



The Messenger's Flame

Montgomery-Prattville District UMW

March 2020

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Vice-President

Reda Brooks

Secretary

Mable Lawrence

Treasurer

Brenda Hargrave

Social Action

Gloria Jean Williams

Communications

Carolyn Davis

Membership Nurture &

Outreach

Lyndall Barlow

Education &

Interpretation

TBA

Spiritual Growth

TBA

Nominations

TBA



From The President's Desk

My Dear Ladies of the Montgomery-Prattville District, I am honored to have been accepted to serve as your president for 2020. United Methodist Women has a special place in my heart, and I look forward to working with you as we continue to move forward in our mission field. I have been a member of United Methodist Women for 48 years in the Alabama-West Florida Conference, Montgomery-Prattville District and I have served at the conference, district and local levels in various capacities.

The organization of United Methodist Women has advanced itself substantially over the years and has been able to do so because of the service and commitment of women such as yourselves. We will continue the strong legacy set before us, striving together, letting our lights shine to provide opportunities and resources to grow spiritually, to help equip women and girls around the world to be leaders in communities, agencies, workplaces, governments, and churches, to work for justice, and to provide educational experiences that lead to an improved transformation of the world.

UPCOMING EVENTS

We have agreed to partner with the Montgomery-Opelika District for the mission study on "Women United for Change" that was originally set to be held on April 4, 2020 at Auburn First UMC in Auburn, AL. has been postponed.

Be watchful for a new date or additional information about this mission study event.

Additional partnering in service, is being considered and will be shared at a later date.

IN HIS SERVICE

"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)

(President's Message Continued)

WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO?



This year in United Methodist Women, I challenge us to increase our participation in those activities that help us thrive in mission studies, spiritual enrichment retreats, reading programs, Mission Today focus areas, Charter for Racial Justice, Pledge to Mission, World Thank Offering, Call to Prayer and Self-Denial, leadership development opportunities, and Annual Day.

Remember our 2017-2020 quadrennial emphases: Climate Justice, Criminalization of Communities of Color and Mass Incarceration, Economic Inequality, and Maternal Health. Let's be that beacon of Light that breaks forth lighting the way for women, children, youth, and all God's creation to see a better day.

Thanks again to all of you who attended the District Annual Day-Leadership Development on February 22, 2020 at Millbrook First UMC.. Though there was minimal attendance, those who attended and completed evaluation forms were very positive about the event. Kristine Jones, Conference Membership Coordinator and speaker for the event was well-praised. She did an excellent job of sharing her experience with United Methodist Women, what is good and what needs work. Another facet of the event that was well-received was the overall leadership development and information shared.

Let's rise and shine and make that way through this partnership called United Methodist Women. May God bless all our efforts in 2020 and beyond.

Grateful to be in your service,
Marsha Clayton, District President

Census Submission Deadline: Monday, March 30, 2020.

Local Unit Presidents: Local Unit Presidents are asked to complete this form for the 2019 United Methodist Women census.

This year's census is focused on giving information and sharing ideas for sustainability and growth!

However, we still need your full participation and count!

Go the National UMW Website to complete form for the census. See below:
<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/> Click on 2019 Census

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

If you need help contact any district officer.



Brenda Hargrave
Treasurer

In 2019, the Montgomery-Prattville District pledged \$11,000 as our share of the Conference Mission pledge. Through your donations, we were able to send in all except for \$474. Part of our pledge money comes from the World Thank Offering. We have pledged \$11,000 again this year and I thought your unit might have fun with this World Thank Offering suggestion.

UMW World Thank Offering

- January: Remember those persons who are living on the streets. In your container, place a coin for every bed in your house.
- February: Remember the joys of mothering. Give a coin for each child and grandchild.
- March: It is good to be able to communicate with others. Place a coin in your container for every telephone, answering machine, caller ID and computer in your home.
- April: It's Spring. Put a coin in your container when you see the first flower of the season.
- May: Be thankful for a plentiful supply of food, Count the cans of food in your pantry and put in a coin for each item.
- June: Friends are a blessing. For every visit you have with a friend this month, put in a coin.
- July: Be thankful for the freedoms we enjoy in this country. Put a coin in your container for every flag you see this month.
- August: This month can be hot and dry in Alabama. For every cloudy day, add a coin in your container.
- September: A good month to get back in the swing of things. Put in a coin for every meeting you attend this month.
- October: Travel is fairly simple for most people in our towns. Add a coin for each day you drive or ride in a car or bus this month.
- November: As darkness comes earlier each evening, we use electricity for lighting our homes. Count the lamps in your house and add a coin for each.
- December: We are fortunate to be able to give gifts. Put a coin in your container each time you go shopping for a Christmas gift.

**Local Units who received certificates
at
District Annual Day February 22, 2020**

Local Units who attended the Mission Studies

“What About Our Money” mission study held at Greenville 1st: Chapel, Metropolitan, Millbrook, Locust Bluff and Greenville

“Embracing Wholeness” mission study held at Trinity: Chapel, Metropolitan, Prattville 1st, Millbrook, Trinity, Locust Bluff, Montgomery 1st.

Mission Today Units:

Bronze-Trinity, Roberta Sample Circle at Church St. Selma, Greenville, Clanton
Silver- Chapel, Locust Bluff, Dalraida
Gold- Metropolitan, Millbrook

5 Star Units:

Chapel, Metropolitan, Prattville 1st, Millbrook, Locust Bluff, Montgomery 1st, Dalraida, Whitfield, Catherine Revel Circle at Church St. Selma, Greenville, Robinson Springs, Clanton, Trinity

Reading Program:

Level One

Carolyn Davis, Ora Gillespie, Reda Brooks,
Marsha Clayton, Gloria Jean Williams, Mable Lawrence, Lyndall Barlow, Louise Burt,
Brenda Hargrave, Ginny Callaway, Carla Lumpkin, Pam Koons.

Level 2: Sandra Wiese

Level 3: Eloise McLean

Level 4: Reba Wooten

Racial Justice:

Chapel, Metropolitan, Prattville 1st, Millbrook, Trinity, Locust Bluff, Montgomery 1st, Dalraida, Whitfield, Catherine Revel Circle, Roberta Sample Circle, Greenville, Robinson Springs.

Memorial Moments of Remembrance Service

Those remembered were:

Montgomery 1st: Harriet Elizabeth Betchtel, Betty Finlay Brislin, Julia Wilson Perry, Marilyn Perkins Zeigler, Margaret Chesnutt Mock, Suzanne Marie Sheppard, Lucy Taylor Cunningham Bond

Trinity Prattville: Elizabeth Young

Chapel: Lucille Purter and Louise Purter

The Montgomery – Prattville District
United Methodist Women Mission Team
need to fill the Office of
Spiritual Growth Coordinator
Education & Interpretation Coordinator
and

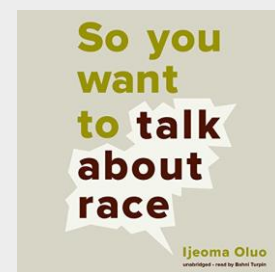
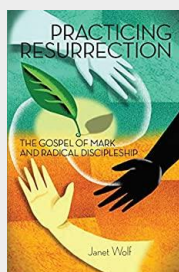
Nomination chairperson

If you would like to serve on the
Montgomery-Prattville District

Please contact one of the officers on the district
United Methodist Women mission team.

BONUS BOOKS Bonus Books count as two books! The 2020 Reading Program bonus books are the current United Methodist Women mission studies.

- **Practicing Resurrection: The Gospel of Mark and Radical Discipleship** by Janet Wolf counts as two books in the category Spiritual Growth.
- **What About Our Money? A Faith Response** by Susan Taylor counts as two books in the category Education for Mission.
- **Women United for Change: 150 Years in Mission** by Ellen Blue counts as two books in the category Community.
- **So You Want to Talk About Race** by Ijeoma Oluo, studied by the United Methodist Women Program Advisory Group, counts as two books in Social Action category.





**Montgomery-Prattville District
Social Action Coordinator
Gloria Jean Williams**



Black History Month Celebration Program
Living the Montgomery Civil Rights Past, Present, and Future in the United Methodist Church
was Sponsored by
Dalriada United Methodist Women

Guest Presenters, Metropolitan United Methodist Women
Sunday, February 23, 2020 - 5:00 – 6:30 pm
Refreshments – Dalriada United Methodist Women Peggy Draper Circle

And therefore, put off falsehood and speak truthfully, for we are all members of one body. EPHESIANS 4:25 (NIV)

Objective: *Spiritual awaken told from the viewpoint of the Metropolitan United Methodist Women who actively participated in the Civil Rights movement using faith to fight for Social Action and Racial Justice. Learn from the past to secure a brighter future for women, children, youth, and community without prejudice!*



DALRAIDA & METROPOLITAN
United Methodist Women
Present...
Living the Montgomery Civil Rights
Past, Present, and Future
in the United Methodist Church
Sunday, February 23, 2020



Guest Church Choir
Mrs. Carolyn Davis &
Mrs. Gloria Jean Stoudemire
Locust Bluff UMW
Pianist – Mrs. Nancy Deabler
Dalriada Parkman Action Circle



Scripture Reading
Mrs. Melanie May, Vice Pres.
Dalriada Parkman Action Circle



Mrs. Travis
expresses a hearty
thanks to our
Conference UMW
Secretary, Ms. Cathy
Givan from Chapel
UMW and 40 others
for their attendance.



Mrs. Ora Gillespie
President
Metropolitan and
Conference Social
Action Coord.
United Methodist
Women
Church History of
Metropolitan and
her personal
experiences during
the Civil Rights
Movement in
Montgomery, AL.



**Introducing
Metropolitan United
Methodist Women**
Mrs. Gloria Jean
Williams
Social Action Coord.
Metropolitan and
Montgomery–Prattville
District.



Mrs. Marsha Clayton
Vice President
Metropolitan and
President of the
Montgomery–Prattville
District United
Methodist Women
Mrs. Clayton led a
litany on Black History
and the children are
our future.
As well as conducted
the Table Breakout
Discussions.

Session.....Mrs. Marsha Clayton, Narrator

A STRONGER COMMUNITY FOR FAMILIES THROUGH JESUS CHRIST

Presenting Problem Scenario:

In the community surrounding your church is a family struggling. The parents are well known within the community as drug addicts and alcoholics. The father was recently sentenced to 5 years in prison for robbery. The mother has a college degree, but has problems holding a job because of her addiction. Both parents attended church as youth, but stopped once married.

There are three children in this family, ages 5, 10, and 12. All three children have disciplinary and behavior problems as reported by their schools.

The mother in desperation contacted your church for assistance for herself and her children.

Possible underling issues:

- Emotional abuse
- Physical abuse
- Substance abuse (parents and possible children)
- Lack of parental supervision
- Poor interpersonal communication skills
- Fear of unpredictability (Homelessness)
- Lack of personal boundaries
- Disrespect of authorities

NEXT STEPS: What can your church do to "INTERRUPT THE SCHOOL TO PRISON PIPLINE" for these children?

What can you and your church do to intervene and provide services to this family in desperate need of help?

Table Breakout discussions



Acknowledgements – Mrs. Mary Wilson, Dalraida United Methodist Women President presented (Upper Left) Locust Bluff and Metropolitan with plaques for their participation.



Metropolitan United Methodist Women Receives Plaque

(Left to right) Ora Gillespie (Metrop. Pres. & Conf. Social Action Coord.), Myrtis Ramsey (Metrop. Fin. Sect & church Fin. Chair), Gloria Jean Williams (Metrop. & Montg. -Prattville Dist. Social Action Coord.), Marsha Clayton (Metrop. Vice Pres./Communications & Pres. Montg. -Prattville)

Video:

YouTube: *Kids Recite 'I Have a Dream' Speech*

Feb 12, 2017

PLEASE SKIP AD

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JBhCd9GYbqk>

Closing Remarks and Prayer



**Dalraida Senior
Pastor Michael A. Cobb**

Personal Reflection and Listening to the Holy Spirit.

God of Transformation,
We are not accountable for the environments
into which we were born,
but we are accountable for the environments
we create.

We are not accountable for the bigotry
into which we were born,
but we are accountable for the bigotry
that we birth.

We are not accountable for the lack
of love that existed in the homes
into which we were born,
but we are accountable for the love that
resides in the homes we create.

May the lessons of our pasts inform
our present, and transform our future.

May we use the power of your Holy Spirit to
create environments of holiness and healing. Amen.

(A Prayer for October 17, 2014 by LaTrelle Miller Easterling)

The Reading Program 2020

Reading Program

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 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.**

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 2014-2019 reading lists if not included in previous reports (including Children and 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 2014-2019 reading lists if not included in previous reports (including Children and Youth titles). Regular reading of Response magazine.

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 2014-2016 reading lists if not included in previous reports (including youth and children's titles). Regular reading of Response Magazine.

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 2014-2019 reading lists if not included in previous reports (including Children and Youth and titles). Regular reading of Response Magazine.

Where to Find Books

For the first time, this year United Methodist Women members will obtain Reading Program books exclusively through third parties—libraries, local bookstores and online. Think of this resource not as a catalog, as in past years, but as a guide.

Although Amazon is always a convenient option, please consider obtaining Reading Program books through: School and public libraries --- Local independent bookstores-----Franchises of larger bookstore chains

If you do order books through Amazon, please remember to visit smile.amazon.com, Amazon's charitable giving page, and select "**United Methodist Women**" as your charitable organization.

Bonus Books count as two books. This year, Bonus Books are also the current mission studies, providing even more of an incentive to select these books as part of your Reading Program plan. To purchase United Methodist Women mission studies, go to: umwmissionresources.org.

Alabama-West Florida Conference

2020 Calendar

Jan	17-18	Conference Mission Team and District Presidents at Marianna UMC, Marianna, F
Feb	14-15	Conference Annual Day at Enterprise, First UMC, Enterprise, AL
Mar	23	United Methodist Women Annual Giving Day
July	10-11	Conference Officers, District Presidents & Treasurers at Gadsden St. UMC, Pensacola, FL
July	24-25	Mission u at Aldersgate UMC in Montgomery, AL
Oct	9-10	Conference Spiritual Enrichment Retreat at Blue Lake Assembly Grounds
Nov	7	Conference President and Conference Treasurer meeting with District Presidents and Treasurers Location TBA

Montgomery-Prattville District UMW

2020 Calendar

JAN 25	District Team, Unit Presidents, Vice, Two Reps	Executive Mission Team Meeting Location: Millbrook 1st
FEB. 22	ALL	District Annual Day/Officer Training/Memorial Service Location: Millbrook UM Church
MARCH		
APRIL 4	Montgomery/Prattville Montgomery-Opelika Districts Combined	Special Anniversary Study- 150 Years Legacy Study Location: Auburn 1 st UM Church, Auburn, AL
May 16	District Team, Unit Presidents, Vice, Two Reps	Executive Mission Team Meeting Location: Millbrook 1st
JUNE 20	ALL	Mission Study – Book of Mark Location: Metropolitan UM Church, Montgomery
JULY 27	District Team, Unit Presidents, Vice, Two Reps	Executive Mission Team Meeting Location: Millbrook 1st
August 27	District Team, Unit Presidents, Vice, Two Reps	Executive Mission Team Meeting Location: Millbrook 1st
SEPT 12	All invited	District Spiritual Enrichment Retreat Location: Chapel UM Church, Electric, AL
NOVEMBER (Recommended)	ALL	UMW Day celebrations per Local Unit Be Invitational!
NOVEMBER	District Team, Vice, Presidents, Two Reps from other Women Ministries	Review, Evaluations, Planning, Calendar for 2019 Submit monies and Report Forms Location: Millbrook

All district events begin with registration at 8:30 AM followed by the program from 9:00 AM - Noon unless otherwise announced.

All conference level events registration, forms are available <http://www.awf-umw.org> and provide all information regarding registration, meal, and lodging fees for the events.

All District Events have been postponed due to the Coronavirus until further Notice.

District Spiritual Enrichment Day at Locust Bluff UMC Sept. 14, 2019



Speaker Charity Starr-Mitchell
ASU Wesley Fd., Director



Trinity UMW won the traveling Trophy



Locust Bluff UMW



Metrobolitan UMW



Clanton UMW



Chapel UMW

Montgomery-Prattville District Annual Day/Officer Training/Memorial Service At Millbrook 1st UMC February 22, 2020



Charter for Racial Justice



Reading Program Recipients



5 Star Local Units



Reading Program Recipients



Millbrook President, Sandra Wiese, District President, Marsha Clayton and **Speaker:** Christine Jones, Conf, Membership, Nurture & Outreach Coordinator



Gold, Bronze and Silver- Mission Today Units



Chapel Unit won the traveling Trophy for Most Attendance



Millbrook Outreach Ministry preparing meals for the community



Conference
Annual Day
at
Enterprise 1st
Enterprise, AL
Feb., 14-15, 2020



Conference Spiritual Enrichment Retreat at Blue Lake Assembly Grounds

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



Carolyn Davis, Communication Coordinator

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.



Mable Lawrence, District Secretary

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!

Send your request to Michele Smith, Communications Coordinator: Michelesmith2002@hotmail.com Alabama-West Florida Conference United Methodist Women. Yearly subscription for a paper copy of the Alert newsletter is \$8.00. Payments can be mailed to Michele or Jean Creswell,

You may receive a copy of ALERT free by email. Email Michelesmith2002@hotmail.com with your request and you will be added to our email list.

ALERT is also online at www.awf-umw.org

Stay Connected

National UMW Website:
www.unitedmethodistwomen.org

AWF-UMW: www.awf-umw.org

Montgomery-Prattville District:
www.awf-umw.org

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.