

Circuit Writer

FEBRUARY 2021

DISTRICT:

March 20:
Marianna-Panama
City Annual Day and
Officer Training
(Virtual)

CONFERENCE:

FIND DETAILS HERE:

awf-umw.org

(See p. 9 of this
newsletter for full list of
calendar dates/info.)

2021 Alabama-West
Florida Annual Day
VIRTUAL
March 6

Next Circuit Writer
Deadline:

MAY. 1, 2021
Editor: Deanie DeFelix
deanie575@gmail.com



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: Equipped to Serve

While we still face Covid challenges in this new year, let us keep in mind the theme our new Alabama-West Florida Conference UMW President Debbie Bracewell has adopted for her term:

Hope, Joy, Peace, Trust, Power

How fitting to claim these blessings during this season of Lent! When life's daily onslaught of difficulties, losses, and grief causes discouragement that beats us down, we can continue to serve the Lord, our God, with Hope, Joy, and Peace, by remembering that Christ offers us the Power to overcome adversity through our Trust in Him.

The first half of this year will present opportunities for us to grow spiritually and learn new technological skills through virtual meetings, beginning with the AWF-UMW Conference Annual Day on March 6 (note that this will be a single day event since it is virtual). The registration page is open online at the www.awf-umw.org website. Look for the following graphic where you can click to enter the registration page:



Consider hosting a group viewing event in your home or church so those without online capabilities can enjoy being a part of this meaningful and inspirational gathering for our

2021 AWF-UMW
Conference Annual Day

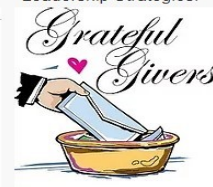


48th Annual Alabama West Florida United Methodist Women Virtual ANNUAL DAY 2021

March 6, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

The first Virtual Annual Day online in real time.

You are invited to the Alabama West Florida Conference (AWF) United Methodist Women's (UMW) one day virtual event, focusing on this year's theme: Hope, Joy, Peace, Trust, Power with Keynote Speaker: Celeste Eubanks, AWFUMC Director of Leadership Strategies.



[REGISTER](#)

[DONATE](#)

[SURVEY](#)

We will follow a similar plan for the 2021 Marianna-Panama City Annual Day/Officer Training Event on March 20th. More details to come.

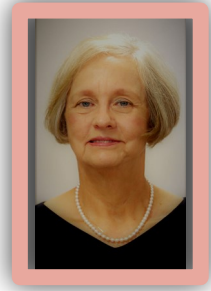
"Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth" I John 3:18 (NIV)

Deanie DeFelix



From the Secretary's Pen

Janis Johnson



One of the duties of the district secretary is writing articles for our newsletter. I received a copy of the United Methodist Women Conference Secretary Handbook from Debbie Bell, our newly elected AWF-UMW Conference Secretary, who forwarded this document to the AWF-UMW District Secretaries. I found in this handbook information that may be helpful to the local unit secretary as well. Here are some tips which focus on the duties of the secretary whether you are new to the position or continuing in this office.

Following are some of the highlights from the Handbook:

1. The Secretary is part of the leadership team and assists the president in advising members of scheduled meetings and times.
2. Attends the unit's regular meetings and records the minutes.
3. Maintains and updates the records of the local units, including members' addresses, budgets, correspondence, financial reports, nomination committee actions, programs, and resources.
4. It is suggested these records be kept for four years.

Tips/suggestions for taking minutes:

1. Use a recording method that is most comfortable for you.
2. Pass an attendance sheet around once people begin to arrive.
3. Consider creating a template that includes: the date, time, location of meeting; name of person presiding; indication that a quorum was or was not present.
4. Include approval of previous meeting's minutes.
5. Record all motions made and names of those making and seconding the motion.
6. Record all decisions that are voted on.
7. Include information regarding the next meeting.
8. Include the name of person taking the minutes and the date they were taken.
9. Write the minutes in final form as soon after the meeting as possible.
10. Remember to head the minutes with the name of the group, place and date of meeting.

Preparing an agenda prior to the meeting helps keep the meeting on track. This may be done by the unit president or the secretary in consultation with the president. Sample informal agenda:

1. Welcome
2. Minutes of Previous Meeting
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Announcements
5. Program
6. Adjournment

As you begin to compile your Local Unit Directory, one final important reminder is United Methodist Women **do not** furnish lists of their elected leaders or members to individuals or agencies outside the organization unless authorized by the Executive Committee.

Whether you are the new or veteran Unit Secretary of United Methodist Women, reviewing these guidelines will enable you to perform your duties as efficiently and accurately as possible.



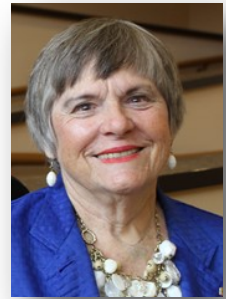
Janis

Spiritual Growth

Martha Spiva



The theme for Moss Hill in 2020 was "Hope." That event and most others have been cancelled due to the virus threat. Those who can are encouraged to stay home. Be safe. Check on people by phone, text or Zoom if you know how. Being homebound gives you more time with family and for prayer and reflection. Pray for those in authority and for those affected. *Martha*



(One of many services you can access at www.awf-umw.org)

Hope for a Brighter Future: An Installation Service

(posted online February 18, 2011)

Preparation: Have for each officer a beeswax candle and a book of matches. Also give each officer a copy of the response: " With God's help, I will let my light shine so that women, children and youth will realize *hope* in their lives." Be sure to get the name of each officer and the office to which they have been elected.

(Call those to be installed to the front by name and office. As they come, hand them each a beeswax candle. Give a book of matches to the person on the end.)

Leader: You have said "yes" not only to United Methodist Women, but more importantly you have made a commitment to God. You are ready to be used by God in this specific way. In doing so, you have said "yes" to untold thousands of women, children and youth whose hope is in God and for many, their future will be brighter because of United Methodist Women.

The scriptures are full of hope for a brighter future. There are 142 references to "hope" in one concordance - individuals or peoples searching for or assured of hope in God! In the fifth chapter of Job, it relates that God does great things - sets on high those who are lowly and those who mourn are lifted to safety; the poor have hope, and injustice shuts its mouth; the devices of the crafty are frustrated and the schemes of the wily are brought to a quick end.

Doesn't that sound like the work God does today through United Methodist Women? We are a people with hope - we have comfort in the resurrection hope. You are a light of hope. In Matthew 5:14 Jesus said that you are a light, a light on a candlestick that others might see your good works and give glory to God who is in heaven. Each of us is to be a light. There are many kinds of light: candle, flash, search, stop, beacon, laser... Think about what kind of light you are.

I ask you now: Will you light your candle of hope as a symbol of your commitment to fulfill the responsibilities to which you have been elected and to United Methodist Women? If you are ready to do this, please answer:

"With God's help, I will let my light shine so that women, children and youth will realize hope in their lives."

To you who have elected these women to be your officers, I ask you "Will you also be a light to others as you work as a member of this unit of United Methodist Women, fulfilling the Purpose and supporting your officers?" If you are ready to do this, please answer, "With God's help, I will."

Let us pray: Most Holy One, your word gives us hope, your love feeds us so that we can bring hope to others. Go with those gathered here as they work for your justice in the world. In the name of the Christ, who came that we might know you more fully. Amen.

Tidbits from the Treasurer

Peggy Pelt



Ladies,

First, let me compliment you on your generosity to UMW in 2020. We exceeded our \$11,000 pledge by \$86.44. In addition, we donated \$2,680 to the Conference Love Offering and \$2,012 to other designated funds. Your total giving for 2020 was \$16,178.44!

Now, let's do as well in 2021. We have 295 members in the district.

1. In order to meet our \$11,000 pledge, we need each member to pledge **\$38**.
2. We also need each member to give **\$10** for the Conference Love Offering. That is **\$48** total per member - only \$4 per month.

Despite the continuing difficult circumstances, I feel we can do this.

Eight of our eleven units were 5-Star units in 2020 - another cause for celebration. For a unit to be a 5-Star unit, donations must be made to each of the following:

- ◆ Pledge to Mission
- ◆ Special Recognition Pin
- ◆ Gift to Mission
- ◆ Gift in Memory
- ◆ World Thank Offering

Please contact me if I can help you in any way.

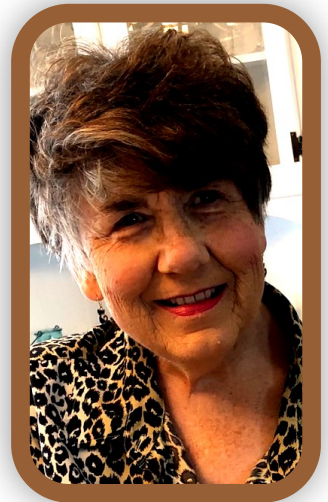
My e-mail contact information:
ppelt@comcast.net

Peggy Pelt
Treasurer
Marianna-Panama City District

(See p. 7 for conference info from website.)



SOCIAL ACTION and NOMINATIONS
(Volunteers needed for these vacant positions)



THANK YOU, KAREN!

After many years of service in leadership roles, Karen Fillman has stepped down from these two positions. We want to thank Karen for her unwavering loyalty to our conference, district, and local United Methodist Women. Please search your heart prayerfully and follow her example of selfless service to help us continue the good work of UMW. Karen has offered to help anyone who feels led to take either position (I don't know what I would have done without her guidance when I first began my duties as district president!).

Marianna-Panama City District United Methodist Women need you to help promote God's love in every aspect of Social Action. Today is the day! Seize the opportunity to enlighten our ladies about the desperate needs of women, children, and youth in every corner of the earth. We can make a difference in the lives of so many when we join forces with all United Methodist Women!

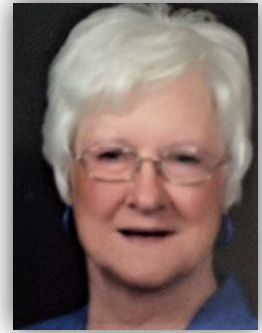
Please contact me if you can help: deanie575@gmail.com

Deanie



PROGRAM RESOURCES and E & I

Elizabeth Bell



Ladies,

Here we are beginning another year dealing with Covid 19. I pray that many of you have already received your Covid vaccine, and that while we must continue wearing masks and observing social distancing for a few more months, we will soon be able to begin a more normal way of living.

If your unit is like mine, we have not met to have pledge services for this year. We need to find some way to do this so that we may pay our pledges that support our local, national, and foreign mission programs that continue to serve those in need. We did very well last year, and we must make every effort to continue our support this year.

It is my hope that many of us will be able to complete a mission study this year – either at the district level or in our units. *Finding Peace in An Anxious World*, the 2020 study, would be good. A companion guide and videos for each chapter in this study are available at this site, <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/finding-peace-in-an-anxious-world>. With the many sources of unrest that we have dealt with in 2020, this would seem to be an ideal mission study for each of us.

Remember, try to begin your Reading Program again. You will find the 2021-2022 Reading Program Catalog at <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/readingprogram>. This catalog spans two years for the first time. The mission studies and the podcast series *The Faith Talk* count as bonus books, worth two books in designated categories. All information is in the Reading Program catalog.

My prayers are that 2021 will become more normal in the next few months so that we can be together for District Meetings. Take care of yourselves and others.

May we bless others in His service,

Elizabeth

PURPOSE OF UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose PURPOSE is to know God and experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

MARIANNA—PANAMA CITY DISTRICT LEADERS

SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR 2021 (Approved as of November 5, 2020)

President	Deanie DeFelix
Vice President	Verna Roberts
Secretary	Janis Johnson
Treasurer	Peggy Pelt
Communications	Deanie DeFelix*
Nominations Chair and Social Action:	VACANT
Program Resources and Ed. and Interp:	Elizabeth Bell*
Membership, Nurture, & Outreach:	Kathy McQuagge
Spiritual Growth:	Martha Spiva
Historian (appointed)	Jo Ann Stone

*If you would like to offer your talents in service to our district by taking one of the positions these ladies have agreed to fill until others are led to take them, please contact Deanie DeFelix.

ALABAMA-WEST FLORIDA UMW UPDATE

CONFERENCE FINANCIAL OVERVIEW (from www.awf-umw.org)

12/29/20				
2020 Alabama West Florida Conference - United Methodist Women Pledge to Mission				
Source	Pledge	Paid	Balance	% PD
Baypines	14,000	10,855	3,145	77.5%
Demopolis	15,000	12,374	2,626	82.5%
Dothan	14,000	11,243	2,757	80.3%
Marianna/PC	11,000	11,091	-91	100.8%
Mobile	20,000	21,576	-1,576	107.9%
Mtg/Oplk	8,000	6,744	1,256	84.3%
Mtg/Pratt	11,000	8,714	2,286	79.2%
Pensacola	22,500	26,953	-4,453	119.8%
Events - Offering	2,700	2,096	604	77.6%
PLEDGE TO MISSION	118,200	111,646	6,554	94.5%
Sent to National	100,470	101,886	-1,416	101.4%

2021 Alabama West Florida UMW Pledge and Budget

Districts	Pledge	Budget
Bay Pines	14,000	2,283
Demopolis	14,000	2,150
Dothan	12,000	1,717
Marianna/PC	11,000	1,650
Mobile	20,000	3,539
Mtg/Oplk	6,750	1,035
Mtg/Pratt	10,000	1,579
Pensacola	20,000	3,000
Conference	2,700	24,019
TOTALS DISTRICTS	110,450	
Conference Pledge to National	93,882	
Conference Budget with Districts		40,972

Blessed

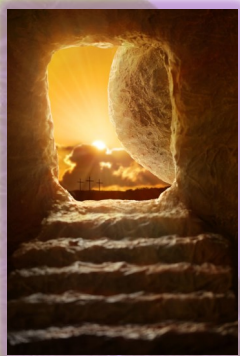
NOT LUCKY—BLESSED & LOVED BEYOND MEASURE



Hi!

It was a lovely, sunny Saturday in December when our UMW Seaside Stitchers held a drive-by Christmas Shoppe with large and small quilts for sale. Some of the proceeds went to purchase gift cards for six young ladies at the Milton Home (plus a special quilt for each one) delivered before Christmas.

*submitted by
JoAnn Stone
Gulfview UMW*



HAPPY EASTER

Send more photos of your unit spreading the Love of Jesus during Lent and Easter. Yes, we are Resurrection Christians!

MARIANNA-PANAMA CITY DISTRICT
***ALABAMA-WEST FLORIDA CONFERENCE**

2021 United Methodist Women Calendar

All times are Central time.

Find forms and other resources online:

www.awf-umw.org

- *March 6 AWF-UMW Conference Annual Day; Virtual, All Invited,
REGISTER ONLINE: www.awf-umw.org
- March 20 Marianna/Panama City Annual Day; Virtual; Including
Memorials
- April 10 District Mission Study: Virtual Viewing of Dothan
District's Videos: *Finding Peace in an Anxious World*
- *August 9 – 10 AWF-UMW Conference Executive Mission Team Meeting
Christ UMC, Mobile, AL or Zoom; includes District
Presidents and District Treasurers, attendance required
- Sept. 25 or Oct. 23 **Fall District Gathering: TBD**
- *October 8-9 AWF-UMW Conference Spiritual Enrichment Retreat (SER)
Blue Lake Assembly Grounds
- NOVEMBER Try to schedule a Sunday this month for UMW Emphasis.
Invite a District or Conference Officer to attend.
(UNIT TREASURER'S REPORT DUE)
- DECEMBER UNIT **CONSOLIDATED PRESIDENT'S REPORT** IS DUE TO
DISTRICT PRESIDENT DEANIE DeFELIX BY

DECEMBER 5, 2021

NOTE: Start times may be adjusted, based on meeting formats.

Lunch, if served, is \$7.00. Please call in lunch numbers the Monday
before the event unless it is a holiday; then it will be a Tuesday.