



United
Methodist
Women
FAITH · HOPE · LOVE IN ACTION

The Connection

DOTHAN DISTRICT UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Volume 2018 Issue 3

FALL 2018

HOPE — "... We have this HOPE..."

We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, where our forerunner, Jesus, has entered on our behalf. He has become a high priest forever — Hebrews 6:19-20 NIV

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Back to school and back to United Methodist Women local meetings! Conference events this year have been such a blessing: Annual Day in Foley, Annual Conference in Montgomery, and Mission u in Pensacola. Assembly in Columbus, Ohio, was a great blending of international United Methodist Women members with culturally-based clothing, dancing, and singing combined in powerful worship services. Our conference has one more meaningful event this year—the Conference Spiritual Enrichment Retreat at Blue Lake with Reverend Doctor Connie Mitchell Shelton. October 19-21 are the dates for a spiritually uplifting weekend with programs, focus groups, and worship services to feed our spirits. Visit <http://awf-umw.org/> to download the registration form. You don't want to miss this one!

Our District has enjoyed our Annual Day at Ozark First United Methodist Church, Clara Ester's mission study, Spiritual Day at Enterprise First United Methodist Church, and our Days for Girls' project. Jean Johnson has one more sewing session scheduled October 13 at Dothan First United Methodist Church. The Days for Girls sessions have been a unique experience combining fellowship and hands-on activities to help girls around the world.

As we finish out the year, presidents and treasurers should review the reports' schedule placed in this newsletter to ensure everything is turned in by the end of November. Review the requirements for a 5-Star Unit and a Mission Today Unit. If you have any questions about those items, please contact me or Carolyn McInnis (district treasurer) for clarification. We have several vacancies for officers, and we need your leadership skills to strengthen our leadership team. Prayerfully consider how you can serve the Dothan District.

The Dothan District Leadership Team would like to visit your circles or your unit events. Let us know how we can serve you better.

Joyful blessings,

Debbie Bracewell

President
Dothan District United Methodist Women

2018

Dothan District
Mission Team

President

Debbie Bracewell

Vice President

TBD

Secretary

Marilyn Skipper

Treasurer

Carolyn McInnis

Program Resources

TBD

Spiritual Growth

TBD

Membership Nurture & Outreach

TBD

Social Action

Jean Johnson

Education & Interpretation

TBD

Communications

Carolyn McInnis

Nominations

TBD



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN DOTHAN DISTRICT SOCIAL ACTION PROJECT

The Dothan District UMW truly embraced the Days for Girls project when we accepted it as our hands-on mission project. *We are making a difference* for women and girls all over the world in a meaningful and practical way. On July 19, 2018, we had our second sewing workshop at Tabernacle United Methodist Church. After an introduction to the program, we set up an assembly line to trace, cut, assemble, and sew. Everyone seemed to thoroughly enjoy the fellowship as we put our combined knowledge and experience together, learned new skills, and made a difference for girls in need of feminine hygiene solutions across the world.

Our Days for Girls Team has passed all inspection requirements. We are at the top level of credibility to apply for grants, order a die cutter, secure a spot on the website map, and other perks. This was not a quick or easy road, but we did it!

Days for Girls was a breakout session at our Dothan District Spiritual Day on the morning of Saturday, August 18, 2018, at Enterprise First United Methodist Church. On this day, the 55-minute session included videos and information-sharing. The tasks were easy and fun.

We are planning a full-scale sewing workshop at Dothan First United Methodist Church on Saturday, October 13, 2018. At this time, you may bring your sewing machine and/or serger and we will work together from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. More details on the exact room and entrance will follow in a later communication. If you do not sew, there is still plenty to do, so please join us. Lunch will be provided by the Dothan FUMC UMW.

As co-leaders of this team, Patsy Chalker and I are willing to teach and assist in many ways. Call on us as needed for encouragement, education, programs for units or circles, etc. This project has grown tremendously in a short period of time. We need to keep up the momentum and excitement!

Many thanks to all who serve in so many ways behind the scenes. Over 100 pods are complete and ready to ship. We have purchased a fabric cutter and we will have a custom die to make cutting the shields so much easier. We are now assembling complete Days for Girls kits! Items needed include travel-sized soaps and solid-color washcloths. Together, we are making a difference. Please feel free to call me if you have questions or want to join us in this amazing ministry.

Yours in Christ,
Jean Johnson, Social Action Coordinator
334-406-7964





DAYS FOR GIRLS PROJECT WORK DAY TABERNACLE UMC



Courtesy Days for Girls



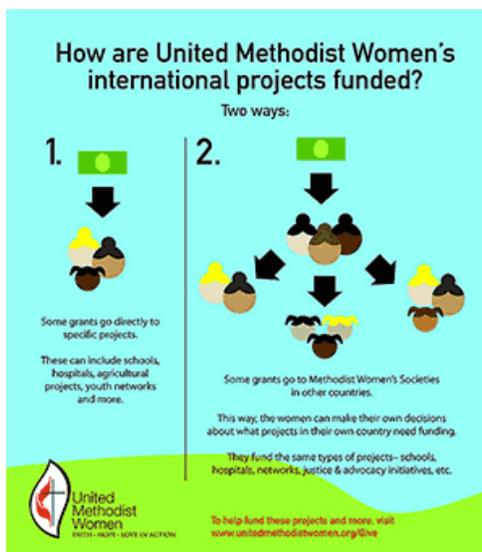
Courtesy Days for Girls



Courtesy Days for Girls

2018 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<h2 style="text-align: center;">January</h2> <p>13 — District-Wide Officer Training, 9:30, Enterprise First, Gathering Room 19-20 — COSROW, Blue Lake 28 — Super Sunday, Enter-</p>	<h2 style="text-align: center;">February</h2> <p>10 — District Annual Day 23-24 — Conference Annual Day, Foley United Methodist Church</p>	<h2 style="text-align: center;">March</h2> 
<h2 style="text-align: center;">April</h2> <p>7 — District Mission Study, 8:00 Registration, 8:30 Welcome and Study, Dothan First United Methodist Church</p>	<h2 style="text-align: center;">May</h2> <p>18-20 — United Methodist Women Assembly, Columbus, Ohio</p>	<h2 style="text-align: center;">June</h2> <p>3-6 — Annual Conference, Frazer United Methodist Church</p>
<h2 style="text-align: center;">July</h2> <p>20-21 — Mission u, Gadsden Street United Methodist Church, Pensacola, FL</p>	<h2 style="text-align: center;">August</h2> <p>18 — District Spiritual Day</p>	<h2 style="text-align: center;">September</h2> <p>15 — District Mission Study, 8:00 Registration, 8:30 Welcome and Study, Headland UMC</p>
<h2 style="text-align: center;">October</h2> <p>19-21 — Conference Spiritual Enrichment Retreat (SER), Blue Lake</p>	<h2 style="text-align: center;">November</h2> 	<h2 style="text-align: center;">December</h2> <p style="text-align: center;">Come let us <i>Adore</i> Him</p> 



TREASURER

Summer is over, my children are back in school, and I am ready to get back to my regular United Methodist Women's meetings! Fall is a beautiful time of the year. The flowers of summer may fade, but beauty still surrounds us. As we take time to be grateful this fall for all of the many blessings God has bestowed on us, please remember to give generously to the "World Thank Offering"

The World Thank Offering is one of United Methodist Women's five channels of undesignated Mission Giving. Traditionally, this offering is collected during a special service or program during the fall season. This channel of Mission Giving is an opportunity for individuals to respond to God's abundance and grace with spontaneous gifts of gratitude. The funds collected are used in the total program of mission and advocacy in the United States and around the world. The World Thank Offering, giving freely and abundantly in response to God's goodness, has been the way of life for United Methodist Women for almost 150 years.

I will be sending out our next "report card" soon. Please take the time to look over it and make sure that your unit has received the correct credit in each area of giving. Please remember that this "report card" is not to "grade" anyone, but just to let you know what money that I have received from your unit and how our district is progressing toward our pledge to mission. Our district pledge is the total received from all five areas of giving. We are currently at 68% of our district pledge.

If your unit is working toward being a "Five Star Unit", please make sure that you have given in each of the "Five Channels of Mission Giving." If you have any questions, please call or email me.

Blessings,

Carolyn McInnis

Treasurer



2018 Dothan District Pledge to Mission
\$14,750

Dothan District Pledge to Mission Received
\$9,983.23



PROGRAM RESOURCES

The Reading Program Leads to Action!

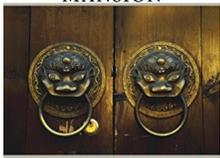
For almost 150 years, United Methodist Women have been involved in mission that includes prayer, study and action. The Reading Program is a study opportunity, but it should also lead to action. The purpose of the program is to encourage United Methodist Women members to:

- Expand understanding of and participation in God’s mission.
- Increase sensitivity to all human beings—their needs, interests and concerns.
- Encourage critical thinking about issues facing humanity today.
- Grow in understanding of Scripture as it relates to Christian faith in contemporary life.
- Enhance self-knowledge and act from that knowledge.
- Strengthen involvement in local and global Christian mission.

As a reminder for new and current United Methodist Women, **each person who participates** must read at least 5 books, one from each category: Education for Mission, Social Action, Nurturing for Community, Spiritual Growth, and Leadership. For more information and the reading lists, please visit <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/readingprogram/findbooks>

ESCAPE FROM THE GREEN MANSION

Ordinary Church Women and their Extraordinary
Rescue of San Francisco’s
Brothel Slaves



ORDINARY CHURCH WOMEN AND
THEIR EXTRAORDINARY RESCUE OF
SAN FRANCISCO'S BROTHEL SLAVES

CHRISTINE
TAYLOR

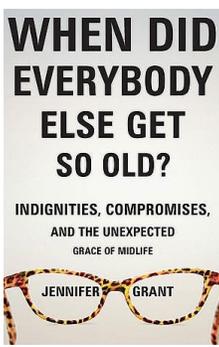
Christine Taylor
2014 Kindle
[unitedmethodistwomen.org/
readingprogram](https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/readingprogram))

Escape from the Green Mansion is a true story. In the late 1800s thousands of Chinese women sailed to America’s West Coast. Many of them were enslaved as soon as they stepped off the freighters and were forced into years of prostitution—the “green mansion.” Many lost hope. Many died. But a few of them began to whisper about the “Jesus women.” Read about these women and learn about the Methodist legacy and Methodist mission institution Gum Moon Residence in San Francisco.

Education for Mission Category
Available at Amazon.com

WHEN DID EVERYBODY ELSE GET SO OLD?

Indignities, Compromises, and the Unexpected
Grace of Midlife



INDIGNITIES, COMPROMISES,
AND THE UNEXPECTED
GRACE OF MIDLIFE

JENNIFER GRANT

Jennifer Grant
Herald Press, 2017
187 pages \$16.99
Stock #RP1916

When Did Everybody Else Get So Old? is Jennifer Grant’s unblinking, good-humored and hope-filled look at the transitions of middle age. Exploring the physical, spiritual and emotional changes unique to the middle years, this is a must read for anyone facing the flux and flow of age 40 and beyond.

Nurturing for Community Category
Available at
United Methodist Women’s e-store



Participate!
Plans &
Promotion

ABOUT THE READING PROGRAM

FOUR READING PROGRAM PLANS

Choose and follow one of the four plans. When you have read the required number of books and magazine issues, report your completion to your local member in charge of program resources. Titles read from the 2014 list will be credited through December 31, 2019.

Plan I

Five Books Per Year

- One book from each category: Education for Mission, Leadership Development, Nurturing for Community, Social Action and Spiritual Growth.
- Selections can be from the 2014–2019 reading lists if not included in previous reports (including Children and Youth titles).
- Regular reading of response magazine.

Plan II

Ten Books Per Year

- Two books from each category: Education for Mission, Leadership Development, Nurturing for Community, Social Action and Spiritual Growth.
- Selections can be from the 2014–2019 reading lists if not included in previous reports (including Children and Youth titles).
- Regular reading of response magazine.

Plan III

Fifteen Books Per Year

- Two books from each category: Education for Mission, Leadership Development, Nurturing for Community, Social Action and Spiritual Growth.
- Plus five additional books from any category.
- Selections can be from the 2014–2019 reading lists if not included in previous reports (including Children and Youth titles)
- Regular reading of response magazine.

Plan IV

Twenty Books Per Year

- Two books from each category: Education for Mission, Leadership Development, Nurturing for Community, Social Action and Spiritual Growth.
- Plus 10 additional books from any category.
- Selections can be from the 2014–2019 reading lists if not included in previous reports (including Children and Youth titles).
- Regular reading of response magazine.

Embracing Wholeness: An Earth Perspective for Covenantal Living

Spiritual Growth Mission Study: 2018

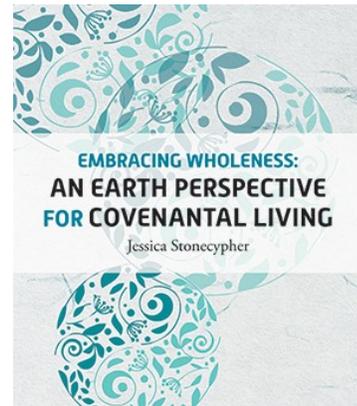
Headland United Methodist Church

September 15, 2018

8:00—registration

8:15—study begins

12 noon—study completed



The 2018 Spiritual Growth Study, *Embracing Wholeness* is the second in a two-part series about covenantal living. Part 1, *Living as a Covenant Community* by Evy McDonald explores the scriptural definitions covenant in order to bridge these definitions with their application and their implications for the modern church. Part 2, *Embracing Wholeness*, is designed to build on this work. It explores the ways God has called us to live in covenantal relationship with all of creation and challenges readers to work toward stronger and healthier relationships with creation, their communities, themselves, and God. Each chapter explores both our personal and corporate responsibilities to those around us and addresses current issues, such as climate change, social responsibility, and justice concerns.

History of United Methodist Women

**Dothan District Spiritual Day
Enterprise FUMC**



Proposed Officers for 2019

President
Secretary
Social Action
Communications
Spiritual Growth

Debbie Bracewell
Marilyn Skipper
Jean Johnson
Carolyn McInnis
Jane Dyer Brown



Changes to Standing Rules & Proposed Officers for 2019

I have attached a copy of the proposed changes to the district standing rules. These changes and the proposed officers for 2019 will be voted on at the district Mission Study on September 15. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me or Debbie Bracewell.

**Thank you,
Carolyn McInnis**



REPORTING DUE DATES

Local Officer to District Officer

FROM

Treasurer's Report
Unit Treasurer

***Name of Deceased Members**
Unit Secretary

***Local New Unit Report**
Unit Secretary

***Social Action Report**
Unit Social Action Coordinator

***Reading Program Reports**
Unit Program Resource

***Mission Study Participants**
Unit Education & Interpretation

Consolidated President's Report
Unit President

New Officer Lists
Unit Secretary

*Included in the Consolidated President's Report

TO

By November 30
Carolyn McInnis, District Treasurer

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

By November 30
TBD, Membership Nurture & Outreach

By November 30
Jean Johnson, Social Action

By November 30
TBD, Program Resources

By November 30
TBD, Education & Interpretation

By November 30
Debbie Bracewell, President

By November 30
Marilyn Skipper, District Secretary

Mission u Gadsden Street United Methodist Church





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 _____.