



# The Messenger's Flame

Montgomery-Prattville District UMW

*March 2021*

## *District Officers*

**President**

Marsha Clayton

**Vice-President**

Reda Brooks

**Secretary**

Mable Lawrence

**Treasurer**

Brenda Hargrave

**Social Action**

Gloria Jean Williams

**Communications**

Carolyn Davis

**Membership Nurture  
& Outreach**

**Education &  
Interpretation**

Carla Lumpkin

**Spiritual Growth**

Jill Lowman

**Nominations**

Cynthia Brown



## **From the President's Desk**

Greetings, everyone.

We now find ourselves in the midst of another year, though with many challenges, especially from COVID-19, still hanging around, we are tremendously blessed and beginning to see some relief on the horizon. We give God all thanks and praise and glory. The organization of United Methodist Women is moving forward, continuing on the path set forth for us in spite of the challenges and we here in the Montgomery-Prattville District are making every effort to keep up. We want to stay connected to the total mission plan to know God, experience freedom as whole persons, be a supportive community and to expand concepts of mission.

In this effort, we opened our program year with our District Annual Day/Training virtual event on Saturday, February 20, 2021. Pastor Jacqueline Slaughter of the Alabama-West Florida Conference was the featured speaker who delivered an interesting and interactive presentation on the subject, "So You Want to Talk About Race" (a book on our Reading Program list) focusing on systemic racism and things we can do to help eliminate/alleviate the "cancer" of racism in our society.

Additionally, we were blessed with a memorable memorial service for our deceased members led by our District Vice President, Reda Brooks.

We were honored to have 3 conference officers to attend and Katy Wrona, AWFUMW Vice President, offered greetings and announced the Conference Annual Day/Leadership Development event that was set and observed virtually on March 6.

Following the program, the district officers shared information relative to their offices. A more in-depth report is forthcoming.

**The district mission study on "Women United for Change"** spear-headed by the Montgomery-Opelika District and led by Ruth Ann Powers, former AWFUMW President and study leader **has been postponed**. Our district had been invited to share the event. More about that to come.

Our next District event will be the mission study on Radical Discipleship in June. More details will be shared at a later date as we would like to be in-person for the event, but COVID-19 keeps interrupting plans. Please know that you are all very much appreciated and that we are stronger and more effective together. Until later, be blessed.

Respectively,  
Marsha Clayton, Montgomery-Prattville District President

## What does it mean to be a United Methodist Women member?

United Methodist Women is a community of women committed to mission. Membership provides many opportunities, including the following:

- Prayer, Bible studies and spiritual retreats.
- Hands-on missions in local communities.
- Mission education experiences;
- Leadership development and training opportunities;
- Opportunities to support 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.

## Montgomery Prattville District UMW Certificates for 2020

**Local Units who received certificates  
Presented at  
District Annual Day February 20, 2021**

### 5 Star Units

Catherine Revel Circle-Church Street, Roberta Sample Circle-Church Street, Clanton First, Dalraida, Locust Bluff, Metropolitan, Millbrook First, Montgomery First, Prattville First, Trinity, Whitfield Memorial.

### Charter for Racial Justice

Catherine Revel Circle- Church Street, Roberta Sample Circle-Church Street, Chapel, Clanton First, Dalraida, Locust Bluff, Metropolitan, Millbrook First, Montgomery First, Prattville First, Trinity, Whitfield Memorial.

### Mission Today Unit

**Bronze:** Clanton First, Locust Bluff

**Silver:** Metropolitan

**Gold:** Millbrook First

### Reading Program

**Level One:**

Pam Koons, Carla Lumpkin, Louise Burt, Brenda Hargrave, Marsha Clayton, Ora Gillespie

**Level Two:**

Reba Wooten



**Reda Brooks, Vice-President**



**Memorial and Celebration of Life 2021  
Montgomery/Prattville District Memorial Service  
at District Annual Day**

In the rising of the sun and in its going down, we remember  
**Margaret Thomas** from Millbrook.

In the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter, we remember  
**Josephine Johnson Golson** from Locust Bluff.

In the opening of buds and in the rebirth of Spring we, remember  
**Naomi Annie Splunge** from Chapel.

In the blueness of the sky and in the warmth of summer, we  
remember **Elizabeth DeJarnett Neely** from Chapel.

In the rustling of leaves and in the beauty of autumn, we  
remember **Thomasina Lumpkin** from Metropolitan.

In the beginning of the year and when it ends, we remember  
**Ora Stallworth** from Metropolitan.

In times of weakness, we gain strength as we remember  
**Irris Simmons** from Metropolitan.

In times of sadness, we catch a glimmer of hope as we remember  
**Martha Callahan** from Dalraida.

So long as we live, they too shall live, as we remember them.

By

Roland B. Gittelsohn



Brenda Hargrave  
Treasurer

Thank you for your continued support for UMW mission giving during 2020. Our Mission pledge for the Montgomery Prattville District was \$11,000. We did not meet our goal but did contribute \$8713.62 or 79.2 %. Well done ladies in trying circumstances.

Our District Mission Pledge is made of the funds contributed to: Pledge to Missions, Special Mission Recognition Pin, Gift in Honor, Gift in Memory and World Thank Offering. This is also the area of giving that makes up our 5 Star unit award. This year, I am so happy to report that 11 units were awarded the 5 Star certificates.

These units were: Catherine Revel Circle at Church Street, Roberta Sample Circle at Church Street, Clanton First, Dalraida, Locust Bluff, Metropolitan, Millbrook First, Montgomery First, Prattville First, Trinity, and Whitfield Memorial.

Our 2021 Mission Pledge is \$10,000 and I know that as we are back together and resume our usual fund raisers, we will meet our pledge goal this year.

Training packets for all unit treasurers are ready to mail and you will receive these along with your certificates shortly. If I can be of any assistance to your units, please contact me via E-mail or phone.

Brenda Hargrave  
[jbhargrave@elmore.rr.com](mailto:jbhargrave@elmore.rr.com)  
334-285-5788 (H), 334-322-4086 (C)

Montgomery-Prattville District UMW Treasurer



**Carla Lumpkin**  
Education And Interpretation

It is my privilege to serve as Education and Interpretation Coordinator this year as we individually and collectively understand the United Methodist Women Purpose: The organized unit of 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.** Various settings in which to fulfill the last portion of our Purpose are provided for us.

The purpose of the **Reading Program** is to better understand and participate in God's mission in this present time, grow in our understanding of Scripture, increase our sensitivity to all human beings, explore contemporary issues and strengthen our involvement in local and global Christian mission. The five categories of Education for Mission, Leadership Development, Nurturing for Community, Social Action and Spiritual Growth form a comprehensive umbrella of education. The guidelines, current book list and reporting forms are on the Conference website under **Reading Program**. Included in the **Reading Program** is regular reading of the **Response** magazine. Two new items were added in 2021.

**Faith Talks** are monthly podcasts available at [unitedmethodistwomen.org/faithtalks](http://unitedmethodistwomen.org/faithtalks). Listening to three **Faith Talks** will equal two books in the Spiritual Growth category, and two **Faith Talks** will equal one book in that category. Three **movies** now qualify as one book each in the Social Action category: **Just Mercy, The Hate U Give, and Pushout**. Join us in the **Reading Program** as we are informed and challenged, and then encourage others to participate.

**Mission u** is an educational program held annually in each conference to inform, motivate and enrich our commitment to be in ministry locally and globally. The 2021 **Mission Studies** offered by **Mission u** are (1) Finding Peace in an Anxious World, (2) Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools and (3) Bearing Witness in the Kin-dom: Living into the Church's Moral Witness through Radical Discipleship. **Mission u** in our Conference is scheduled for July 23-24. Details will be announced later.

On **June 19<sup>th</sup>** our District is scheduled to host the **Practicing Resurrection – The Gospel of Mark & Radical Discipleship Mission Study**. Details about the plans for this study will be sent to you as soon as we have them. In the fall the Montgomery- Opelika District plans to host the **Mission Study of Women United for Change: 150 Years in Mission**.

Units are encouraged to meet the criteria for a **Mission Today Unit**, which are 20 items that enable us to further our United Methodist Women Purpose. The actions are reported on a **Mission Today Unit** form for Bronze (at least 8 items), Silver (10 items) and Gold (15 items) Awards. Units perform many of these actions during the year anyway, such as use of the Prayer Calendar, Program Book, Response Magazine, Reading Program, Mission Studies, etc., so with a little extra effort your unit can become a **Mission Today Unit**. The percentage of units who met the criteria in 2020 was less than it had been, and we are encouraging more participation and reporting in 2021. The reporting form is on the UMW website.

*(Education And Interpretation-continued)*

The transformative educational opportunities and actions discussed herein point us to the need for continual financial support for the program and mission of United Methodist Women across the United States and around the world. Voluntary annual giving helps us fulfill our **Purpose**.

**Mission Giving** is the program whereby we contribute funds to support vital ministries with primary focus on enabling positive change in the lives of women, youth and children.

To that end, we support almost 100 national mission institutions in the United States such as community centers, residential treatment centers, schools, colleges and women's residences. These funds also support regional missionaries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. It is vital that each unit makes and meets its **Pledge to Mission**.

Please do not be overwhelmed by all of this info! I just wanted to get all of it out to you now so that later we can talk about helpful tips to help us on our 2021 journey to become more **informed** and **transformed** to better serve God's purpose for us at this time in His beautifully created world. I would love to hear from you and welcome your questions and comments.

[carlalumpkin@yahoo.com](mailto:carlalumpkin@yahoo.com) 205-613-4537  
Carla Lumpkin, Education and Interpretation Coordinator



**Cynthia Brown  
Nominations  
Chair**

The Montgomery-Prattville District United Methodist Women Mission Team need to fill the office of **Membership Coordinator and persons to serve on the nomination committee.**

If you would like to serve on the Montgomery-Prattville District team, please contact me or one the women on the district United Methodist Women Mission Team. Fill out a Talent form today. You can find a talent form at include in this newsletter.

The District UMW need you!!!

In His Service,  
Cynthia Brown, Nomination  
[cynthiabrown350@gmail.com](mailto:cynthiabrown350@gmail.com)



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

**United Methodist Women Mission Priorities 2021-2024**



United Methodist Women is a bold, diverse and dynamic community of Christian women working together to grow spiritually, live out their faith and make a difference in their communities and world, especially on behalf of women, children and youth. Together members focus on social justice issues and actions to make a collective positive impact. In recent years, the organization has named four focuses. For the 2021-2024 quadrennium, United Methodist Women will have two mission priorities: climate justice and criminalization of communities of color and mass incarceration, with particular focus on the Just Energy for All and Interrupting the School-to-Prison Pipeline campaigns.

**RESPONSE Magazine**  
JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2021 ISSUE  
<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/response>

United Methodist Women members join local activists in Louisville, KY, demanding racial and economic justice during Assembly 2014.  
**Charter for Racial Justice:**  
<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org>

**Action Reading Program 2021-2022**

**Website:** <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/readingprogramcatalog2021>, Pg. 17

**FERGUSON AND FAITH: SPARKING LEADERSHIP AND AWAKENING COMMUNITY**  
BY LEAH GUNNING FRANCIS - CHALICE PRESS (2015) \$19.99

**FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS: HOPE AND FORGIVENESS AFTER THE CHARLESTON MASSACRE**  
BY REV. SHARON RISHER WITH SHERRI WOOD EMMONS - CHALICE PRESS (2019) \$17.99

**GIRL GONE MISSING: A CASH BLACKBEAR MYSTERY**  
BY MARCIE R. RENDON - CINCO PUNTOS PRESS (2019) \$15.95

**NO JUSTICE: ONE WHITE POLICE OFFICER, ONE BLACK FAMILY, AND HOW ONE BULLET RIPPED US APART.**  
BY ROBBIE TOLAN AND LAWRENCE ROSS - CENTER STREET (2018) \$17.99

**PUSHOUT (Online): THE CRIMINALIZATION OF BLACK GIRLS IN SCHOOLS**  
BY MONIQUE W. MORRIS - THE NEW PRESS (2016) \$18.95

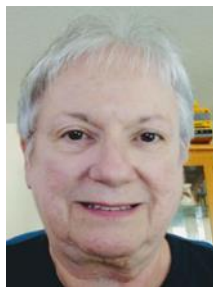
**VIDEO Online:** <https://pushoutfilm.com/>  
<https://nowthisnews.com/videos/her/author-monique-morris-on-black-girls-unique-experience-in-america>

**REST IN POWER: THE ENDURING LIFE OF TRAYVON MARTIN**  
BY SYBRINA FULTON AND TRACY MARTIN - PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE (2017) \$26.00

**WOMEN RISE UP: SACRED STORIES OF RESISTANCE FOR TODAY'S REVOLUTION**  
BY KATEY ZEH - THE FAR PRESS (2019) \$14.95

**CROCODILE'S CROSSING: A SEARCH FOR HOME BY YOERI SLEGGERS - FLYAWAY BOOKS (2020) \$17.00**

**Jill Lowman  
Spiritual Growth  
Coordinator**

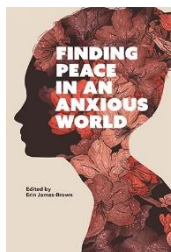


Matthew 11:28 "Come to me, all who are struggling hard and carry heavy loads, and I will give you rest". (CEB)

These are the promises of rest through intimate kinship with Jesus. He is concerned with our well-being and will assume our struggles and pain because he understands the human condition. Jesus awaits our surrender and invites us to cast all our cares and worries upon him. We can look for him when the storms of life are at their worst and listen for words of encouragement. When our confidence falters, God is there to take our hands and walk us to safety.

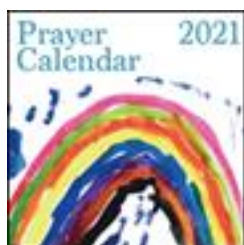
Prayer: I humble myself under Your mighty hand. I cast all of my cares, anxieties, worries and concerns on you. You care for me affectionately and care about me watchfully for which I give you thanks. You sustain me and I delight myself in you. Thank you, Father that I may walk in the peace which passes all understanding. I give you all the glory. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

**Spiritual Growth Resources:**



**Finding Peace in an Anxious World  
2021 Spiritual Growth Mission Study**

Finding Peace in an Anxious World, the 2021 Spiritual Growth Study by staff of the Urban Village Church, uses the book of Proverbs and "The Serenity Prayer" as a guide to help Christians find their way through anxiety, worry, and fear and move towards God's peace that surpasses all understanding. Using "The Serenity Prayer" as a scaffold, Finding Peace in an Anxious World explores ways to discover peace through scriptural and spiritual disciplines so that we can be rooted in God and energized to live fully as disciples of Christ.



**Prayer Calendar**

Our beloved **calendar** helps put your faith, hope and love into action with a daily mission focus, birthdays of people in mission, holidays and space to plan your schedule. The 2021 **Prayer Calendar** features art made by children, provided by the national and international part...



**Response** is the official magazine of United Methodist Women and is published by the national office. Each issue will touch your heart, stir your soul and challenge your mind. Topics and issues cover spiritual growth, mission outreach and reports on our local, national and international work.

**response** features include:

- Bible studies, Opportunities for spiritual growth and development,
- Program suggestions
- Articles on people and projects supported by your Mission Giving.
- Regular features such as "Bright Lights" and "Responsively Yours."



**United Methodist Women  
Montgomery-Prattville District  
2021 Calendar of Events**

- January 23 - District Team Meeting at via Zoom, 10am
- February 20 - District Annual Day, Leadership Development, Memorial, Certificates Virtual Zoom Meeting
- March 6 - Conference Annual Day – Virtual Zoom Meeting – 9:00 a.m.
- March 27 - **District-wide Mission Study #1 “Women United for Change: 150 Years in Mission” Montgomery-Prattville UMW with Montgomery-Opelika UMW (Canceled until in the Fall)**
- June 6-9 - Church Annual Conference at Frazer UMC, Montgomery
- June 19 - District-wide Mission Study #2 “Radical Discipleship” at Metropolitan UMC
- July???? - Mission U at Aldersgate UMC, Montgomery
- September 18 - District Spiritual Enrichment, Election of Officers at Chapel UMC, Eclectic
- October 8-9 - Conference Spiritual Enrichment, Election of Officers Blue Lake - Note: 2 days only, Friday and Saturday
- \*November 6 - District Presidents and District Treasurers- Place TBA Time: 8:30am – 3:30pm
- November 10 - Annual Reports Due - Consolidated President’s Report (Please report any December deaths by January 10)
- November 14 - Local Unit UMW Recognition Day (if not planned otherwise)
- November 20 - District Mission Team Meeting, Officer Installation Millbrook 1<sup>st</sup> UMC at 10am
- December 10 - District President’s Report due to Conference President

## MARCH IS WOMEN HISTORY MONTH

**Inspired by MLK to make a difference through love: A UMC.org feature by Joe Iovino\***

**United Methodist deaconess Clara Ester serves as national vice president of United Methodist Women. File photo by Mike DuBose, United Methodist Communications. Source: United Methodist News Daily Digest, Feb. 19, 2021.**



"I have come to grips many, many, many years ago that only through love can we make a difference," shares United Methodist deaconess Clara Ester. "We can actually change things if we love."

Ester learned this important lesson from the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., leader of the

civil rights movement in the United States. "Love takes a lot of effort and work," Ester continues, "but that's the way God wants us to go, and that was the life that Dr. King led."

<https://www.umc.org/en/content/inspired-by-mlk-to-make-a-difference-through-love-clara-ester>

### **Save the Date July 23 & 24**

#### **2021 Mission u will offer the following studies:**

- Finding Peace in an Anxious World, edited by Erin James-Brown
- Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools by Monique Morris
- Bearing Witness in the Kin-dom: Living Into the Church's Moral Witness Through Radical Discipleship by Darryl Stephens



## TALENT BANK INFORMATION ON PROSPECTIVE LEADERSHIP

(To be completed by prospective leader - Send to Conference or District Nominations Chair)

Type or Print (attach additional sheets as necessary)

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Work \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Local Church \_\_\_\_\_ District \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ 20's \_\_\_\_\_ 30's \_\_\_\_\_ 40's \_\_\_\_\_ 50's \_\_\_\_\_ 60's \_\_\_\_\_ 70's \_\_\_\_\_ 80's+

Languages 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: (computer programs, speaking, organization, people, etc.)**  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Areas of Special Interest or Concern:**

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> secretarial             | <input type="checkbox"/> recruiting members      | <input type="checkbox"/> publicity       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> communication           | <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) |

**Which office(s) on the Conference 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"/> Nominations Committee         |
| <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? (yes or no)**

**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 \_\_\_\_\_.

You may send your completed Talent Bank Form as an attachment emailed to [contact@awf-umw.org](mailto:contact@awf-umw.org)

OR send to the Nominations Chair of your District or Conference

**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](mailto: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**  
[hlawrence1991@windstream.net](mailto:hlawrence1991@windstream.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!**

**You may receive a copy of the ALERT newsletter free by email. Email your request to the Conference president Debbie Bracewell at [debracewell@gmail.com](mailto:debracewell@gmail.com) and you will be added to email list.**

**You may receive a copy of the ALERT newsletter free by email. Email your request to the Conference president Debbie Bracewell at [debracewell@gmail.com](mailto:debracewell@gmail.com) and you will be added to email list.**

**ALERT Newsletter is also online at [www.awf-umw.org](http://www.awf-umw.org)**

### **Stay Connected**

National UMW Website:

[www.unitedmethodistwomen.org](http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org)

AWF-UMW: [www.awf-umw.org](http://www.awf-umw.org)

Montgomery-Prattville District:

[www.awf-umw.org](http://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.*