

The Messenger's Flame

Montgomery District Women in Faith

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Jill Lowman

Nominations

Nominations Member

Mattie Baker



Greetings From Montgomery District President

Hello, everyone.

This message comes from the Montgomery District, soon to be renamed the Central Alabama District as we attempt to be more appropriately identifying of the Montgomery and Demopolis units that merged in 2021/2022.

We are moving along as United Women in Faith and embrace the national attempt to be more inclusive in gathering women into our mission work for God's "kin-dom" while still seeking additional direction, information, and guidance on how this new "look" will affect and impact our reserve to continue the work we have been striving to do for 150-plus years.

Throughout this year, the Montgomery District leadership has attempted to meet and greet representatives from the 26 merged units, shared rebranding information, and carried out the various duties and responsibilities of spiritual growth, nurture and outreach, and leadership development.

Our district regrettably said goodbye to 2 units and joyfully anticipates the desire for continued membership from at least 2 of those unit members who, at this time, are considering joining other units to remain active. Hopefully, these will inspire others to do the same.

In September at Clanton First UMC we celebrated a spirit-filled Spiritual Enrichment event facilitated by our Spiritual Growth Coordinator, Jill Lowman and led by UM Spiritual Director Donnell Seager.

Our district had representation at conference UW in Faith annual conference, leadership development, Mission U, and SER events. We look forward to a productive and even more uplifting 2023 and give thanks for this unified effort to be about God's good works.

Happy Holidays and may God bless each of you,
Marsha Clayton, District President



Carla Lumpkin
Education and
Interpretation



United
Women
in Faith
Coordinator

As we look back on the year 2022 with all its changes and challenges, we are grateful for God's mercy and faithfulness. Now as we are about to begin a new year, let us consider the following events and programs for participation next year. You will receive more information as we have it.

Annual Day: Our 2023 Annual Day is scheduled for Saturday, February 11, and will be hosted by Metropolitan UMC. At that time units will be awarded certificates of participation in various events and programs in 2022.

Reading Program: Books eligible for next year's Reading Program are in the lists from 2018-2022 AND the new list for 2023. You can locate those lists on the uwfaith.org website and in the November/December issue of response magazine. The reporting forms can be downloaded from the website as well.

Mission u: Mission u is scheduled to be held in July 2023 at Aldersgate UMC.

Mission Study: The mission study "Who Can We Be Together" is scheduled for Saturday, May 23, 2023, at Auburn UMC.

Mission Giving: As our units meet and plan for the next year, we must be mindful of the need for continual financial support for the mission of UWF across the United States and around the world.

Mission Today: Plan early in the year to participate in and begin to work toward accomplishment of the criteria you select for your unit.

Charter for Racial Justice: As we do not have a District Social Action Coordinator at this time, allow me to remind you that this program also is one to plan early in the year to begin to accomplish the criteria for participation

Please let me know if I can answer questions or assist you in locating info and forms.

Carla Lumpkin, Education & Interpretation Coordinator
205-613-4537
carlalumpkin@yahoo.com



Jill Lowman
Spiritual Growth



United
Women
in Faith **Coordinator**

Greetings,

We enjoyed the Spiritual Enrichment Retreat that was held in September 10th at Clanton First United Methodist Church. Our speaker, UM Spiritual Director Donnell Seager was great, and she had several prayer stations including the labyrinth, prayer beads, and prayer station. We missed all who could not attend

We will be moving next year's retreat to August so as not to interfere with football season and other school activities. If anyone has a suggestion for a speaker for next year, please get in touch with me.

We also encourage everyone to continue to use the **Prayer Guide** (Formerly the Prayer Calendar. It is newly revamped this year and is more user-friendly.) Please keep the people affected by war and relocation in your prayers for their safety. Our hearts are with them.

Peace and Grace to all.



United
Women
in Faith

The Central District United Women in Faith executive team **needs** to fill the offices of ...

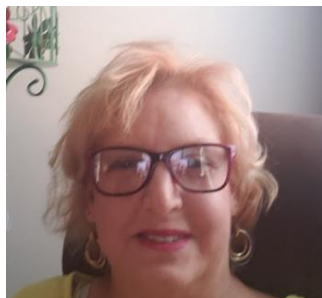
Vice-President
Social Actions Coordinator
Nomination committee Chairperson

If you would like to serve on the Montgomery District Executive team, please contact one of the women on the District Executive Team. Fill out a Talent form today.

You can find a talent form on the conference website awf-umw.org.

The Montgomery District Executive Team needs you!!





Jill Farris
District Treasurer



United
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As 2022 ends, Montgomery District's budget was short this year. First, THANK YOU to all the local treasurers for getting in their monies by the deadline. Your efforts this year showed your commitment to United Women of Faith and the Montgomery District. Each and every one of you are to be commended for your hard work.

Collected: \$ 11,380.00 (Pledge, mission, memory, World Thank, and SMR Pin)

\$ 1,571.00 (Prayer & Self Denial, UMCOR)

\$ 1,504.00 (AWFC Love Offering)

Total \$ 14,455.00

This makes Montgomery District \$9,295.00 short for 2022.

(\$20,675.00 minus \$11,380.00 total pledge amount)

2023 is around the corner with a bright future in front of all women of United Women of Faith, with a name change for our district. Montgomery District will now be known as Central District to create cohesiveness and inclusion of all units.

Please continue your monthly meeting and togetherness to help meet the 2023 goal of \$17,000.00. I am proud to announce we had eight 5-star units for 2022. Way to Go!!!

Looking forward to serving as your treasurer for another year.

Jill Farris, Montgomery District Treasurer

**GIVING BY UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH
MEMBERSHIP AND GIVING**

Membership in United Women in Faith is voluntary and based on each individual woman's commitment to the purpose of the organization. For most members, making a pledge to her group's Pledge to Mission, whether local or district, is a way of supporting the organization and expressing her commitment to mission. However, a pledge or



Mable Lawrence
Membership Nurture
and Outreach



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Membership, Nurture and Outreach (MNO) Coordination Leaders, I Challenge you to work actively to fulfill our **Purpose and find creative ways** to nurture current members and cultivate new members in **2023**.

Below are creative ways to promote membership and cultivate new members:

- A. keep the leadership team informed about needs and concerns of membership.
- B. chair the Committee on Membership and recommend to the leadership team plans for membership cultivation and official sign up via myUnited Women in Faith.
- C. work with district mission coordinators or person responsible for membership nurture and outreach to organize new district and local units and receive information about units in jeopardy of going inactive and follow up with necessary intervention, nurture and support.
- D. serve as the contact person for district mission coordinators or those responsible for membership, nurture and outreach, as well as provide resources, conduct training at least annually, as determined by the leadership team, and promote data collection through the membership census and member profiles.
- E. work with the leadership team to become a supportive community, provide regular creative fellowship activities for the team and work with them to create and encourage mentoring strategies.
- F. include time and space for women to share their concerns and experiences with one another at gatherings (online and in person) of United Women in Faith members.
- G. actively stay in touch with and support members through life's joys and struggles.
- H. work with the leadership team to value the inclusion of women of different cultures and life stages; and
- I. participate in the national MNO cohort for ongoing training, regular updates, and best practices; and
- J. serve on the other committees as determined by the leadership team

Central District & Alabama West Florida Conference
United Women in Faith

Tentative Calendar 2023

JAN 12 (Thursday) OR JAN 28 SAT.,??	District executive mission team officers AND Local Presidents.	District Executive Mission team meeting In Person or Zoom Meeting -- 10:00 start time
JAN 14	Conference executive mission team officers AND District Presidents.	AWF-UMW Conference Executive Mission team meeting, 9:30 start time. Bay Pines District
FEB 11	All invited	Central District Annual Day – Metropolitan UMC Start Time 10:00 a.m.
MARCH 24-25	All Invited	AWF – UWFaith Annual Day – Southwest District Mobile, AL
April 29	District executive mission team officers AND Local Presidents.	District Executive Mission team meeting Millbrook UMC-- 10:00 start time
MAY 20	All invited	District-wide Mission Study – Location Auburn UMC Mission Study “Who Can We Be Together”
JUNE 11-14	ALL INVITED	AWF UWFaith Annual Conference, Mobile, AL Mitchell Center, USA campus Attendees: AWF-UWFaith Conference President & District Presidents Voting Delegates
JULY 10	Conference executive mission team officers, District Presidents’ and District Treasurers’	AWF-UWFaith Conference Executive Mission Team Meeting, Enterprise First UMC. Includes conference executive mission team officers, District Presidents’ and District Treasurers’ attendance required.
JULY TBA	District Team, Unit Presidents, Vice, Two Reps All Invited	Mission U Location: Aldersgate UMC – 6610 Vaughn Rd. – Montgomery, AL
August 19	ALL INVITED	District (SER) Spiritual Enrichment Retreat Location - TBA
OCT. 6-7	ALL INVITED	AWF-UMW Conference Spiritual Enrichment Retreat (SER) AND 2023 EX. Mission Team election & installation, Blue Lake Assembly Ground
November Entire Month	ALL LOCAL UNITS RECOGNITION	UWFaith Sunday Celebration
NOV 4	Conference & District Presidents & Treasurers Meeting	Conference Leadership Development - Lunch & Learn for district presidents & district treasurers, 8:30-3:30, ZOOM
NOV 20	Local Units President Reports Due	Local Consolidated President Report forms due to District presidents
NOVEMBER 30 (Thursday)	District Team, Unit Presidents, Vice, Two Reps	District Executive Mission Team Meeting - Review, Evaluations, Planning, Calendar for 2024 Location: Zoom Meeting at 10 a.m.

District Newsletter – The Messenger’s Flame Article Due by February 17, May 17, July 17, December 5

Local Unit Spotlight:

Locust Bluff United Women in Faith Local Unit

Soul Care Christmas gathering, fellowship, games, prizes and food.



1943 – 2022

**Memorial Tribute
To former
Montgomery-Prattville District President**

Gloria Jean Canty Williams

**20 Years + of Service
District President 2007 - 2008**

**Gloria was a faithful servant in various
offices in the district and in her local unit
at Metropolitan United Methodist Church.**



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District (SER) Spiritual Enrichment Retreat Location Clanton UMC - September 10, 2022



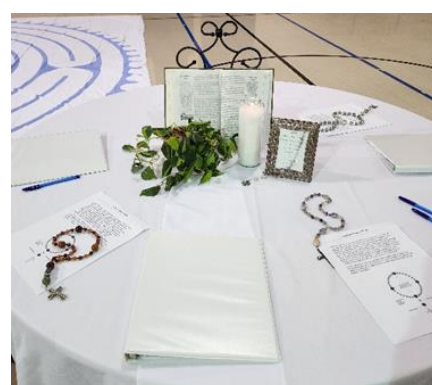
SER Facilitator Spiritual Director
Donnell Seager, Pastor Meghan
Kelly, Marsha Clayton Pres.,
Jill Lowman, SER Coordinator



Host Unit United Women In
Faith- Clanton 1st UMC



Chapel United Women in
Faith – Unit with the most in
attendance.



Spiritual director Donnell Seager provided prayer station labyrinth and prayer beads station.

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/Secretary

United Women in Faith does not furnish lists of their elected leaders or members to individuals or agencies outside the organization unless authorized by the Executive Committee.

**<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/memberresources>
has some great information about how to host a virtual event,
copyright and permissions for virtual events,
and guidelines for filming yourself.**

ALERT! . . . Are you a Subscriber?

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

**You may receive a copy of the ALERT newsletter free by email.
Email your request to the Conference president Debbie Bracewell at
debbracewell@gmail.com and you will be added to the email list.**

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