



United
Methodist
Women

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

The Connection

DOTHAN DISTRICT UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Volume 2018 Issue 1

SPRING 2018

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

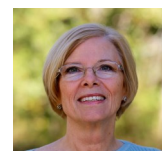
Communications
Carolyn McInnis

Nominations
TBD

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



We are already into the third month of 2018! How many United Methodist Women events and meetings have you attended—local circle meetings, Prayer & Self-Denial, District Annual Day, Conference Annual Day? United Methodist Women are busy! Our Purpose includes four major focal points: to be a community of women, to know God, to develop a creative, supportive fellowship, to expand concepts of mission.

This year many of us have already participated in activities that incorporate all four focal points. We delight in the fact we are an inclusive group; all are invited, and dues are not a part of membership. We do pledge to United Methodist Women above and beyond our tithes and offerings to our churches to support services and ministries for women, children, and youth.

We find spiritual growth through our service, mission studies, and commitment to share our love for Christ throughout the world. As a missional arm of the United Methodist Church, we strive to advocate and serve. If you have read the February 2018 *response*, you saw the maps that show the missions and organizations that our pledges and special giving support. From 2016 to 2018 more than \$10 million annually was allocated for national and international projects. United Methodist Women support 150 international programs carried out by up to 116 organizations in more than 110 countries. Nationally United Methodist Women support some 99 mission institutions, spiritual growth programs, mission education and service and advocacy.

As with any thriving organization, membership is vital to the success of United Methodist Women. At District Annual Day, we conducted a Service of Remembrance for twelve women who meant a great deal to us and to United Methodist Women. In order to continue the work conducted by those who are now with

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

Christ, we must be committed to finding new ways to invite and involve women in our 140-year-old organization. Flexible meeting styles, mentoring programs, and supportive, nurturing leadership will be necessary for growth.

To chart our growth, unit presidents are asked to complete an information form for the 2017 United Methodist Women Census. Gathering this information will enable United Methodist Women to meet members' needs more efficiently as well as inform our growth, outreach and impact. Submission deadline is March 30, 2018. [Click here](#) to access the form.



While a fourth of this year is gone, we still have ways to serve and participate in “creative, supportive fellowship”: District Mission Study, April 7, Dothan FUMC; Mission u, July 20-21, St. Luke UMC, Pensacola; Dothan District Spiritual Day Together, August 18, location TBD; District Mission Study, September 15, location TBD; and Conference Spiritual Enrichment Retreat, October 19-20, Blue Lake.

I can't wait to join you as we see what each event has to offer!

Joyful Blessings,

Debbie Bracewell

President

Dothan District

EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION

Mark your calendars for **APRIL 7** for an amazing mission study presented by Clara Ester. **Living as a Covenant Community** is the mission study for this spring to be held at Dothan First United Methodist Church. Registration begins at 8:00 and we will begin at 8:30 with a short invocation and introduction. Covenants are found in the Bible from the moment God created man and woman until the last page of Revelation. The 2017 Spiritual

Growth Study examines major covenants throughout the Bible and what they reveal about God's character and eternal love for us. This study will enhance your understanding of how God works with us, in us, and through us.



Clara J. Ester, a native of Memphis, Tennessee, is a graduate of LeMoyne-Owen College. She moved to Mobile, Alabama, in 1970 for a job at Dumas Wesley Community Center, where she worked as a Neighborhood Organizer, Program Director and Associate Director before retiring from her role as Executive Director on December 31, 2006. Clara is a member of Toulminville-Warren Street United Methodist Church, where she has served in numerous capacities. She currently serves as the Mobile District Lay Leader and on the Conference Episcopacy Committee, the Board of Laity, the CORE Team and the Nominating Committee. Clara is Vice President of the National Board of Directors of United Methodist Women. She was commissioned as a Deaconess in 1986. Clara has one son, Reginald Ester.

2018 Calendar of Events

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

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN CENSUS

Unit Presidents: Unit presidents are asked to complete this information form for the 2017 United Methodist Women census. Gathering this information will enable the organization to meet our members' needs more efficiently as well as inform our growth, outreach and impact.

Go to www.unitedmethodistwomen.org and click on the Census 2017 button. The form to complete is under the video. Census Submission Deadline: **March 30, 2018.**

The United Methodist Women will never share contact information outside the organization without permission.



MEMBERSHIP NURTURE AND OUTREACH

WHY WE ARE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

United Methodist Women is a community of women committed to mission. As members we can take advantage of many opportunities, including the following:

- Prayer, Bible studies and spiritual retreats.
 - Hands-on mission in local communities.
 - Mission education experiences.
 - Leadership development and training opportunities.
 - Supporting work with women, children and youth.
 - Partnership with women in mission in the country and around the world.
 - Advocacy for social justice issues, including those pertaining to the environment, domestic violence, immigration and the many other concerns that impact the lives of women, children and youth.
- Engagement in racial justice issues.

SOCIAL ACTION

DAYS FOR GIRLS PROJECT

In 2008, Celeste Mergens was working in community development for an NGO in Kenya. In the wake of the country's post-election violence, she witnessed a tremendous rise in the number of girls in orphanages. "What happens to these girls when they menstruate?" Mergens wondered. She quickly learned that the girls stay in their rooms, sitting on a piece of cardboard, missing out on school and work. What they desperately needed, in Kenya and many other parts of the world, was access to feminine hygiene items.



Courtesy Days for Girls

Thus, the non-profit Days for Girls was born, which provides washable, sustainable hygiene kits to girls and women all over the world. Each hygiene kit lasts 2-4 years, giving back months of missed education and opportunity to these girls.

The simple Days for Girls hygiene kits have a tremendous impact on women's and children's lives. Girls no longer have to miss days of school every month. And when girls are educated, they feed their families and lift their entire society, breaking the cycle of poverty. In addition, the availability of hygiene kits gives girls and women back their dignity, shields them from abuse, and protects their health.

The Dothan District can become involved in Days for Girls. We can form a team and sew hygiene kits for distribution. It is possible to purchase materials at wholesale prices through Days for Girls and hand-sew beautiful and sustainable kits that can change girls' and women's lives.

For further inspiration, read this story in the  [UMW Newsletter](#) about a group of United Methodist Women members who formed a team and sewed kits for Days for Girls.

Please feel free to contact me for more information about forming a team. We can set a day to sew, fellowship, lunch together, and truly make a difference for women and children. It will be rewarding and fun!

Blessings,

Jean Johnson

Social Action Coordinator

334-406-7964

United Methodist Women: Faith • Hope • Love in Action
We are women with a Purpose!

"United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to 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."

TREASURER

A new year, new goals and a new district treasurer! I am Carolyn McInnis, and I am happy to be serving as our district treasurer. We have a new remittance form to start this new year. It is a combination of the old forms. If you need copies of the new form or have any questions, please contact me. Our conference treasurer also posted links to the local forms on the conference website.

One of the differences that you will notice on the new remittance form is that our conference is no longer financially supporting the different agencies that have been known as our “Conference Specials” in the past. If your unit wishes to continue to support these agencies, your treasurer will need to send the money directly to them. I will be happy to supply you with the agencies’ addresses.

Instead of the “Conference Specials,” we are now asked to give \$10 per active member for our conference giving. REMEMBER, this is not our Pledge to Mission. This donation goes to the Dumas Wesley Community Center in Mobile (the only United Methodist Women’s mission institution in our conference), Mission u, our conference’s Assembly offering, and Administration and Membership Development. The Administration and Membership Development portion helps us pay our expenses and run our programs and meetings throughout the year.

Our district also has the Mattie Kolb Scholarship that is given to a student or students from our district each year to help them with their education. The suggested donation per member for this scholarship is \$2. The Mattie Kolb Scholarship is now listed on the form under Supplementary Gifts.

The conference donation and the Mattie Kolb Scholarship donation are NOT part of your pledge. The pledge to mission that your unit sends to the district goes to the national office to help with the United Methodist Women’s missions throughout the United States and the world. If you visit our national website, www.unitedmethodistwomen.org, you can view the maps to show our mission institutions in the United States and around the world. We are definitely helping many women, children, and youth!

Blessings,

Carolyn McInnis

Treasurer

**2018 Dothan District
Pledge to Mission
\$14,750**

A CALL TO PRAYER AND SELF-DENIAL

One of the ways that United Methodist Women serve is through our Call to Prayer and Self-Denial program. The 2018 Call to Prayer and Self-Denial offering will provide educational opportunities for women and girls who are chronically underserved and marginalized: economically disadvantaged and displaced groups, such as female-headed households and low-income families. Education and leadership development programs may include child development and after-school programs, GED and ESL classes, job readiness, life skills and livelihood training, scholarships, workshops and seminars. This offering is on a four-year rotation, so it does not go to the same groups each year.



Learning for a Lifetime:
Developing Leaders

PROGRAM RESOURCES

It appears that we had fewer readers to participate in the Reading Program. 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.

PLAN I

- 5 books each year.
- 1 from each category.
- Selections from the current reading lists if not included in previous reports.
- Regular reading of *response* magazine.

PLAN III

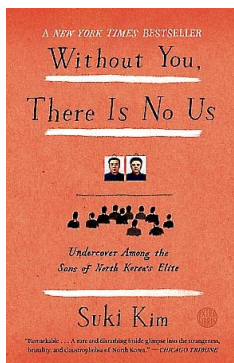
- 15 books each year.
- 2 books from each category.
- PLUS 5 additional books from any category.
- Selections from the current reading lists if not included in previous reports.
- Regular reading of *response* and *New World Outlook* magazines.

PLAN II

- 10 books each year.
- 2 from each category.
- Selections from the current reading lists if not included in previous reports.
- Regular reading of *response* and *New World Outlook* magazines.

PLAN IV

- 20 books each year.
- 2 books from each category.
- PLUS 10 additional books from any category

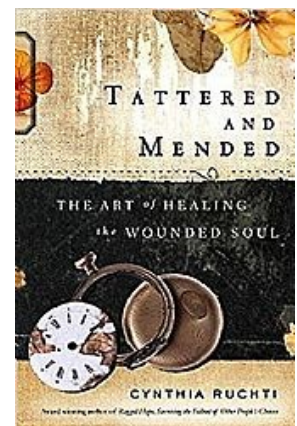


Undercover Among the Sons of North Korea's Elite
Suki Kim
Penguin Random House, 2014

In 2011, all universities in North Korea were shut down for an entire year, and except for the 270 students at the all-male Pyongyang University of Science and Technology, all students were sent to construction fields. Suki Kim accepted a job teaching English at Pyongyang, and over the next six months, she ate three meals a day with her young charges, while struggling to teach them to write and carefully telling them about the world beyond their borders, always aware that the more they knew, the more they risked.

The Art of Healing the Wounded Soul
Cynthia Ruchti
Abingdon Press, 2015

In *Tattered and Mended*, author Cynthia Ruchti offers an invitation to think about soul-mending as a divine art form, like artisans who reclaim beauty from the broken, frayed and hopelessly shattered, to show us that God doesn't just heal wounded souls, God heals artfully. With a gentle touch and personable wisdom, she opens the door to a gallery of the reclaimed and restored, reflecting on stories not unlike your own and helps you discover that even the most threadbare soul can once again find healing and hope.



ASSEMBLY 2018



Greater Columbus Convention Center, Columbus, OH

Thursday, May 17, 2018 through Sunday, May 20, 2018

United Methodist Women Assembly 2018 is a time for fellowship; it is also an opportunity to empower faithful women to be stronger discipleship leaders in their communities. Through moving worship, inspiring speakers, immersion experience exhibits, riveting workshops and town hall-style meetings, members will leave Assembly with the knowledge, courage, and determination to change the world as part of a daring and compassionate 150-year-old movement.

Registration is \$330. Visit <https://umwassembly.org/> for more information.

Bus seats are available for \$200. A \$100 deposit will reserve your seat. October 22, 2017, is the last date for bus registration (unless the bus fills before then), and the remaining \$100 is due by February 24, 2018. Contact Debbie Bell (251-232-6898 or email maw-bel36575@yahoo.com) to reserve a seat.

Departure **to** Assembly

May 17, 2018 Dothan Departure @ 6AM

From Southern Coach business location, P.O. Box 2245 Dothan, AL. 36302

2nd pick-up Millbrook First UMC 3350 Edgewood Rd. Millbrook, AL.

Assembly Arrival – Pending info

Departure **from** Assembly

May 20, 2018 Columbus, OH. Departure @ 1PM

1st Drop-off at Millbrook First UMC (time, unknown)

Final return stop May 21, 2018 @ 1AM in Dothan at Southern Coach business location

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



Mattie Kolb Scholarship



Mattie Kolb Scholarship applications are now available. It can be found on www.awf-umw.org under the Dothan tab. If you have any questions, please contact Jolinda Strickland at jolinda928@gmail.com

CONFERENCE ANNUAL DAY

Conference Annual Day, hosted by Foley First United Methodist Church February 23-24, was a spiritually uplifting event! Twenty-three first time attendees were among the 184 registered guests. Special guests included Bishop Graves, United Methodist Women Shannon Priddy, and all eight district superintendents. Priddy's message for Friday night included her story—how she became a member of United Methodist Women and how she moved into leadership positions. Saturday's message emphasized the mantra "Be Bold." She encouraged us to say "yes" to United Methodist Women, to say "yes" to holding a position, and to say "yes" to learning and sharing our stories. Mission giving is proclaiming what we believe in such a way that we give other people an opportunity to participate with us in the vision of United Methodist Women.



Bishop Graves also used the message of boldness as he encouraged us to be the body of Christ in our communities. Praying for boldness will allow us to open doors so that Christ can lead us to places we can serve. The Bishop lead us in the Communion Service and the District Superintendents assisted.

During Saturday's program, Shannon Priddy awarded Betty Helms with a Limited Edition Legacy 150 pin for her many years of service and her support of United Methodist Women.

Conference Annual Day will be moving its location within the eight districts. Attendance was very high this year, and many people attended who had never been before. The Bay Pines District and the Foley unit certainly made this Annual Day one to remember!



In Memory

Dothan District had 12 United Methodist Women who passed away in 2017. These women and their dedication to their churches and United Methodist Women were memorialized during the District Annual Day and Conference Annual Day.

Grace Andrews
Beth Bowden
Hilda Church
Pat Douglas
Mary Garner
Virginia Logan
Shirley Lunging
Rubie McInnis
Doris Seem
Jena Stinson
Carolyn Vickers
Mary Stewart



COMMUNICATIONS

This is the time of the year that many people are already struggling with the resolutions that they made on January 1st. Some people want to lose weight, go to the gym more regularly, learn something new, use their money more wisely, take a trip, or find more ways to serve God. United Methodist Women may not be able to help you lose weight or go to the gym, but we can help each other learn something new and take a virtual trip (through our mission studies and reading program), make our money help more people (through our pledges and other giving), and work together to serve God through our ministries in our local churches, in our district, in our conference, and through our national and international ministry programs and institutions. I would love to share any project that your local unit is involved in that helps women, children, and/or youth through our district newsletter.

Looking forward to hearing from you!

Carolyn McInnis

Communications Coordinator

District Annual Day



Conference Annual Day





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 _____.