

District Officers

President

Penny Colin

Vice President

TBA

Secretary

Bonnie Strait

Treasurer

Brenda Hargrave

Program Resources

TBA

Spiritual Growth

Bonnie Shanks

Social Action

Ora Gillespie

Communications

Carolyn Davis

Membership Nurture & Outreach

Mary Wilson

Education & Interpretation

Marsha Clayton

Nominations

Mable Lawrence, Chair
Evelyn Teel, Member
Carolyn Davis, Member



From the President,

Sweet Summertime - Yes, it's that time again when families are taking vacations, children are home or involved in summer activities, and "the living is easy"! Whoa, wait a minute; that's not exactly how it is!

So far this year we have been quite busy as United Methodist Women. We attended Conference Annual Day, held District Annual Day and Training, 2 district mission studies with another planned this month - on June 24th, we will gather at Capitol Heights UMC for our Mission Study - The Bible and Human Sexuality.

I hope you have registered for **Mission u** at First United Methodist Church in Millbrook on **July 21 & 22**. I am excited about the studies offered at Mission u.

I have enjoyed attending unit meetings recently and getting to know more about what is happening with United Methodist Women in our district and conference. Visiting other unit meetings has made me even more proud to be a part of this group of Godly women. Thank you for including me.

Many of our units/circles decide not to meet in the summer. As we take a break from our meetings, let us not break from remaining focused on our mission and purpose. We should continue our mission projects and activities, financial responsibilities, reading and learning from program resources, and keep up to date with the happenings of United Methodist Women with visits to the global, national, conference and district websites.

2017 AWF Annual Conference begins this Sunday. I am looking forward to participating and learning as we conduct the business of our conference. Please keep Annual Conference in your prayers.

With joy and thanksgiving in His service and in serving the Montgomery-Prattville District United Methodist Women.

Penny Colin
Montgomery-Prattville District President



Dean
Betty Helms
is eager to
know you
will join her
at Millbrook
FUMC
July 21 & 22

Alabama-West Florida
Conference Cooperative
Mission u Event
Friday, July 21 and
Saturday, July 22, 2017
First United Methodist Church
Millbrook, Alabama



Click image above to download the [Mission u Brochure/Registration Form](#)
2017 Health Form PDF EXCEL or see brochure on last page of the newsletter.
To print a copy.

Mission Studies 2017

Spiritual growth: Living as a Covenant Community

Issue study: Climate Justice

Geographic: Missionary Conferences of the U.S.

- **Children's Study:** Joined and Held Together (Missionary Conferences)
- **Youth Study:** In Mission Together (Missionary Conferences)

Each year, United Methodist Women members prepare for faithful living and action by studying mission studies. Mission studies are offered each year - a **geographical, topical, and spiritual growth** study. These studies motivate, inform, and enrich our commitment to global ministry.

For participants, Mission u is an opportunity to study current issues impacting society based on **current mission study topics** with particular attention to the responsibilities of women in fulfilling the mission work of the church. Participants grow in understanding the mission of the church in the current world context; conference events are open to members and non-members of United Methodist Women.

From Your District Treasurer – Brenda Hargrave

From January through May of this year, the units of our district have sent in **\$2348.00** toward our pledge of **\$12,200** to the Conference.

This money represents funds for: Pledge to Mission, Special Mission Recognition pin, Gift to Missions, Gift in Memory and World Thank. These are the same areas that apply to being a 5 Star unit. We have pledged **\$12,200** from our District to the Conference so we need about **\$9852** to complete this pledge by the beginning of December.

Thank you to those units who send in money all during the year. This is very helpful. As you receive money from members, I would encourage you to send it on to me instead of waiting until the end of the year. Your mission money can be helping someone in need today.

Brenda Hargrave
District Treasurer

Reminder Note:**Where Does the \$9.75 for the AWF UMW Conference Goes?**

This is a question that is often asked by members so here is a breakdown. Your money is being well spent on conference missions as well as operating expenses and maintenance.

Dumas Wesley- Mobile:	\$1.50
Mary Ellen's Hearth (Nellie Burge)-Montgomery:	0.75
Unrestricted giving TBD	0.75
Mobile Inner-City Missions-Mobile:	0.75
Hispanic Ministries-Conference wide:	0.75
Jurisdictional Assembly:	0.25
Blue Lake:	2.00
Mission u:	1.00
Administration/Membership Development:	2.00

How can each unit become a "5 Star" one?

Your unit can be one this year! Contribute to each of these undesignated areas of missions that are both nationally and internationally served:

Pledge to Missions:	Any amount over \$5.00
Special Mission Recognition Pin:	Minimum of \$40 per pin
Gift to Missions:	Any amount over \$5.00
Gift in Memory:	Any amount over \$5.00
World Thank Offering:	Any Amount over \$5.00

These are minimum amounts and I would encourage each unit to give generously. Our pledge this year is \$12,200 for these items and we have only received about \$2,348.

Brenda Hargrave, District Treasurer

From

Mable Lawrence, District Nomination Chairperson

Greetings!

To all my UMW Sisters, as we begin to start your summer, we pray that each of you and your families are being Blessed in the Season. As we approach the beginning of summer, we hope that you find in your heart that you will be willing to serve on the Montgomery/Prattville District team. We still have positions open, and I know that if you decide to join us you will enjoy.

Please pray for the District team that our positions will be filled. We are still prayerfully seeking someone to fill the:

Vice President position

and

Nomination position as a member.

If you are interested please contact Mabel Lawrence, Evelyn Teel, or Carolyn Davis.



Mark Your Calendar

Come Join Us

MONTGOMERY-PRATTVILLE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN
MISSION STUDY
"THE BIBLE AND HUMAN SEXUALITY"
(AN ENGAGING STUDY EXAMINING HUMAN SEXUALITY AND HOW
TO LIVE THE LIFE THAT GOD CALLS US TO)

Saturday, June 24, 2017

Capitol Heights United Methodist Church

2000 Winona Ave., Montgomery

8:30 am – Registration/Refreshments

9am – 12pm – Study

Lunch and Fellowship

*Facilitator: Betty Helms, Alabama-West Florida Conference
UMW, Past President and Mission Studies Coordinator*

**From Marsha Clayton,
Education & Interpretation**

From
Ora Gillespie
Social Action



UMW Sisters
Continue to Make your Local Units and other women aware of
Human Trafficking

The United Methodist Women, for 2016, joined secular and interfaith allies to kick off our annual awareness campaign for National Human Trafficking Awareness. Teaching individuals and communities how to prevent trafficking, to identify and protect trafficked persons and what can be done to aid in the prosecution, will continue in 2017.

Human rights for all people is one of the historic principles of United Methodist Women from its beginning. For more than 100 years, our mission has been involved in social action, often leading the church in the call for social justice.

We are an organization of many people/women of different races, nationalities, languages and cultures and our United Methodist Heritage reflects a history of commitment to social justice and social action. It's time for us to get started on our work for this new year.

What are we going to do? Let's Box 'Em Up and Stack 'Em Up!
Read about the 2017 campaign and how your unit can participate at
<http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/human-trafficking>
<http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/news/box-em-up>

I am available if you need copies of the Charter for Racial Justice,
Racial Justice Time Line or other web sites for information.

Social Action Coordinator
Montgomery-Prattville District
Ora Gillespie



Let's Box 'Em Up and Stack 'Em Up!

The Reading Program 2017

www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/readingprogram

The Reading Program encourages members to think critically about current issues through an annual selection of member-reviewed books. It offers an excellent opportunity to deepen your spirituality and to broaden your understanding of our mission work.

The Reading Program Leads to Action!

For 140 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.

Local UMW members can choose from 1 of 5 reading plans:

Plan I: 5 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 2011-2016 reading lists if not included in previous reports (including youth titles). Regular reading of [response](#) magazine.

Plan II: 10 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 2011-2016 reading lists if not included in previous reports (including youth titles).

Regular reading of [response](#) and *New World Outlook* magazines.

Plan III: 15 Books Per Year

Two books from each category: Education for Mission, Leadership Development, Nurturing for Community, Social Action and Spiritual Growth.

PLUS 5 additional books from any category.

Selections can be from the 2011-2016 reading lists if not included in previous reports (including youth and children's titles).

Regular reading of [response](#) and *New World Outlook* magazines.

Plan IV: 20 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 2011-2016 reading lists if not included in previous reports (including youth and children's titles).

Regular reading of [response](#) and *New World Outlook* magazines.

Remember Mark your Calendars

Montgomery-Prattville District 2017 Events

Mission Study - Human Sexuality June 24th (Capitol Heights UMC)

Conference Events Save the Date!

July 21 & 22, 2017 Mission U @ Millbrook UMC

**Oct. 20-22, 2017 Spiritual Enrichment Retreat @
Blue Lake**

May 18-20, 2018 Assembly @ Columbus, Ohio

We would love to include your unit activities and mission projects in *The Messenger's Flame*. Please submit articles and photos, if available, to Cdavis854@bellsouth.net

ALERT! . . . Are you a Subscriber?

You too can become informed of Alabama-West Florida Conference United Methodist Women events and activities by subscribing to *Alert* today!

- To receive a copy of the ALERT in the mail, please send in your Name, Address and Telephone Number to Debbie Bush. Enclose a \$4.00 check, made payable to: Alabama-West Florida Conference United Methodist Women (AWFCUMW).
- You may receive a copy of the ALERT free by email. Please email Debbie Bush at Savannahgirl2759@gmail.com with your request and you will be added to our email list. However, please include a telephone number! With each issue that is sent, several mailed and emailed copies are returned!

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.

MISSION U

In Alabama-West Florida Conference, The United Methodist Church, is a cooperative event of

- Board of Church and Society
- United Methodist Women

EDUCATE TO TRANSFORM

Each year, United Methodist Women members prepare for faithful living and action by studying mission studies. Mission studies are offered each year - a geographical, topical, and spiritual growth study. These studies motivate, inform, and enrich our commitment to global ministry.

Local leaders are trained to lead one of the three mission studies through the organization's Mission U program offered around the country. Those leaders, in turn, are able to lead mission studies in their local and district groups.

ATTENDANCE

Every church and local unit of United Methodist Women is strongly encouraged to participate in what are timely studies.

It is our hope that units will take advantage of this opportunity by sending at least three people to Mission U in order to offer all three studies in their local unit.



THE 2017 DEAN

Betty Helms is eager to know you will join her at Millbrook FUMC

July 21 & 22, 2017

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE:

Scholarship are available for adults to attend the 2017 school.

DON BRILL: for clergy during the first five years of their ministry and who have never attended a Mission U Event.

LIB CLARIDY: for lay persons who have never attended a Mission U Event.

NELL CHANCE: for NEW United Methodist Women member who have never attended a Mission U Event.

Contact:

Harry Hodges, Scholarship, Chair
harryhodges@yahoo.com

MAIL COMPLETED REGISTRATION FORM

with check payable to

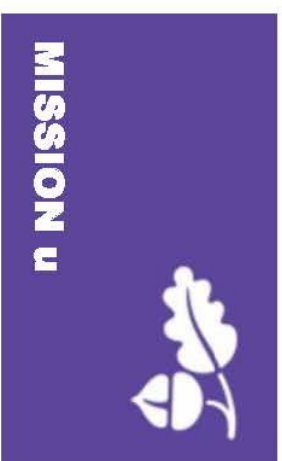
MISSION U

to the Registrar:

TUTTI JOHNSON
PO BOX 598
PINE HILL AL 36769-0598

Additional registration forms:

AWF UMW website
<http://www.awf-umw.org/>



2017

Alabama-West
Florida Conference

Cooperative

Mission U

Event

July 21-22

Millbrook First United
Methodist Church

3350 Edgewood Road
Millbrook, Alabama

REGISTRATION FORM

Deadline July 8, 2017
(\$10 late fee after July 8, 2017)

(name) _____

(address) _____

(city, state, zip) _____

(district) _____

(conference/district officer position, if any) _____

Check all that apply: Female Male

Lay Clergy CEU Credit

Need assistance moving around campus.

List on separate sheet any dietary needs.

STUDY COURSE REGISTRATION. Each study is a 6 hour course. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. Classes begin after the opening and finish at 4:30 p.m.

Two Days School Fee: \$50

One study each day from the three offered

Friday _____

Saturday _____

Friday Only: \$30

Choose your study from the three offered

Friday _____

Saturday Only: \$30

Choose your study

Missionary Conferences

Living as A Covenant Community

Saturday Only

Youth Leader's Study: \$30

Missionary Conferences

Each person is responsible for their own lodging.

GEOGRAPHIC STUDY:

Missionary Conferences of The United Methodist Church in the United States

is a mission journey that guides us through the missionary conference:

- Alaska Missionary Conference
- Oklahoma Missionary Conference
- Red Bird Missionary Conference

These conferences are mission fields close to our hearts. They are the communities and families served by individuals, churches and institutions that carry on the support and solidarity of United Methodist Women organized for mission with them.

ISSUE STUDY:

Climate Justice: Call to Hope and Action

will deepen your understanding and awareness of climate change and its impact on God's mission today. The study highlights justice, peace and integrity of creation as important dimensions of partnering in God's mission today. Participants in this study will also learn how their own actions contribute to climate change and what they can do to positively affect the environment.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH STUDY:

Living as a Covenant Community

Covenants are found in the Bible from the moment God created man and woman until the last page of Revelation. Several types of covenants are found in the Bible. There are divine covenants that are between God and beings and covenants between individual and nations. As we grow to understand the divine covenants made by God with our ancestors and thus with us, our faith and our lives will transform. This study will enhance your understanding of how God works with us, in us, and through us. Biblical witnesses powerfully show us covenants are God's gifts to humanity through which we may truly live as those who bear the image of God.

STUDY LEADERS:

GEOGRAPHIC STUDY:

Missionary Conferences

Joyce Genz and Kathie Harris

ISSUE STUDY:

Climate Justice

Debbie Bracewell

SPIRITUAL GROWTH STUDY:

Living As a Covenant Community

Carol Toney and Clara Ester

YOUTH LEADER'S STUDY

Missionary Conferences

Tuti Johnson

LODGING:

Each participant is responsible for their own lodging.

Blocks of rooms have been reserved at:

La Quinta

Arthur Edwards – 261 Interstate

Commercial Park Loop, Prattville, AL 36066

Phone: 334-358-5454

\$94 with tax/lodging fee included.

Good Breakfast

Sleep Inn

2295 Cobbs Ford Rd.

Millbrook, AL 36054

Phone: 334-532-0500

\$86.50 with tax/lodging fee included

(+\$6 if more than 2 in room)

Good Breakfast