

The Informer

South West District United Women in Faith Newsletter
Spring 2022



United
Women
in Faith

President's Ponderings

Good Day Ladies! Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ!

2022 is well under way and we have been busy. We have a new name:



United Women in Faith (UWF) to go with our new district name South West. This will become easier to say the more we say it. United Women in Faith! I like it. We have the opportunity to talk about who we are and what we do. We are still United Methodist and we still believe in mission.

Our South West District Annual Day meeting at Grove Hill UMC in March was an extra-special event as we gathered for the first time as a newly-expanded District. Thanks to all who attended and prayed for this event and especially to our hostesses at Grove Hill.

Our local units are meeting again; I attended a meeting with a local unit and hope to attend more. We are gathering this month in mission for UMCOR. Look at the calendar of remaining events for 2022 and plan to attend something that you have never attended. Be on the lookout for opportunities to host or co-host an event.

For the remainder of 2022, I would like for the South West district to

SOUTH WEST DISTRICT MISSION TEAM 2022

President

Michele Smith
251-895-1306

Vice President

Secretary

Marcie McNeal
251-509-6062

Treasurer

Sally Pehler
251-490-4717

Communications

Susan McRae
251-751-1775

Mission Coordinators

Education and Interpretation

Membership Nurture & Outreach

Stephanie Bromley
251-689-3771

Social Action

Ginger Sorenson
251-608-3050

Spiritual Growth

Anne Capps
334-852-1234

Committee on Nominations

Judy Burnham
251-473-6565

Registrar

Mary Presley

Historian

Shirley Bryan

Parliamentarian

Debbie Bell
251-232-6898



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focus on the social, spiritual and educational aspects that our foremothers focused on when they organized:

- Social: Talk to women about United Women in Faith
- Spiritual: Pray daily for United Women in Faith and the United Methodist church as a whole
- Educational: Be prepared to answer questions regarding United Women in Faith.

There is light shining brighter at the end of this tunnel! We have over 7 months to finish strong as directed in the scripture, keeping our eye on the prize: Helping women, children, and youth to become whole persons through Jesus Christ.

I have been preparing to attend Assembly in Orlando through daily prayer. I cannot wait to share with this awesome district what I learn with other Women United in Faith!

Peace until our next conversation –
Michele

Michele Smith
President, 2021-22
South West District United Methodist Women

Secretary's Scribbles

Let's Talk Technology!

Now before you roll your eyes or skip over this article as not pertaining to you, you might be surprised at how convenient and user-friendly these technology tools are for your responsibilities. Most of all they can be super helpful! Here are a few free secretary apps you can download on your phone or computer to aid in effectiveness with organizing your unit.

- **24me** – 24me is one of the best free secretary apps for helping you put together your organizing tools such as calendar, notes and reminders towards completing a task. It reminds you of what you need to do and when you need to do it.
- **Dragon Mobile Assistant**
Dragon Mobile Assistant is an outstanding free secretary which aids effectiveness. This personal assistant app allows you to stay

SOUTH WEST DISTRICT Alabama-West Florida Conference UNITED WOMEN OF FAITH

Units and Presidents

*Christ UWF
Debbie Bell*

*Dauphin Way UWF
Jamie Blake*

*Grand Bay UWF
Elsie Patrick*

*Grove Hill UWF
Mary English*

*Kingswood UWF
Suzanne Meadows*

*New Hope UWF
Karen Arnold*

*Pine Hill UWF
Tutti Johnson*

*Spring Hill UWF
Janice Small*

*St. John UWF
Katy Wrona*

*St. Mary UWF
Suzette Williams*

*Theodore UWF
Ginger Sorenson*

*Theodore First UWF
Evelyn Stallworth*

*Thomasville UMW
Shirley Hodges*

*Toulminville-Warren Street UMF
Geneva Hogan*



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- hands-free by reading your messages and notifications to keep you up to date.
- **Evernote**
Another popular free secretary app is Evernote. This app allows notes to be organized on or before a meeting. You can even access everything saved in the app by just logging into your device wherever you are.
- **Zoom**
Zoom is your best choice for a free personal app for a video conference meeting. With Zoom, video conferencing, screen sharing from a desktop or mobile device, and recording capabilities are all included. Above all, this is ideal for anyone who works with people constantly on the move because you can join meetings on your phone.

I do not want to discourage you from using the standard pen and paper. It is a tried and true tool for all secretaries. However, for those who are interested, and willing to take a chance please check out an app!

Reference

<https://www.themuse.com/advice/8-free-apps-that-double-as-personal-assistants>

<https://www.newbalancejobs.com/12-best-free-secretary-apps-to-aid-effectiveness>

<https://www.androidauthority.com/best-personal-assistant-apps-android-667299>

Marcie McNeal
Secretary 2021-22
South West District United Methodist Women
mcnealms@gmail.com
251-509-6062

Treasurer's Tidbits

I hope this finds you all enjoying a *real* spring! The temperatures have been wonderful and the sunshine so welcome!! Hopefully this beautiful spring is encouraging our units to gather together and become reacquainted with one another.

Don't forget the May 14thUMCOR event at **Christ United** in the **Fellowship Hall** at **10 AM**. No shopping is needed as the required

Our Purpose
~
United Women in Faith 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.



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parts of the Hygiene Kits have been bulk-ordered to make our money go as far as possible. Tax-deductible donation checks should be written to **Christ UMW** and sent to Mrs. Phyllis Allen, 6895 Providence Estates Dr S, Mobile, AL 36695. All pieces of the Hygiene Kits have been readied for assembly. On May 14th, the kits will be assembled, blessed and readied for transfer to the Sager Brown facility in Baldwin, Louisiana.

Our Conference tells us that 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 UNIT 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.

As of April 30th, we have a little over \$7,100 of our \$24,575 total pledge that has been fulfilled with contributions from **6 of the 15 units** in the district - with 1/3 of the year behind us, we have only a quarter of our District pledge raised. Many thanks to **Christ, Grand Bay, Pine Hill, Theodore, Thomasville and Toulminville-Warren Street United Women in Christ** units for submitting contributions. All Unit Presidents are asked to plan with your unit for fundraising efforts to meet your mission contribution obligations.

Please discuss with your units their plans for reaching the goal of being a 5-star unit. The five channels of giving are: Pledge to Mission, Special Recognition, Gift to Mission, Gift in Memory and World Thank Offering.

Treasurers, I have the forms that you need and plenty of mission gift "greeting cards": Gift in Memory, Birthday, Thank You, Thinking of You, Congratulations and Gift to Mission Christmas cards, are available. Please let me know what you need.

"Giving is not just about making a donation; it's about making a difference."

The Five Channels of Mission Giving

-1-

Pledge to Mission

-2-

Special Mission Recognition

-3-

Gift to Mission

-4-

Gift in Memory

-5-

World Thank Offering



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Should you ever need anything, please call, text or email.

Sally Pehler
Treasurer, 2022-23
South West District United Women of Faith

Please note that I have a new address!

Sally Pehler
PO Box 1435
Point Clear, AL 36564
251-490-4717
s.pehler@comcast.net

~ Coming Soon ~
ASSEMBLY 2022



The excitement is mounting as preparations are being finalized for Assembly 2022 to be held at the Orlando Convention Center, May 20-22. During this event, in-person and virtual attendees will reflect on today's challenges and together find comfort and strength to move forward, building new ways for faith-filled women to make a difference in our communities and the world. Recommitment to our purpose will be a major focus but also more. For such a time as this we will

TURN IT UP!

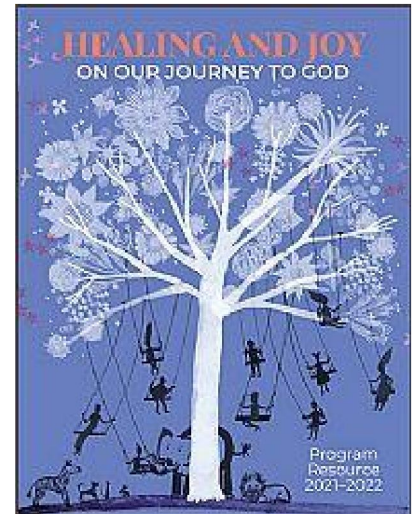
for spiritual healing and renewal

for rebirth in a new time

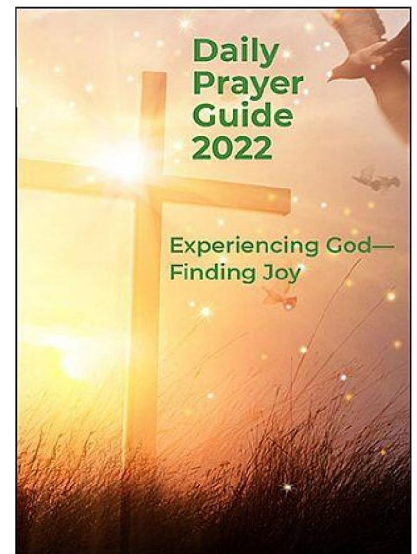
for women leaders

for justice for Women, children and youth

Get the Program Resource Guide (formerly the Program Book) at
<https://www.umwmissionresources.org/>



Get the Daily Prayer Guide (formerly the Prayer Calendar) at
<https://www.umwmissionresources.org/>

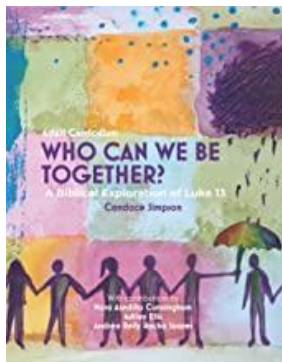




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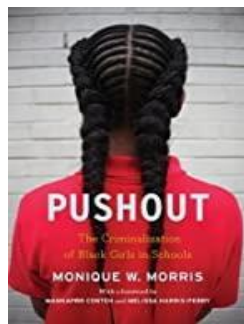
Mission u

Registration is open for the 2022 AWF Cooperative Mission u, both in person and online! It is to be held at **Aldersgate UMC** (6610 Vaughn Rd., Montgomery) on **July 23rd** in a packed **8:30 AM – 5:00 PM** day. *Who Can We Be Together? A Biblical Exploration of Luke 13* will bring participants deeper into Jesus' teachings in this chapter of Luke to explore what it means to be in community. And for the first time a youth and children's version is being offered! Cost is \$40 and you are encouraged to sign up at awf-umw.org before the July 11th deadline.



District Mission Study

Join your United Women in Faith South West District sisters for the District Mission Study to be held on **Saturday, August 27th** at **Theodore UMC**, 6555 Swedetown Rd N, Theodore, AL. This **10 AM-2 PM** mission study on the book **Pushout** will be both enlightening and challenging. Mark your calendars now for this important study!



Education and Interpretation

In my opinion, the Education and Interpretation Coordinator is one of the least understood offices but perhaps one of the most necessary for sharing the importance and impact of mission giving as an **act of faith and commitment to mission projects that support women, children and youth around the world**. In learning about the mission and what happens to our gifts, we should be motivated **to better support the work of our organization**.

Just what does an Education & Interpretation mission coordinator actually do? She promotes **educational opportunities** such as mission studies (including Mission u), local mission opportunities, leadership

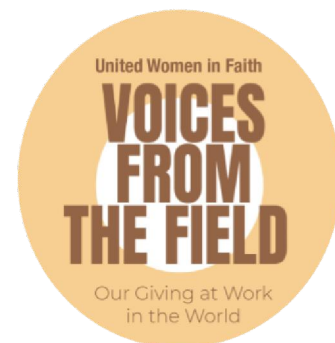
Podcasts

Podcasts are an excellent source of informative, thoughtful interaction that are easy to listening and have added benefits. Get podcasts at –

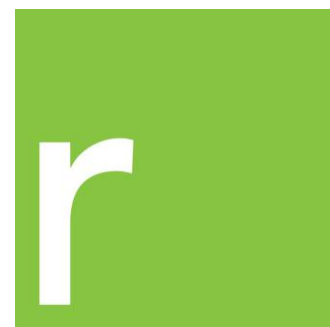
<https://uwfaith.org/resources/podcasts/>



Faith Talks can be used for meeting requirements of the Reading Program



Where do our mission dollars go? Find out at *Voices from the Field*



Hear some of *response* Magazine's best stories at *Responsively Yours*



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development events, spiritual growth retreats, Assembly, Ubuntu Days of Service, annual meetings and other events underwritten by Mission Giving. 2022 Mission u registration is now open. The current issue of Alert contains articles and more details about our Luke 13 study. There will also be a day of serving or educational opportunities on Friday, July 22 before the Mission u study on the 23rd.



The E&I coordinator **interprets** the need to give by using the resources developed by the national staff or in her own words and graphics to tell the mission story. There are many print, digital, and audiovisual resources that visually portray our dollars at work. To help you visualize these stories, there are excellent mission videos on YouTube at United Women in Faith or United Methodist Women (which

will redirect you to the new channel). The **Daily Prayer Guide** (formally known as the Prayer Calendar) is now available on Facebook AND the **response** magazine are also great resources to illustrate the ministries of our organization and the projects we support as well as to guide our prayers. These are used in your *response* moment and Prayer Guide reflections during unit or circle gatherings to inspire and educate members who may not have access to these publications.

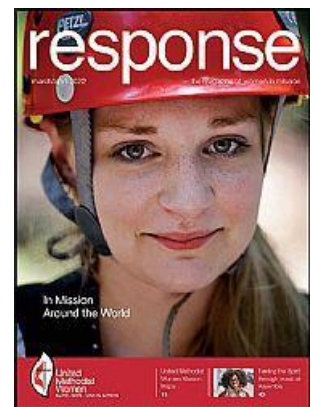
What new resource tools and programs are coming?

You will find a new, easier to navigate website with a homepage designed to gain the interest of women new to our organization at **uwfaith.org**. Soon, the homepage will also include a special area where members can log in to access resources. Currently all downloadable material is housed at **umwmissionresources.org**. Click on the large panel with the new United Women in Faith logo to access the **Downloads and Resources** section or find the link in the left column. Under the resources, you will find some excellent PowerPoint presentations with a detailed script about the rationale for our rebranding and name change. These would make a great Unit program. There is also a free digital issue of the March/April **response** which provides FAQ on the process and rationale of our rebranding.

Please, don't hesitate to contact me. As always, I stand ready to provide

Subscribe to response magazine in digital or print form at

<https://www.cambeywest.com/subscribe2/?p=RSP&f=cus-tcare>



To download the Reading Program information use: <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/readingprogramcatalog2021.pdf>





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resources and ways to increase Mission Giving to guarantee our Regional Missionaries, National Institutions and our important mission efforts for women, children and youth will continue even in our uncertain economic times.

Our vision statement remains the same: *Turning faith, hope and love in action on behalf of women, children and youth around the world.*

Blessings as you love and serve others,

Joyce Genz

Education and Interpretation Mission Coordinator

Alabama-West Florida Conference United Methodist Women 2021-22

Membership Nurture and Outreach

“Like a Good Wine”

The Duke of Sussex, Prince Harry, recently said, “Life is full of extraordinary gifts and challenges, many that can be seen as lessons. And over time, we need to mentally approach and react to these ups and downs - gifts and challenges - to help define our outcome.” He had helped out with the Invictus Games, an international sporting event for wounded, injured and sick servicemen and women, both serving and veterans.

With so much upheaval erupting around the world, many are constantly dealing with past and current trauma. Those of us who are in the fortunate position of being able to help others, like Prince Harry does with the Invictus Games and like we do as United Women of Faith, need to continually remind ourselves of how very blessed we truly are! Sometimes when we tend to overlook this level of gratitude, we also need to remind ourselves of the suffering, sacrifice and selflessness that the work of the Holy Spirit does within us. “We’re like a grape, but we cannot be poured out wine until we’re crushed.”

Therefore, if we can stay calm, faithful and focused throughout the turmoil of life, then the goal of the purpose of God is being accomplished within us. Let’s allow ourselves to see that God’s purpose is to enable us to do so! And if we realize these moment by moment levels of obedience are the goals, then each up and down, each gift and challenge, will define our outcome and we will be like a good poured-out wine.

Stephanie Bromley

Membership Nurture & Outreach Coordinator 2022-23

South West District United Methodist Women



Social Action

For more than 150 years, Methodist women organized for mission have worked in the name of Jesus to take positions on social justice issues and change legislation, systems, structures and practices considered unjust and oppressive. These bold foremothers advocated to end lynching, to improve women's health, to raise women's status in society, to organize for fair wages and benefits for workers and families, and they adopted the Charter for Racial Justice.



Today, we continue to build on this foundation as we work to end maternal mortality, attain a living wage for all, interrupt the school-to-prison pipeline and ensure energy that is just for all. As United Methodist Women of the 21st century, we are called to be bold in our witness, working to dismantle systems of oppression and build, together, a better world.

From Why United Methodist Women Engage in Social Action

Ginger Sorenson
Social Action Mission Coordinator 2022-23
South West District United Methodist Women

Spiritual Growth

My Crooked Cross

I hope everyone had a joyful Easter, celebrating our Savior with family, friends, and other Women of Faith. This time of year, Spring, shows her beauty in all things. New life, buds and blooms all around us, and we can see God's beauty in all of it. How lucky are we?

I jokingly tell people who come to my home, how my porch décor is not seasonal, it is up year-round. I have the American flag in one corner, Christmas lights in another, and still remnants of fall items too. My Easter bunny rug is never replaced, and my cross surrounded with moss and flowers hangs on my door no matter the season. Part and partial due to laziness, but also, I never seem to want to replace or rotate things that make me happy. But that cross y'all!

The cross is old, and most of the moss and flowers have fallen off. It never seems to hang straight when I want it to. Every morning and afternoon that cross mocks me. It always seems to have a slight tilt to it. I can straighten it back, and it will be steady for a day or so, and then a small breeze will come and there it goes again, crooked. My crooked cross.



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Just like our spiritual journey, our straightened up. We hit a bump in falter, but the cross never falls, it out into the world and spread the with kindness and grace. After all, day. No matter how many times a "straighten your cross" do it. are we expected to be. So, if your down?

Pray, love, give and all will be crooked cross, just don't let this altogether.



cross we carry always needs to be the road, or a storm causes us to never leaves us. Christ calls us to go good news; to love and treat others He does the same for us every single day, week, month, or year you must Remember, that no one is perfect, nor cross is tilted a bit, ragged, and run

straight again. It is okay to have a life cause yours to blow away

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight" (Proverbs 3: 5, 6 NIV).

Anne Capps
Spiritual Growth Mission Coordinator 2022-23
South West District United Methodist Women

Committee on Nominations

The South West District UMW Committee on Nominations is seeking names of women willing to complete the year as District Officers. Open positions include **Vice President, Education & Interpretation** and **Nominating Committee**. Prayerfully consider if God is calling you or someone you know to serve the South West District in one of these positions.

Additionally, we will be seeking nominees for 2023-25 for the positions of **President, Secretary, Communications Coordinator, Education & Interpretations Mission Coordinator**, and **Nominating Committee**.

Carolyn Brown, Sallie Brown, Judy Burnham, Mary Gipson, Geneva Hogan, Esme Quijada
South West District UMW Nominating Committee



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SOUTH WEST DISTRICT UNITED METHODIST WOMEN ALABAMA-WEST FLORIDA CONFERENCE 2022 DISTRICT AND CONFERENCE CALENDAR

| | | | |
|--------------------|---|--|---|
| January 15 | Executive Team Meeting XTeam Officers & District Presidents | Virtual | |
| January 29 | South West Mission Team Meeting | Citronelle UMC | 10:00 AM |
| February 19 | AWF-UMW Conference Annual Day | Mariana First UMC | 10 AM – 3:30 PM |
| March 19 | District Annual Day | Grove Hill UMC | 10:00AM-12:00 PM |
| May 20-22 | Assembly 2022 Turn It UP! | Orlando Convention Center | |
| June 11 | District Mission Team Meeting 2022 Budget Meeting | St. John UMC | 10:00 AM |
| July 16 | Executive Team Meeting X Team Officers, District Presidents & District Treasurers 2022 District Budget Reviews | Enterprise UMC/Zoom | 8:00 AM |
| July 23-24 | Cooperative Mission u July 23 Ubuntu Day July 24 Study | Aldersgate UMC, Montgomery | 1:00 – 4:00 PM 8:30 AM – 5:30 PM |
| August 13 | District Mission Study Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools | Theodore | 10:00 AM-2:00 PM |
| October 7-8 | AWF-UMW Conf Spiritual Enrichment Retreat | Blue Lake Assembly Grounds | Friday 3:00 PM check-in or Saturday 7:00 am check-in |
| October 15 | District Spiritual Enrichment Day | Pine Hill UMC | 10:00 AM- 12 PM |
| November 12 | District Mission Team Meeting | St. John UMC/Zoom | 10:00 AM |
| November 14 | UMW DAY | ALL LOCAL UNITS CELEBRATE | |
| June 12-15 | ALABAMA-WEST FLORIDA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH ANNUAL CONFERENCE | | |
| | Dunn-Oliver Acadome | Alabama State University Campus | |
| | Attendees: AWF-UMW President & District Presidents as Voting Delegate | | |