

The Informer



United
Methodist
Women

FAITH · HOPE · LOVE IN ACTION

Mobile District United Methodist Women Newsletter
WINTER 2021

From Our President

Hello all!

I am so excited to begin my tenure as 2021-2022 President with the Mobile District United Methodist Women. The scripture for this year has really touched my heart. I am so thankful to those who prayerfully chose this text. 2020 will be a year vivid in our history but as we hold fast to the words of our God who has given us the endurance and encouragement, we know that everything is going to work out. 2021 will have its own challenges but with one mind and one voice we will glorify God.

While the Mobile District has lost members and local units and we will miss them for sure, we must remember to keep our eyes upward and our hearts open. We have great resources to use to encourage us.

This year my focus is going to be to attempt to rebuild. So, look for emails, listen for phone calls, and watch for visits from me. I look forward to a time when we can be together in person again but until then please Zoom with us every chance you are given.

The Mobile District United Methodist Women live the purpose wholly. In 2020, we overcame many hurdles and met our pledge to the district. We had women reading in the reading program - hopefully we had more than Pensacola! We also had local United Methodist Women who were creative in hosting mission study events.

Please review the calendar in this edition and remind the women to stay active.

Please know that I have included your unit or circle in my daily prayers.

Serving you through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

Michele Smith

President 2021-2022

Mobile District United Methodist Women

MOBILE DISTRICT MISSION TEAM 2021

President
Michele Smith

Vice President
Gail Bradford

Secretary
Marcie McNeal

Treasurer
Sally Pehler

Communications
Susan McRae

Mission Coordinators

Education and Interpretation
Sylvia McCaskill

Membership Nurture &
Outreach
Robbie Bunkley

Social Action
Karen Hazen

Spiritual Growth
Ginger Sorenson

Registrar
Mary Presley

Historian
Shirley Bryan

Parliamentarian
Sylvia McCaskill

Committee on Nominations
Co-Chairs
Sharon Hyland
Judy Burnham



From Our Treasurer

Goodbye 2020 and Hello 2021!!

I hope this year finds you well, happy and ready to assist the women, children and communities of our southwestern Alabama area. I am SO ready to see you all - in person - this year!!

With all of the craziness of 2020, I am delighted to share with you that we reached and exceeded our goal of \$20,000 for mission giving in the Mobile District by a little over \$1500. Thank you to all who helped obtain this goal.

I am also pleased to announce that we had twelve (12) 5-star units. Unfortunately, we lost two units in 2020, Citronelle & Barlow, leaving the Mobile District with fifteen (15) units.

The 2021 mission goal remains at \$20,000. Until we can totally move back to our in-person activities, please continue to be creative with your activities and fundraisers throughout the year. A few that come to mind are the socially-distanced bazaar, take-home gumbo sale and the *no-bake* bake sale.

As you start your year, I will send forms and will update my email lists. Should you need anything from me, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sally Pehler
Treasurer 2020-21
Mobile District UMW

251-490-4717
55 Kingswood Drive W
Mobile, AL 36608

The Five Channels of Mission Giving

-1-

Pledge to Mission

-2-

Special Recognition

-3-

Gift to Mission

-4-

Gift in Memory

-5-

World Thank Offering



District Officer Training

District Officer Training is set for **Saturday, February 27** beginning at **10 AM** via **Zoom**. *All Unit Officers* are needed to participate in this event, for important information will be shared as you prayerfully implement your responsibilities as United Methodist Women leaders.

Mobile District UMW President Michele Smith will open the session with district plans for 2021. Shortly thereafter, each area of leadership will open in breakout rooms with unit officers/coordinators to discuss specific responsibilities of the position they have undertaken. At the conclusion of the breakout sessions, we will return for final questions, comments and words of encouragement.

This event is BYOD – bring your own device! Participants can join via their desktop, laptop, tablet or smartphone with an internet connection or via landline. Unit Presidents were sent the Zoom link on February 14th for distribution to their officers prior to the meeting.

AWF-UMW Annual Day

Registration is now open for **AWF-UMW Conference Annual Day** to be held virtually on **March 6, 2021** beginning at **9 AM**. Join women from the Alabama-West-Florida Conference as AWF-UMC Director of Leadership Strategies Celeste Eubanks shares with us on our 2021 theme:

HOPE JOY PEACE TRUST POWER

Just go to <https://awf-umw.org> and click on the word Register. After completing the registration process, see the registration approval with a Zoom link; immediately thereafter, you will receive an email from Katy Wrona, Conference Vice President, with registration confirmation and further instructions for connecting on March 6.

Submitted by Susan McRae
Communications Coordinator 2021-22
Mobile District UMW

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.



Mobile District Annual Day

We are looking forward to Mobile District Annual Day 2021, set for Saturday, March 20 from 10 AM-12 PM. We are hoping to meet in person with masks and social-distancing at Kingswood United Methodist Church, 5200 Perin Rd., Mobile, AL 36693. Watch for registration and further information via email and social media.

A very special speaker is planned for this exciting day who will offer insight to our theme and scripture for 2021.

Hope Joy Peace Trust Power

"May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Jesus Christ had, so that, with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ" Romans 15:5-6 (NIV)

We will install, formally, the new Mobile District leaders, as well as recognize new officers in the Mobile District United Methodist Women units. Our local United Methodist Women units will receive bronze, silver or gold Mission Today awards, and we will honor the units which participated in the Reading Program, attended virtual or in-person events and participated in mission studies. Special Mission Recognition pins will be awarded to district officers who are entitled to them.

We will also recognize those United Methodist Women who departed from this earth in both 2019 and 2020.

Gail Bradford
Vice President 2020-21
Mobile District United Methodist Women

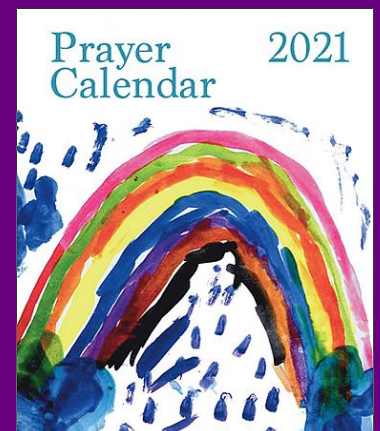
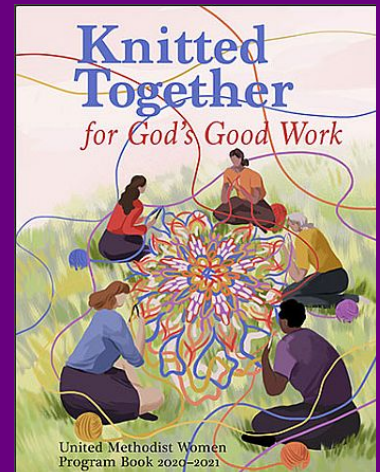
Spiritual Growth

I would like to focus on God's love for one another. As we have seen this year the country has been deeply divided, racially and politically. We must endeavor to put our message out there.

Our message is this: It's not the color of your skin or your political opinion that matters to God. It's what's in your heart. God only recognizes the

Resources

To order the 2021 Program Book, Prayer Calendar and other materials, go to unitedmethodistwomen.org





Heart. I know our United Methodist Women has and will continue to spread the word that *we are all God's children*.

The pandemic really is holding a grip on everyone. It will be awhile before we get back to what we think is normal. I want to call on my UMW sisters to be in continual prayer that we will be able to get to that point. Please pray for our church leaders that they make decisions for our church as a whole. Pray for our Political leaders, federal and state, as they attempt to guide us during this time also.

Ginger Sorenson
Spiritual Action Mission Coordinator 2020-21
Mobile District United Methodist Women

Social Action

United Methodist Women Must Help Dismantle the School to Prison Pipeline

Jesus described his own mission in no uncertain terms: “preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the prisoners and recovery of sight to the blind, to liberate the oppressed and to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor” (Luke 4:18-19). He was not shy about challenging the “powers and principalities” of his day.

United Methodist Women is working to help disrupt the school-to-prison pipeline by organizing local workshops, webinars, and panels to raise awareness about education justice for United Methodist Women members, friends, and the wider faith community. Currently, these educational events have been held from Florida to New York and from Texas to Nebraska. This year the school-to-prison pipeline will be the focus of our annual mission study in all 50 states. Meanwhile, our Holy Disruption initiative has brought together a mix of 19-37-year-old teachers, social workers, moms, organizers, seminarians, and more to build a community of learning and practice focused on organizing, faith, and the school-to-prison pipeline. This multi systemic approach includes family, church, school and community resources to assist in rescuing God’s precious children. The phrase “Holy Disruption” reminds us that Jesus was himself, labeled a disrupter, and called his followers to do likewise, disrupting injustice, and resisting oppression. The name also reflects the experience of too many Black, Brown and Native children who are wrongly labeled “disruptive” and then pushed out. Using this term helps us begin to reframe this narrative and honor the holiness of children and youth wrongly criminalized.

To download the Reading Program information use:
<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/readingprogramcatalog2021.pdf>



Subscribe to Faith Talks at
<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/faithtalks>

**Faith
Talks**

A UNITED METHODIST WOMEN PODCAST



The Informer

There is much work and much learning for all of us. United Methodist Women offers a School to Prison Pipeline Bible study and workshops. We want to continue learning and growing together.

If you would like more information, check out the United Methodist Women website, watch <https://youtu.be/krfcq5pF8u8> (highly recommended) or contact Emily Jones, UMW Executive for Racial Justice, ejones@unitedmethodistwomen.org, 212.870.3773.

Submitted by Karen Hazen
Social Action Mission Coordinator 2020-21
Mobile District United Methodist Women

Membership, Nurture and Outreach

How many times in a day do you help someone? Maybe just by calling them for a chat?

Many of us are on Zoom in our United Methodist Women circle meetings. Now we can see each other!!! It would be nice if you could invite someone to the meetings. This will let them know that we help people in our hometowns and all over the world. We are small, but together we are BIG! The United Methodist Women help youth, children and women that others may not help. In our UMW meetings on Zoom, we can see the smiling faces, be happy, have fellowship, enjoy programs, pray, help people, and keep God smiling. Hope you have a wonderful 2021 year.

How many people will you help this year?

Lots of hugs - Stay happy - Pray always!

Submitted by Robbie Bunkley
Membership, Nurture and Outreach Mission Coordinator 2020-21
Mobile District United Methodist Women

Education and Interpretation

Our annual pledges and offerings support over 90 national ministries and annual grants to support special projects that support women, children and youth around the world. Specific details in the form of financial reports are available at <http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/finance>.

I was pleasantly surprised that our pledges are amply supplemented by

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Give to The Legacy Fund <https://www.unitedmetho distwomen.org/150/home>





endowments and other sources of income, allowing our pledge dollars to continue the ministry to women, children and youth. It is critical for members to know that the Legacy Fund and other endowments allow the United Methodist Women sponsored ministries to continue when giving is below projections. The national website now features a program called Legacy Builder to encourage members to donate at least \$18.69 a month toward the Legacy Fund. Another opportunity to fund for the future is the planned giving program, the 1869 Society. Details and brochures are available on the resource web pages of the national website.

Did you know that our mission pledges also support 8 regional missionaries around the world? Since the program's initiation in 2000, all funding for Regional Missionaries (including program, salaries and benefits) is supported by your United Methodist Women's mission giving. The term "regional" in regional missionaries comes from the geographic assignment each missionary is given. She does not work for an individual church, annual conference or organization, but rather serves Methodist, United Methodist, ecumenical and/or grassroots organizations in a region of the world. These large regions include Asia, Latin America, Sub-Saharan Africa, East and West Africa, and the English and French speaking Caribbean and Americas. The difference between missionaries "sent" out in the past, such as Isabella Thorburn and Dr. Clara Swain, and the work of the Regional Missionaries today is that they are selected from within the region of their home country and work in that region. Photos and bios of all missionaries are available at www.unitedmethodistwomen.com/missionaries.

March 23, 2021 is designated as Giving Tuesday nationwide. Might this be a good day for you to contribute to the Legacy Fund?

Submitted by Joyce Genz
Education and Interpretation Mission Coordinator
Alabama-West Florida United Methodist Women 2020-21



United Methodist Women support

International Missions including

8 Regional Missionaries

- Catherine Akale**
Southern Africa
- Emma Cantor**
Asia and the Pacific
- Hikari Chang**
Japan
- Grace Musaka**
Central Africa
- Finda Quiwa**
West, East, Central and Southern Africa
- Serna Samuel**
Caribbean
- Elmira Sellu**
East & West Africa
Episcopal areas
- Andrea Reily Rocha Sores**
Latin America

89 National Mission Institutions Including

- Dumas Wesley Center**
Mobile

- United Community Centers**
Birmingham



ALABAMA WEST FLORIDA CONFERENCE MOBILE DISTRICT UNITED METHODIST WOMEN 2021 DISTRICT AND CONFERENCE CALENDAR

January 15-16	Executive Team Meeting XTeam Officers & District Presidents	Enterprise UMC via Zoom	6:30 PM
January 23	District Mission Team Meeting	South Brookley UMC	10:00 AM
January 28-30	Leadership Development Days	New Conference Officers	
February 27	District Officers Training	Via Zoom	10:00 AM
<i>March 6</i>	<i>Conference Annual Day</i>	<i>Via Zoom</i>	<i>9:00 AM</i>
March 20	District Annual Day	In-person or Via Zoom Hosted by Kingswood UMW	10:00 AM
May 8	District Mission Study	Pending	10:00 AM-2:00 PM
May 15	UMCOR Workshop	Pending	
June 26	District Mission Team Meeting 2022 Budget Meeting	South Brookley UMC	10:00 AM
<i>July 10</i>	<i>Executive Team Meeting X Team Officers, District Presidents & District Treasurers 2022 District Budget Reviews</i>	<i>Christ UMC/Zoom</i>	<i>8:00 AM</i>
<i>July 23-24</i>	<i>Cooperative Mission u</i>	<i>Virtual</i>	<i>Schedule Pending</i>
August 14	District Mission Study	Pending	10:00 AM-2:00 PM
<i>October 8-9</i>	<i>Conference Spiritual Enrichment Retreat</i>	<i>Blue Lake Assembly Grounds Friday 3:00 PM check-in or Saturday 7:00 am check-in</i>	
October 23	District Spiritual Enrichment Day	Pending	10:00 AM
November 14	UMW DAY	ALL LOCAL UNITS CELEBRATE	
November 20	District Mission Team Meeting	South Brookley UMC	10:00 AM
<i>June 6-9</i>	<i>AWFC ANNUAL CONFERENCE LOCATION TBA Attendees: AWF-UMW President & District Presidents as Voting Delegates</i>		