



United
Methodist
Women
FAITH · HOPE · LOVE IN ACTION

The Connection

DOTHAN DISTRICT UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Volume 2020 Issue 1

SPRING 2020

IN HIS SERVICE 2020

Those who have served well gain a good standing and considerable confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus. 1 Timothy 3:13 (CEB)

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Our first quarter of the year has brought new experiences for the Dothan District! Because of bad weather and little change in unit officers, we utilized a different method of Officer Training—an annotated training manual with highlighted sections and commentary in the margins of the manual. We also hosted the Conference United Methodist Women Annual Day. Your participation was so important to help make this a meaningful experience. Thanks to all of the district attendees, district officers and to Enterprise First United Methodist Church and their United Methodist Women’s unit. I believe we can call that event a success!

The Southeastern Jurisdiction meeting will be held April 17-19 in Mobile, Alabama. This meeting will be filled with speakers, workshops and work projects. You may register online at <https://www.umwsej.org/registration>. If you haven’t registered, please consider attending this event which only takes place every four years.

We have a mission study scheduled for May 11, but we do not have a host church. If your unit would like to host the study, please let me know.

Two books on the Reading List have caught my attention this month—*When Others Shuddered: Eight Women Who Refused To Give Up* by Jamie Janosz and *40 Days with Wesley: A Daily Devotional Journal* by Rueben P. Job. While some of the women Janosz writes about are not Methodists, their paths often cross those of the women we are introduced to in *150 Years of Service*. These amazing women stepped out to help those in need, and their stories are inspiring. Job’s 40 devotionals give us an opportunity to enter the Lenten Season with motivating scripture and passages from John Wesley.

In 2020 we have the opportunity to select new leadership. The offices that are up for election are President, Secretary, mission coordinator for Social Action, mission coordinator for Education and Interpretation, and Communications Coordinator. Requiring change in officers every few years was a smart decision by our founding mothers who knew that change can bring

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2020

Dothan District
Mission Team

President

Debbie Bracewell

Vice President

TBD

Secretary

Marilyn Skipper

Treasurer

Carolyn McInnis

Program Resources

TBD

Spiritual Growth

Jane Dyer Brown

Membership Nurture & Outreach

TBD

Social Action

Jean Johnson

Education & Interpretation

TBD

Communications

Carolyn McInnis

Nominations

TBD

UPCOMING UNITED METHODIST WOMEN EVENTS

Calling u...To Celebrate

What is SEJ 2020 about?

It's ALL ABOUT YOU !



We're Calling u... to enjoy exciting workshops!

We're Calling u... to enjoy great music!

We're Calling u... to celebrate 150 years of service to the United Methodist Women.

This and so much more awaits you at the United Methodist Women's **2020 Southeastern Jurisdiction** event April 17-19, 2020 at the Renaissance Riverfront Hotel in Mobile, Alabama

<https://www.umwsej.org/registration>

Conference Annual Day 2020

Photos courtesy of Laurel Akin
United Methodist Deaconess



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a fresh approach to procedures and planning. Those of us who are leaving office will still be available if you need us. God uses us in amazing ways to make a difference. Prayerfully consider serving on the district team. This is your chance to grow through new experiences and make a difference. Let 2020 be the year for us to embrace change and challenges!

At the end of the newsletter, you will find a talent bank form. Please complete this and email or mail the completed form to me, so we can use your skills and talents where they may best fit in our district.

With Joyful Blessings,

Debbie Bracewell

President

2020 Dothan
District Pledge to
Mission
\$14,000.00

TREASURER

2020 Dothan
District Pledge to
Mission Received
\$3,515.00

We are off to a good start this year. I have already received \$3,515 of our goal of \$14,000. Please keep up the good work! I am including an article directly from the National website about A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial. This year's focus is on transforming communities. There is a place on our remittance form to enter your Call to Prayer and Self-Denial offering.

If you have any questions or if I can help you in any way, please let me know.

Blessings,

Carolyn McInnis

Dothan District Treasurer

We Rise: Meeting God's Call to Transform Communities: 2020 A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial

This annual observance gives local and district units a chance to study and reflect on a particular theme each year and to designate funds for ministries related to the theme for the year.

This Year's Theme

A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial is an opportunity for women to reflect on the gospel of Christ and make an offering that helps sustain ministry around the country and the world. Every year, United Methodist Women members participate in A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial observance. In response to God's love and grace, offerings collected through A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial support worthy initiatives that relate to each year's mission focus.

This mission focus for 2020 is "We Rise: Meeting God's Call to Transform Communities," sup-

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SPIRITUAL GROWTH



Prayer is the Answer

Spiritual Growth is a long-held part of the work of the United Methodist Women. It is an expression of our personal and communal commitment to see Christ in the world.

Spiritual growth is an act of engagement. It is something in which you believe and practice on a daily basis. Changes are being considered in our church, the United Methodist Church. The United Methodist Women were asked to join our bishops for the 2016 General Conference and the meetings/sessions that have been held afterwards through prayer to guide the way.

Prayer is a way to the light. It is time for each of us to pray daily for the United Methodist Church as considerations for its future are being determined. We need to pray individually, as a unit of the United Methodist Women, as a church, and/or as a district/conference community. It is important for us to remember that our God is in the business of using imperfect vessels to do kin-dom work. Each of us, individually and as members of the community of faith, strive to grow spiritually so that we can be both faithful to our calling and fruitful in God's mission in the world. May this be a time of profound spiritual growth for all of us as we seek God's will for The United Methodist Church.

Jane Dyer Brown

Dothan District Spiritual Growth Coordinator

Giving Makes a Difference

Give Thanks.
Give Now.



By your sacrificial giving to A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial, you, United Methodist Women members and predecessor organizations over the years have:

- Built and equipped schools, libraries and clinics.
- Trained rural and urban women for specialized ministries.
- Provided nutrition and medical assistance for thousands of women, children and youth.
- Offered relief to those uprooted by wars and other disasters.
- Advocated for public policy changes to benefit women and children.
- Produced long-term economic benefits through income-generation and other self-help projects.

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porting the work of United Methodist Women-supported national mission institutions, international partners and regional missionaries.

Women, children and youth across the world have felt the love of God through A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial funds that have been given to countless women gathered in circles of care. As United Methodist Women members, we bow to meet God in prayer and then rise to give of ourselves that God's vision of abundant and beloved community for all can be realized. The kingdom comes as we live into the light of God's vision for humanity, of mutuality and of seeing oneself in the eyes of another.

Host an observance this year or give online to support women, children and youth in your community and around the world.

One hundred percent of the offering will go directly to fund these projects.

If you would like more information about A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial, please see your program book or visit the national website at <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/call-to-prayer>.



DOTHAN DISTRICT UMW SPOTLIGHT ON SOCIAL ACTION



In Luke 4:18-19, Jesus began his public ministry with these words from Isaiah:

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. God has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.” (NRSV, adapted)

Christ teaches that faith requires action for social and spiritual well-being and especially care for the poor and the oppressed. The early church understood that all were to share all that they had and especially care for the widows and orphans (Acts 2:44-245; 2 Corinthians 8:13-15). The covenant community was called to observe sabbatical years in which the land was not worked and its produce was available to the poor (Exodus 23:10-11). The prophets warn us that an economic system based on greed, economic exploitation, and the indifference to the needs of the poor is contrary to God's will and leads to ruin for the society (Amos 8:4-6; Jeremiah 22:13-17).

(Resolution 4052, "Economic Justice for a New Millennium," *The Book of Resolutions of The United Methodist Church*, 2012, pp. 546-547)

Jean Johnson

Dothan District Social Action Coordinator



Photo Courtesy of Sharon Hogan

At our conference Annual Day meeting, our conference Social Action coordinator, Ora Gillespie recited the following poem at the end of her skit. What a wonderful attitude to live by!

Myself

By
Edgar Albert Guest

I have to live with myself and so,
I want to be fit for myself to know.
I want to be able as days go by,
Always to look myself straight in the eye.
I don't want to stand with the setting sun,
And hate myself for the things I've done.
I don't want to keep on a closet shelf,
A lot of secrets about myself,
And fool myself as I come and go,
Into thinking that nobody else will ever know,
The kind of person I am,

I don't want to dress up myself in a sham,
I want to go out with my head erect,
I want to deserve all men's respect,
But here in the struggle for fame and wealth,
I want to be able to like myself.
I don't want to look at myself and know,
That I'm a bluster and a bluff and an empty show,
I can never hide myself from me,
I see what others may never know,
So, whatever happens I want to be,
Self-respecting and conscience free!



Living A Legacy

Article and Photos Courtesy of Laurel Akin
United Methodist Deaconess

Carolyn Gilbert's dual roles as president of Skipperville UMC United Methodist Women and historian of Skipperville United Methodist Church led to the discovery that the unit would celebrate its centennial in 2020. The fifteen members decided to celebrate 100 years of service throughout the year, beginning with United Methodist Women Sunday on January 19.

Long-time UMW member and unit secretary Imogene Mixson gave the invocation. President Carolyn Gilbert introduced Dothan District President Debbie Bracewell who spoke about the global ministries of United Methodist Women and its 150-year history, beginning with the meeting in Boston on March 23, 1869, that birthed the first of several predecessor organizations of United Methodist Women.

The Skipperville group, long known throughout the Dothan District for having the most dedicated readers in the United Methodist Women Reading Program, frequently has several members that achieve Plan Four—reading 20 books each! Also noteworthy is the fact that the unit has one of the few men who belong to United Methodist Women, other than members of the clergy, Vince Ripoll. Their work to support local, national, and world missions is clearly a priority.

Bracewell said this of the Skipperville unit, "Skipperville is a shining example of what a small church can do when their focus is mission in the world. With a supportive community and a supportive church, United Methodist Women of Skipperville have been able to put their faith, hope, and love into action for 100 years."



REPORTING DUE DATES

Local Officer to District Officer

FROM

TO

Treasurer's Report
Unit Treasurer

By November 30
Carolyn McInnis, District Treasurer

*Name of Deceased Members
Unit Secretary

By November 30
(please report any December
deaths by January 10)
Jane Dyer Brown, Spiritual Growth

*Local New Unit Report
Unit Secretary

By November 30
TBD, Membership Nurture & Outreach

*Social Action Report
Unit Social Action Coordinator

By November 30
Jean Johnson, Social Action

*Reading Program Reports
Unit Program Resource

By November 30
TBD, Program Resources

*Mission Study Participants
Unit Education & Interpretation

By November 30
TBD, Education & Interpretation

Consolidated President's Report
Unit President

By November 30
Debbie Bracewell, President

New Officer Lists
Unit Secretary

By November 30
Marilyn Skipper, District Secretary

*Included in the Consolidated President's Report

Conference Annual Day 2020

Photos Courtesy of Laurel Akin
United Methodist Deaconess



2019 DOTHAN DISTRICT ANNUAL REPORT

MISSION TODAY UNITS

Silver

Abbeville
Ozark

Gold

Dothan
Enterprise
Skipperville

Participating

Newton

5-STAR UNITS

Abbeville
Dothan
Headland
Newton
Skipperville

CHARTER FOR RACIAL JUSTICE

Returning Units

Abbeville
Dothan
Enterprise
Skipperville

READING PROGRAM

Plan 1

Abbeville—2 readers
Dothan—1 reader
Enterprise—1 reader
Skipperville—2 readers

Plan 3

Skipperville—2 readers

In Memoriam

Margaret Addison
 Mary Virginia Beckwith
 Jean Bowline
 Sylvia Bowman
 Minnie Sue Bridges
 Jeanie Cheshire
 Georgia Friske
 Carolyn Gaither
 Ann Garner
 Evelyn Harris
 Patricia Moulton
 Jane Ramsey
 Ruth Seymore
 Catherine Waid
 Patty Whigham

2019 DOTHAN DISTRICT GIVING

- Pledge to Mission — \$8,922.36
- Special Mission Recognition Pins — \$360.00
- Gift to Mission Cards — \$285.00
- Gift in Memory Cards — \$425.00
- World Thank Offering--\$1,452.47
- Call to Prayer & Self-Denial — \$2,013.75
- Conference Love Offering — \$1,950.00
- Our pledge for 2019 was \$14,750.00. We paid \$11,444.83 (77.6%)
- Our district pledge is composed of Pledge to Mission, Special Mission Recognition Pins, Gift to Mission Cards, Gift in Memory Cards, and World Thank Offering. These are undesignated funds and go wherever they are needed. To be a 5-Star unit, a unit must give in all five areas.
- The Call to Prayer & Self-Denial Offering and the Conference Love Offering are not included in our district pledge. They are designated funds and go to specific projects.
- Our pledge for 2020 is \$14,000.00

MEMBERSHIP & ATTENDANCE

- After the consolidated reports were recorded, Dothan District United Methodist Women had a membership of 252 in 10 units.
- Twenty-one of our district members attended 2 mission studies.
- Twenty-two of our district members attended conference events.
- Sixty-three of our district members attended district events.



TALENT BANK INFORMATION ON PROSPECTIVE LEADERSHIP

(To be completed by prospective leader)

Type or Print (attach additional sheets as necessary) Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone Home _____ Work _____ Cell _____

Local Church _____ District _____

Age _____ Email _____

Spoken _____ Racial Ethnic Group _____

Professional skills, job experience _____

Office(s) Held in United Methodist Women

Office(s)	Dates of Service
Local _____	_____
District _____	_____
Conference _____	_____
Jurisdiction _____	_____

Additional Experience on the local, district, conference or general church level (other than United Methodist Women) or in the community _____

Special Talents or Skills _____

Areas of Special Interest or Concern

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> secretarial | <input type="checkbox"/> recruiting members | <input type="checkbox"/> publicity |
| <input type="checkbox"/> communications | <input type="checkbox"/> social issues | <input type="checkbox"/> workshops |
| <input type="checkbox"/> computer | <input type="checkbox"/> creativity | <input type="checkbox"/> newsletters |
| <input type="checkbox"/> accounting/bookkeeping | <input type="checkbox"/> recording minutes | <input type="checkbox"/> retreats |
| <input type="checkbox"/> organization of details | <input type="checkbox"/> public policy | <input type="checkbox"/> music |
| <input type="checkbox"/> nominations | <input type="checkbox"/> public relations | <input type="checkbox"/> youth |
| <input type="checkbox"/> program planning | <input type="checkbox"/> community building | <input type="checkbox"/> children |
| <input type="checkbox"/> administration | <input type="checkbox"/> inclusiveness/pluralism | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) |

Do you wish to serve on which level (circle): Local District Conference

Which office(s) on the United Methodist Women’s Team would you most like to hold given the opportunity to serve?

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> President | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership Nurture & Outreach |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vice President | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Action |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Secretary | <input type="checkbox"/> Spiritual Growth |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Treasurer | <input type="checkbox"/> Program Resources |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chair of Nominations | <input type="checkbox"/> Communications |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education & Interpretation | |

Why are you interested in this position and what qualifications do you feel you have for your office(s) of choice?

Would you be able to use your gifts and talents to uphold and strengthen United Methodist Women through the PURPOSE of the organization? _____

Is it possible for you to be away from your home or employment for:

Full Day _____ Weekend _____ Extended Time _____

Yes or No Yes or No Yes or No

_____ I am sorry but I am unable to accept an office this year. Please keep my name on file and contact me in _____.