

The Messenger's Flame

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Carolyn Davis

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Carla Lumpkin

Spiritual Growth

Jill Lowman

Nominations Member

Frances Parker

Nominations Member

Mattie Baker



A Message from the District President



United
Women
in Faith

Greetings to my dear sisters and friends of the Central Alabama District United Women in Faith. We now find ourselves almost at the end of another year of God's work in the mission field, spiritual growth, and leadership development.

Many of us have endured numerous challenges and obstacles throughout this year and now look forward to a calming period, focusing on the blessing that was, is, and will always be, the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

While this district is still in need of a few leadership positions on the core district team, we remain hopeful that those positions will be filled. We believe that there are capable and willing spirits yet untapped and pray that any hesitation to come forward or be brought forward will be overcome by faith and trust in a powerful and merciful God who will gladly direct the path. We wait with hope and prayer.

Our district core leadership team has done a commendable job of providing the leadership and programming needed to successfully accomplish this year's agenda, including District Annual Day and Leadership Development held in February at Metropolitan UMC in Montgomery, District Mission Study held in March at Auburn UMC and led by Rev. Kitsy Dixon of Spanish Fort, scheduled team meetings, and District Spiritual Enrichment held in August at Metropolitan UMC with the Rev. Barbara Brewi of Red Level leading an interactive session on acceptance.

We truly are grateful for the earnest efforts of the few leaders working on the district core team. Those of you who did not attend the events as requested and/or invited, please know that your presence was missed. We can only hope that 2024 will see increased participation.

Our final district team meeting for the year was held via zoom in an attempt to get more participation from our local representatives. We discussed our 2023 Pledge to Mission of \$17,000 and the amount still outstanding, the number of units making pledged payments, annual reports due, 2024 updated directories due, next district newsletter, and the challenges of Rebranding and Disaffiliation, noting that just because your church disaffiliates with the United Methodist Church, your local unit does not have to become inactive with United Women in Faith but, should your unit decide to become inactive, there is a formal process in order for your unit to legitimately be taken from the roll of United Women in Faith.

A tentative/partial 2024 Calendar of Events was worked, messages from our National President, Ainise Isama'u and our new General Secretary and CEO, Sally Vonner were shared as taken from the Nov-Dec 2023 Response.

We regrettably and informally said goodbye to 2 of our faithful leaders rolling off the team, Carla Lumpkin, E&I Coordinator and Frances Parker, Nominations. We look forward to our first 2024 team meeting set for January 27 at Millbrook UMC. Local leaders, please be on the lookout for the formal announcement and make every effort to attend. Lastly, remember, we are women” knitted together” to act boldly in faith, hope, and love as we support women, children and youth in our communities and around the world.

**I wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays
Take care. Be blessed.**

Respectfully,
Marsha Clayton, District President

Southeastern Jurisdiction Quadrennial Meeting

Get Together!

What does it mean to answer the call to "love one another" (John 13:34) in 2024?

Come GET TOGETHER!
FEEL the joy when faith-filled women unite
NURTURE our souls through the strength of our sisterhood
DEEPEN our relationship with God
EXPLORE the power of love to make a difference

TOGETHER we can be more
TOGETHER the power of love in action can change the world!
Get Together! does it mean
Where: Chattanooga, Tennessee
When: April 19-21, 2024 Early Registration through December, 2023 - \$210
Late Registration after December, 2023 - \$240
THE TABLE AT THIS CONFERENCE IS OPEN TO EVERYONE –
NO NEED TO BELONG TO UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH SO BRING A FRIEND!
Registration:
www.sejumw.org (sejuwf.org)



Jill Farris
District Treasurer



Well, another year has come and gone for the United Women in Faith's Central District. Our budget for 2023 was \$17,000.00. Our actual amount collected for this year was \$6,621.05.

That means we were under budget by \$10,378.95. I want to thank all the units that contributed this year and hope that next year with the budget projected to be \$14,000.00 will be fulfilled.

On the upside we have five units that achieved the 5-Star giving program, which means they completed the five areas required (Pledge to Mission, Special Mission Pin/Donation, Gift in Honor or Mission, Gift in Memory, World Thank Offering). Looking forward to a prosperous year in 2024.

Jill Farris, Your District Treasurer





Carla Lumpkin
Education and
Interpretation Coordinator



United
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in Faith

A BLESSED AND HAPPY NEW YEAR TO EVERYONE! As we look back on the year 2023, we are grateful for God's goodness, faithfulness and mercy. Now as we are about to begin a brand-new year, let us consider some of the events and programs for our participation in 2024.

Reading Program: Books, Faith Talk podcasts and movies on the Reading Program lists for 2024, 2023, 2022, 2021, 2020 and 2019 are eligible. Regular reading of **response magazine** is also required. And if a member reads even one or two books, she may list that on a **Reading Program reporting form**. Anyone who has participated in the Reading Program in any way will receive a certificate. Go to uwfaith.org/read for the lists for 2024 and prior years, along with information about Faith Talks, eligible movies and purchasing books. The list is also included in the **November/December** issue of **response magazine**.

Mission Today Unit: Download a **Mission Today Unit reporting form**, which lists the criteria for local units. Many of the activities are done regularly by our units, so it is possible for any unit to complete a sufficient number to receive an award.

Mission Studies: You will be notified and informed of the names of the studies and the facilitators, as well as the date, time, place, etc.

Mission u: You will be notified of the date and place of **Mission u** for 2024. However, now is the time to begin discussing it and planning to attend.

Mission Giving: As our units plan for the year 2024, we must be mindful of the need for continual financial support of the programs and mission outreach of United Women in Faith across the United States and around the world. **Pledge to Mission, Gift in Memory, Gift in Mission, World Thank Offering** and **Special Mission Recognition** are some of the channels of mission giving that we use to support our mission.

Your District thanks each of you for your participation, leadership, and heartfelt service.

Carla Lumpkin, E & I Coordinator,
carlalumpkin@yahoo.com 205-613-4537



Jill Lowman
Spiritual Growth Coordinator



United
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in Faith

Greetings, United Women in Faith and greetings in the name of the Lord!

As we close the year 2023, I hope everyone used the Daily Prayer Guide in your local units. The prayer guide is a resource for reflection and guidance for the year ahead. It is designed to connect us to our larger family by uplifting the work and impact of the global outreach of United Women in Faith and Global Ministries and how those who serve reflect God's desire for us to together at God's table.



be

Our District Spiritual Enrichment program held at Metropolitan United Methodist Church in August with Rev. Barbara Brewi of Red Level who led us in an uplifting, enriching and interactive session on acceptance. I hope your local unit plans to use the 2024 prayer calendar in your local units in 2024. Also, I hope you will be planning enriching soul care activities.



“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.” Galatians 6:9. *We're a sisterhood acting in faith to tackle the hard work of the world without hesitation.*

Peace and Grace,
Jill



Frances Parker
Nominations Member
C-313-410-0380



Mattie Baker
Nominations member
C-334-320=6301

The Central Alabama District United Women in Faith executive team needs to fill the offices of the **Social Actions Coordinator, Vice-President, Nominations Chairperson, and members rolling of the District mission team Education and Interpretation and additional persons to serve on the nominations committee.**

If you would like to serve on the Montgomery District Executive team, please contact one of the district Nomination members if you are able to serve on the district executive team. Fill out a Talent form today. You can find a talent form on the conference website www.awf-umw.org (click on forms and talent bank).

The Central Alabama District Executive Team needs you!!





Carolyn Davis
District Secretary &
communications Coordinator



United
 Women
 in Faith

Greetings to all United Women in Faith!

We have wrapped up the 2023 year and are preparing for the New Year 2024. If you have officer changes or contact information changes, please email me those changes.

If your unit would like to post your local unit activities and projects in district The Messenger's Flame newsletter, please email your article and pictures and article to me to be posted. I will be emailing a newsletter schedule later.



Mable Lawrence
Membership Nurture
and Outreach



United
 Women
 in Faith

Greetings, United Women in Faith! Thank you for all the hard work that you have done in 2023. We pray in 2024, we will increase membership in our local units.

I encourage you to continue to invite women to join United Women in Faith to support women, children, and youth in our communities and globally. We're a sisterhood acting in faith to tackle the hard work of the world without hesitation. Again, I say thank you and continue to nurture and recruit members. See recruiting tips below.

Tips for nurturing and recruiting members

1. Smile, be pleasant and positive.
2. Send birthday cards to prospective members and cards to new mothers.
 (Gift to Mission cards are great choices for these cards!)
3. Plan and promote United Women in Faith celebrations such as A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial and United Women in Faith Sunday; sponsor a Children's Sabbath.
4. Recognize obstacles that prevent ladies from participating like childcare or elder care issues and try to change.
5. Hold informal gatherings like United Women in Faith (teas, breakfasts, brunches, etc.).
6. Be flexible in scheduling United in Faith Women's meetings.
7. Share issues of response magazine with prospective members.
8. Use and disolav United Women in Faith materials and resources.

Central Alabama District United Women in Faith

Tentative

Planning Calendar for 2024

Save the dates

JAN 27 (Saturday)	District executive mission team officers AND Local Presidents.	District Executive Mission team meeting- Millbrook UMC 10:00 start time
FEB 17	All invited	Central Alabama District Annual Day – Auburn UMC??? Start Time 10:00 a.m.
MAY 18 (Saturday)	District executive mission team officers AND Local Presidents.	District Executive Mission team meeting - Zoom Meeting 10:00 start time
JUNE 22 (Saturday)	ALL INVITED	Mission Study- Title to TBA – Metropolitan UMC
JULY	District Team, Unit Presidents, Vice, Two Reps All Invited	Mission U – date TBA Location: TBA
August 24	ALL INVITED	District (SER) Spiritual Enrichment Retreat Location - TBA
November Entire Month	ALL LOCAL UNITS RECOGNITION	UW Faith Sunday Celebration
NOV 20	Local Units President Reports Due	Local Consolidated President Report forms due to District presidents
December 5 (Thursday)	District Team, Unit Presidents, Vice, Two Reps	District Executive Mission Team Meeting - Review, Evaluations, Planning, Calendar for 2025 Location: Zoom Meeting at 10 a.m.

(Event dates and Location May change)

ALERT! . . .is the Conference Newsletter...

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

**Central Alabama District United Women in Faith
Spiritual Enrichment Event
August 19, 2023, at Metropolitan UMC**



Marsha Clayton, District president,
Rev. Barbara Brewi, Speaker, Jill
Lowman, District Spiritual Growth



Richard Williams, pastor
of Metropolitan UMC



Music director, Kevin Brown, & Metropolitan
Women sharing songs of praise.



Women engaged in a group activity at Spiritual
Enrichment Metropolitan UMC



Jill Lowman, District Growth Coordinator
presenting, Spiritual devotional.

Spotlight on Local Unit Mission Activities and Projects Aldersgate United Women in Faith

2023 was a good year for our United Women in Faith Unit at Aldersgate UMC. All three of our Circles have remained strong and active, and we have worked well as a Unit with 50 members. We have found that the best time for our Unit meetings is on a Sunday after church as some members have jobs during the week and some older members no longer drive at night. Our Unit meetings involve a lunch, our business meeting, and a program.

For example, this past Spring the theme of our Unit meeting was a "Teddy Bear Tea" where we contributed diapers, wipes, and small stuffed animals for "Heart to Heart of Montgomery, an organization in Montgomery County which helps local foster families by meeting their needs and pointing them to the love of Christ." The photos below are some of us at the "tea/luncheon" and a representative from the organization standing behind a table with the items we contributed.

Submitted by Judy Cantey
Aldersgate United Women in Faith



Our Unit also had the honor of serving as the host church for Conference Mission u this past July.

**Spotlight on Local Unit Mission Activities and Projects
Millbrook United Women in Faith**

The Millbrook First UWF unit collected and distributed 308 coats and jackets to those in need during 2023. The coats ranged in sizes from 3 months to 4XL.

The unit also helped with the Thanksgiving meal for those that are serviced through the local food bank and contributed money to fund a monthly food drop held in Millbrook.

Upper Room devotional booklets were distributed to 3 nursery homes in the local area. Another outreach project was to recycle printer cartridges and collect eyeglasses for the Lion's club project. Children and youth at the church were awarded summer camper scholarships.

**United Women in Faith
Purpose**

United Women in Faith seeks to connect and nurture women through Christian spiritual formation, leadership development, creative fellowship, and education so that they can inspire, influence and impact local and global communities.