

CIRCUIT WRITER

**MARCH
2023**

COMING EVENTS

APRIL 9: EASTER

**MAY 10: ALERT
ARTICLES DUE**

**JUNE 10: ALERT
EMAILED**

**JUNE 11 – 14: AWF
ANNUAL
CONFERENCE,
MOBILE, AL**

**JULY 10: ALERT
ARTICLES DUE**

**JULY 15: AWF-UWF
CONFERENCE,
EXECUTIVE MISSION
TEAM MEETING, 1ST
UMC ENTERPRISE, AL**

**OCTOBER 6-7, 2023
AWF-UWF
CONFERENCE
SPIRITUAL
ENRICHMENT
RETREAT,
BLUE LAKE**

***President's Ponderings
Deb Ketzell***



Good day friends of United Women in Faith of the Panama City, Marianna, and Dothan Districts of the Alabama West Florida Annual Conference! I am your new president and wish to introduce myself. I have lived in the Florida Panhandle for a little over two short years. My husband and I moved here in the middle of the pandemic from the cold of Northern Illinois where we had lived for over 20 years. When we moved here, both of us were retired. He from being with the United Methodist clergy and me from being a music teacher in a bilingual elementary school in urban Rockford, IL. We moved here for the purpose of being a part of a community, to make friends, and to find purpose in our lives as we took on the new life of being retirees. Through social media, we were able to locate a new church home and I immediately gravitated toward United Methodist Women now United Women in Faith. United Methodist Women has been a part of my life as a leader for over 20 years. I became involved with women who were interested in local and global ministries of the church and to sharing their Love of Christ to all persons. I became a part of a sisterhood of believers once again!!!

Think back upon your own experience with United Women in Faith – How has United Women in Faith impacted your life to change it, to enrich it, to empower it??? What inspires you about United Women in Faith?? As we move into the spring of the year, let us not forget the seeds that have been sown to develop a sisterhood of believers, a group of women boldly forging ahead to make the lives of women, children, and youth better in your own local community and around the globe.

Blessings to you this spring!!! Call me or email me. Would love to chat with you and get to know you better.

Deb Ketzell

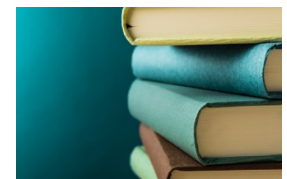
Email: ketzell2@outlook.com; Phone (815) 821-3615

***Reading Program
and Mission Today***

A main stay program for United Methodist Women is the **Reading Program**. It is a “cherished tradition” that continues on in the name of United Women in Faith. Something for everyone is available for adults, youth, and children. The subjects of books and the diverse genres make it enlightening for all ages and to make it interesting to talk about with others.

There are five categories of books:

- Education for Mission
- Leadership Development
- Nurturing for Community
- Social Action
- Spiritual Growth



response magazine and the “*Faith Talks*” Podcast are now part of the Reading Program, too. You may find reporting forms and reading program catalogs on the United Women in Faith official website, <https://uwfaith.org/>. When you track your reading program and submit the Report of Completion Requirements, you will be recognized with a Certificate of Recognition.

So how do you share this program effectively??? Here are some ideas taken from the United Women in Faith website: Share the program with your members and members of the community; Help people attain books; Connect with local and district groups; Display progress chart in your church; Pray; and Advocate for tangible change.

Mission Today Goals: What are they??? How can you plug into those goals with your unit???

Mission Today Goals are a part of the reports done at the end of the year to share what your unit has done to strengthen mission and connections within our district and conference events. I like to pull them out at the beginning of the year and with my officer team or even my small unit and select ways we can achieve some of the goals. From something as simple as reading from the Prayer Guide at each meeting to participation in district and conference events (i.e. Annual Day, Spiritual Retreat weekend, Mission u), you can set up opportunities to strengthen your group’s mission education. Then at the end of the year, as you make out the end of the year reports, take time to celebrate all the ones you have been able to accomplish in a year’s time. You may find the Mission Today Goals on the Alabama West Florida UWFaith website in the forms to download.

Submitted by: President, Deb Ketzell



From the Secretary's Pen
Elizabeth Bell

Welcome to all secretaries of local United Women in Faith units in the MPC/Dothan District! As we begin a new year, I would like to remind you of a few duties that I believe are helpful.

1. Be able to send emails to members of your unit to keep them informed of upcoming activities in your unit and at the district level. (Communication is so important for all of us.)
2. Record minutes of all meetings and send a copy to unit officers as soon as possible in the event corrections need to be made. (Some of us at local units do not meet frequently as a whole unit so it is easy to forget after a long period of time.)
3. Help the president of your unit set the agenda for meetings by reminding of any old or new business items needing to be addressed at the meeting.
4. As soon as new officers are elected in the fall of the year, secretaries should forward names, addresses, phone numbers and email addresses for the new officers to the district secretary and district communications coordinator. This should be done no later than November 30th of each year. (This allows the district secretary to begin work on updating the district directory for the next year. I just received some of this info this week, so I’m very late getting our directory emailed to units.)

I will be emailing you the District Directory in the next few days. Please email it to your other unit officers so they will have access if they should need it. We no longer print and mail paper copies because of the high cost of printing and postage. Just save it in a folder on your computer for use.



Grace and peace,
Elizabeth Bell



*Tidbits from the Treasurer
Bonnie Brant*

Hello United Women in Faith,

This is Bonnie Brant, your new UWF District Treasurer, attempting to fill some very large shoes. Here is the scoop for our unit Treasurers:

To send in Mission and Conference Donations:

1. Please use the proper Remittance Form when you send in Donations. If you want some paper copies, I'll be glad to mail you a supply. If you would like to use an Excel version to do the arithmetic for you, download one at <https://www.awf-umw.org/forms>. Near the bottom of the page, you will see a download link named "Local Unit Treasurer Forms (Excel)" There are quite a few tabs in the spreadsheet, but the Remit form is the one named "18-9 Remit Treasurer."
2. Please continue to make checks to "UMW" until we have received confirmation to do otherwise.
3. My mailing address is: Bonnie Brant

316 Blue Sage Road
Panama City Beach, FL 32413

2022 Results:

Our wonderful past Treasurer, Peggy Pelt, reported how our district ended up with donations last year:

*Pledges	12,118.00
*Gift to Mission Cards	375.00
*Gift in Memory	575.00
*SMR Pins	500.00
*World Thank Offering	2,496.89
Prayer and Self-Denial	2080.00
Conference Love Offering	2975.00
Mattie Kolb Scholarship	40.00
UMCOR	250.00

Congratulations to all of you that took part in these inspiring donations for UWF mission work. Thank you to Peggy for her excellent service for many years. And thank you for being willing to serve in 2023.

Bonnie Brant

Marianna, Panama City, Dothan District, UWF Treasurer

Text or call: 478-262-5600

E-mail: bonniebrant@live.com

News from St. Andrews



Sarah Circle members of St. Andrew United Methodist Church assembled over 200 Easter bunnies with candy stuffed eggs for students at Margaret K. Lewis Special Education Elementary School and Second Chance, a program for adults with brain injury.

Pictures submitted by Peggy Pelt.





**Communications Coordinator
Kathy Hardy**

Last summer one of our trustees at Gulfview United Methodist Church on the beach, had on his heart to build three houses at the church. The houses were for specific needs; one was a food pantry; one was a library and the last was a chapel. Once they were complete at his home, he took them to the church grounds and installed them. They became an instant hit!

The best part of all of this was that everyone is willing to help with filling the houses. There is not any one person that is in charge of the houses and even neighbors in the area bring items and fill the pantry. Speaking to one of the neighbors, per her husband she is only allowed to fill the pantry once a week, otherwise she would be there every day! We have had several recipients of the pantry that have said if not for being able to get food, they would not have had anything to eat that day.



The library contains Christian books, reference materials and bibles for anyone that would like to have one. When we run out, there are always replacements to be found.

The chapel is the piece de resistance! Inside are forms for prayer requests and a secure source to put them in. There is hardly a Sunday morning that goes by that a prayer is not read to the congregation from our pastor. At last count there had been 84 prayer requests submitted.

**A Day Apart
March 18, 2023**

A Day Apart was recognized on Saturday, March 18, 2023, at The Moss Hill Methodist Church in Vernon, Florida with 28 members attending from the Alabama – West Florida United Women in Faith District. The Service of Remembrance was led by Kathy McQuagge, Margie Vassie, and Debra Ketzal. As names of the 29 members who died in 2022 were read, a candle was lit, and a chime rang. Members of the local units shared remembrances of women from their group. Margie Vassie led a responsive litany, and we sang a verse of Hymn of Promise before closing in a unison prayer.

After the closing prayer, everyone helped themselves to the items that had been provided by the members for lunch. The day was very cold, and the wind made it even colder although the sun was shining on us. We took our plates into the church to eat, and a wonderful time was had by all.

Photos Courtesy of Jo Ann Stone



Moss Hill Methodist Church, Vernon, FL

Photo Courtesy of Laurel Akin



Deb Ketzal, President, with her grandmother's quilt with names of the ladies in the farming community where she lived that was given to her when she went to a TB hospital, a great distance away.



*Photos Courtesy of
Jo Ann Stone*



*Debbie Bracewell, Conference President
Betty Helms, National Director*



Members From Bonifay



*Members & Guests of UWF Marianna, Panama City,
and Dothan District*



*Betty Helms, Debbie Bracewell,
Deb Ketzel & Jean Tippett, District Superintendent*



Ladies getting their lunch!



Ladies enjoying their lunch!

Photos Courtesy of Laurel Akin



Elizabeth Bell, Marianna & District Secretary



Betty Bracewell & Deb Ketzel



Brenda Alford, Bonifay



Kathy McQuage, Vice President & Karen

Photo Courtesy of Kathy Hardy



Memory Candles