, our conference *Mission u* team held it *Mission u* in Montgomery, AL. During this time together we were able to study, sing and fellowship with other United Women in Faith members across the conference. We connected with the local area too, by providing food and helping pack food boxes for a local pantry in Montgomery. Look for ways to connection with this study by using the *Mission u* study: "Living in the Kin-dom."

I have been connecting with God this summer. Through everyday prayer and finding that moment of time where God speaks to us, is good for all of us. We can grow and move forward with our journey with Christ by making that connection with God.

I have been connecting with my sisters of UW Faith. This summer through writing letters, telephone calls, and emails, along with personal visits, I have connected more fully with my sisters of UW Faith. I even connected with a woman on UW Faith Facebook page that lives close by us wanting to start a new unit. Please pray for her as well as our district and conference as we support this woman and her friends in starting a new unit.

So how have you shown connection this summer? How can you make connections this fall? Praying that you will connect with us this fall to grow and to support the life and mission of United Women in Faith.

Deb Ketzel, President
United Women in Faith
Panama City/Marianna/Dothan District
Email: Ketzel2@outlook.com
Phone: 815-821-3615



From the Secretary's Pen
Elizabeth Bell

As I begin writing for our Fall Circuit Writer, my heart is breaking with the news of local units that are not with us any longer because of the disaffiliation of their local United Methodist Church. It is my prayer that our friends who are in these units will continue to be part of United Women in Faith. All you have to do is just let us know that you are still there,

and we will send you newsletters and notifications of our district events so that you may join us for fellowship. The only reason you would have to leave your church is if you are the Conference President of United Women in Faith who must be a member of a United Methodist Church.

Spiritual Enrichment Retreat will be at Blue Lake on October 6 - 7. Mark your calendar now to join us for focus groups, inspirational speaker, and fellowship with other Women in Faith.

Remember our District Fall Gathering will be in Graceville on Saturday, October 28 at 9:00 AM. Make your plans now to join us for the election of officers, food, and fellowship.

Elizabeth Bell

ebell410@comcast.net



*Tidbits from the Treasurer
Bonnie Brant*

Hello United Women in Faith,

Wishing you all a wonderful finish to your summer. Our district's UWF giving has picked up nicely since our last newsletter. Here are our District's results through mid-August:

*Pledges	\$6412.00	5-star requirement
*SMR PINS	\$120.00	5-star requirement
*Gift to Mission Cards	\$75.00	5-star requirement
*Gift in Memory	\$180.00	5-star requirement
*World Thank Offering	\$470.00	5-star requirement
Total Pledge Giving	\$7257.00	
Prayer and Self-Denial	\$1399.00	
Conference Love Offering	\$1735.00	

We are making good progress toward our District Pledge of \$18,000.00 for 2023. But it will take a strong finish in the Fall.

It takes giving in all five of the Pledge giving categories above to achieve 5-star status. If you need cards, simply include at least \$5 per card on your Remittance Form and I will ship them to you.

Please mail your giving to me by the end of November for your unit to be eligible for the 5-star honor. Here's how:

To send in Mission and Conference Donations:

1. Donations can be sent throughout the year. Only those donations that reach me before December count toward 2023. Please use the proper Remittance Form when you send in donations. If you need forms, I'll be glad to mail you some.
2. Please continue to make **checks payable to "UMW"**.
3. My mailing address is:
Bonnie Brant
316 Blue Sage Road
Panama City Beach, FL 32413

Again, thank **you** for being willing to serve.

Bonnie Brant

Marianna, Panama City, Dothan District, UWF Treasurer

Text or call: 478-262-5600

E-mail: bonniebrant@live.com

Spiritual Growth *Margorie Vassie*

Galatians 5:22-25 *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such there is no law. And they that are of Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with the passions and the lusts thereof. If we live by the Spirit, by the Spirit let us also walk.”*

Offers of Fruit in our Spiritual Life indicates health and maturity in a Believer. Today’s passage of scripture lists nine traits that show up in our life when God’s Holy Spirit dwells in us. Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Faithfulness, Kindness, Goodness, Gentleness and Self-control. But how can we watch for these and know we are traveling in the right direction and growing in Christ likeness. They are evident when we:

1. Bear the shortcomings of others and ourselves.
2. By using our words very carefully.
3. Give to others and serve more willingly and cheerful.
4. Resist temptation and when we sin and ask forgiveness.
5. Keep our promises to God and others.
6. Respond to challenges with peace and much patience.

Most folks around us want to see our efforts. But they notice the Lord's Character forming in us. Use this list and take inventory, which of these need more emphasis in your life. My prayer for each of us today is to take stock of our own life and ask:

"Have I been following in Jesus Footsteps", "Have I done His Will".
Thank you, our Heavenly Father for your Grace, and Mercy. Amen.
Marjorie Vassie, Spiritual Growth

United Women in Faith *Information*

Reading Program 2023

Don't forget your reading program for 2023. It's a way to connect with some of those issues of United Women in Faith. You may find the catalog of the 2023 reading books on the national website, www.uwfaith.org/resources/reading-program.

Suggestions for reading you might find interesting are: Ida B the Queen, Susan Angeline Collins: With a Hallelujah Heart and The Four Winds. Each one a little different but interesting reading. Register your reading program reading on the unit forms for 2023 where those who have been reading can be recognized at our 2024 meeting.

Financial Gifts Change Lives

We support programs in the United States and around the world that improve life for women, children and youth and their communities.

As the trusted steward of generous donations, we give to partner churches, ecumenical and grassroots projects through a granting process overseen by a member-chosen, 25-member Board of Directors composed of United Women in Faith members.

United Women in Faith does not fund projects and programs that:

- Don't benefit women, children, or youth
- Don't comply with our UMC Social Principles
- Are administered by discriminatory organizations

AWF UW Faith 2022 Pledge to Mission

FUNDING OUR MISSION - OUR PLEDGE--United Women in Faith 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 Women in Faith. 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 Women in Faith mission giving is in compliance with The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church 2016, Paragraph 256, Section 5, Article 6.

Click [HERE](#) and read pages 3-10 THE HANDBOOK 2021-2024
Funding the Mission

Your mission dollars are needed now. Women, children, and youth are counting on us.

Mission u 2023

Mission u was an educational experience filled with scripture, sharing, fun, and friendship.

VIRTUAL MISSION U

If you missed the in-person session of Mission u, you can still participate in the study virtually. A Zoom session will be available on October 10, 17, and 24th. [Click here for the mail-in Registration Form.](#)

Rev. Richard Williams



Rev. Richard Williams



Dean Rev. Jim DuFriend



*Communications Coordinator
Kathy Hardy*

Nominations for 2024

This summer and early fall the district team of officers will be looking to fill positions for the district mission team. The following offices will be elected this fall in 2023 (odd year) to begin in 2024:

- Vice President
- Treasurer
- Coordination for Membership, Nurture and Outreach
- Coordination for Spiritual Growth
- Chair of Nominations
- Nominations Committee

We have vacancies that we need to fill:

- Coordinator for Social Action
- Coordinator for Education and Interpretation

If you wish to nominate someone, or wish to offer yourself as an officer, please fill out the following Talent Bank for and/or contact President Deb Ketzel or other members of the United Women in Faith District mission team officers.

TALENT BANK FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ **Email:** _____

Local Unit Information: _____

Special Talent and Skills: Should have computer skills and be able to use Excel (Treasurer) and Word (Secretary) _____

Office Interested In: _____

Please return this information by email to Deb Ketzel at ketzel2@outlook.com.

Thank you for your help.

Fall Annual Meeting

The Fall Annual Meeting for the Dothan/Marianna/Panama City District will be held **October 28th** at Graceville, Florida United Methodist Church. Registration and light refreshments begin at 9:00 am with the meeting commencing at 9:30 am. Information to follow.



*Alabama – West Florida Conference
Debbie Bracewell, President*

Events that took place at Annual Conference have certainly given us as United Women in Faith several issues to discuss. Realigning of districts is not an easy task, and I have been inundated with questions and comments that cannot be answered quickly. I would like to suggest that we take the time from July 2023 to 2024 to investigate how to best realign our districts/district business as the church conference has realigned theirs.

Rationale:

1. If I am reading the signs correctly, it appears that the districts in the Panhandle of Florida will, at some point, be part of the Florida Conference. If those two districts are already paired, that process may be easier for them and for us.
2. Through a long process, budgets have been prepared for 2023-2024. Postponing realignment will give us the opportunity to continue business as usual with the knowledge that next year, budgets can be compiled by those in the districts that will be newly aligned for 2025.
3. I may be wrong, but I don't believe the districts know exactly which churches still have units and which churches do not. Communication must be made with the local churches to see if a UMC church still has a unit and/or if a disaffiliated church unit wishes to remain in UWFaith.
4. Elections will be taking place this fall for conference and district officers. Postponing realignment will give us the opportunity to continue business as usual with the knowledge that next year, officers can be recruited and elected from members in the districts that will be newly aligned in 2025.

Debbie G. Bracewell

President

Alabama-West Florida Conference United Women in Faith

SOUTHEASTERN JURISDICTION QUADRENNIAL EVENT

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

REGISTRATION OPENS SEPTEMBER 2023 EARLY REGISTRATION:

\$210.00 (September through December 2023)

LATE REGISTRATION: \$240.00 (After December 2023)

Additional information and instructions on how to register are attached.