

The Messenger's Flame

District Officers

President

Marsha Clayton

Vice-President

TBA

Secretary

Carolyn Davis

Treasurer

Jill Farris

Communications

Carolyn Davis

Spiritual Growth

Jill Lowman

Membership Nurture & Outreach

Mable Lawrence

Nominations Member

Mattie Baker

Education & Interpretation

TBA

Social Action

TBA



A Message from the District President



United
Women
in Faith

Hello, dear friends in the Central Alabama District United Women in Faith.

We are now approaching mid-year 2024 and I take a pause to review where we are and where we want to be by year's end. I ask us to assess the degree to which our local units have met or are meeting (through concrete plans) the goals of participation in the overall organization, goal to help our district reach its 2024 Pledge to Missions of \$14,000, goals of leadership development, community building programs, spiritual enrichment, commitment to the Charter for Racial Justice and the World Thank Offering, and annual recognition and remembrance.

Once the assessment has been made, move to make any needed enhancements to meet the goals. Resources and ideas to assist are available. Even though this year, thus far, has been slow-moving in our District, I believe women, children and youth in need still reigns supreme in our dedication and that our units are continuing their support to help address those needs.

Our District held its District Annual Day event in early April, April 6 at Millbrook First UMC. The theme for the event was "A Special Time of Togetherness" and our time together was shared in 5 sessions covering our PURPOSE and Mission, Giving for a Reason, programming opportunities, time for recognition and remembrance, time for questions and answers, suggestions and ideas, and a time for lunch, fellowship and appreciation. Our host church unit was most gracious, but we were hopeful and anticipating attendance reflecting more of the membership from our local units. Those present applauded the event.

We are now in the planning stages of our next District-wide event, our District Spiritual Enrichment set for August 24, 2024, at Locust Bluff UMC. Please make plans now to attend (Save the Date). We would love to see you there.

President's Message continued:

While we look forward to the remainder of our year in United Women in Faith, it is with some reservation as we seek to fill leadership positions for 2025. We know that the talented women are out there. We just pray they will avail themselves and come forward.

Additionally, we pray that our district participation will increase as we become more informed and knowledgeable about our new structure and organization. I share these words from our National President, Ainise' Isama'u, "Each of us is an essential thread in the fabric of our organization. We are not just leaders. We are advocates of change and we are the voices that speak." We want to hear all voices helping this organization of United Women in Faith continue its support of women, children and youth in need in our local communities, across this nation, and around the world. We want to hear from you.

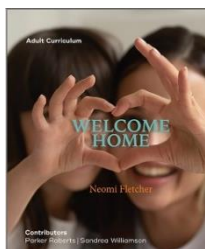
God bless us all,

Respectfully, Marsha Clayton – District President

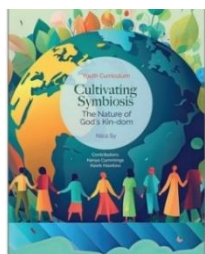
Save the Date: Mission U August 17th, 2024

FAIRHOPE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, FAIRHOPE, AL

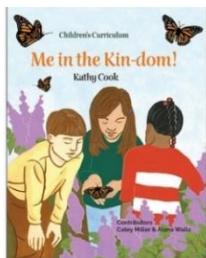
Go to the Conference website to REGISTER-<https://www.awf-umw.org/event-details/2024-awf-cooperative-mission-u> – or mail in registration form



Welcome Home is an adult curriculum that explores how we can know God as an intimate friend who welcomes us. Abiding in God's safety and dwelling in God's provision, allows us to open our hearts to a fuller embrace of the power and presence of God so that we may find our home in God. Participants are invited to dig deeper into what it means to live in the kin-dom of God and how this helps us to develop practices for building and existing in healthier communities.



Cultivating Symbiosis: *The Nature of God's Kin-dom* is a youth curriculum that uses the idea of symbiosis to explore relationships with others and with God. Youth will examine different kinds of relationships and understand them as an ongoing journey toward the kin-dom. There is a symbiosis between our relationships to each other as humans and our relationship to God. By drawing closer to one another, we can draw closer to the kin-dom. By drawing closer to one another, we can collectively move, step by step, toward creating God's kin-dom on earth as it is in heaven..



Me in the Kin-dom! is a children's curriculum that helps children explore the kin-dom of God through the lens of the Lord's Prayer. Children will experience how they are unique members of God's kin-dom and learn they are also part of a larger community that welcomes all of God's children. Children will explore many Scriptures that will help them to learn to see, hear, and love as Christ teaches. This enables us to accept each other as God created us to be.

Alabama West-Florida Cooperative Mission u Event Registration
The Kin-dom is among you: Drawing Closer to God and One Another

Fairhope UMC • 155 S Section Street, Fairhope, AL 36532

Saturday, August 17, 2024

Registration Deadline: August 9, 2024

Mail this completed form with full payment to:

Cynthia Brown, Registrar • 2151 Double Bridge Ferry Road, Eclectic, AL 36024.

Cell: (334) 202-2469 • Email: cynthiabrown350@gmail.com

Make checks payable to: Mission u

For online registration and credit card payment use the link: <https://www.awf-umw.org/>

Direct all questions to the registrar. When possible, an email confirmation will be sent to the registrant.

Name: _____ District: _____

Address: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please check all that apply:

Female: ____ Male: ____ Clergy: ____ Lay: ____ CEU Credit: ____

National Director _____ Jurisdiction Officer _____

District Officer _____ Conference Officer _____ Scholarship Recipient: _____

FEES: Class fees cover: Study Book + mailing NOTE: A \$20.00 Registration fee is required.

PLEASE NOTE: Registrations received after the August 9th deadline the study book will be mailed but, may not be received in time for Mission u.

_____ Registration fee, Lunch & Study book \$55.00

_____ Registration fee – Lunch (NO STUDY BOOK) \$35.00

_____ Hybrid Registration & Study Book..... \$40.00

_____ Hybrid Registration (NO STUDY BOOK)\$20.00

_____ Offering (Optional)..... _____

TOTAL SUBMITTED \$ _____

I will be attending the Study. Please select below which class you will be attending.

Adult _____

Youth _____

Children _____

Saturday Schedule:

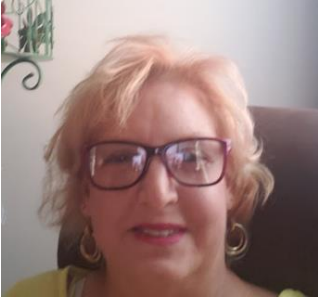
8:30 a.m. – Welcome/Announcement

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 Noon: Class Time

12 Noon – 1:00p.m. Lunch Break

1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. – Class Time

4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. -Closing Plenary



Jill Farris
District Treasurer



New year, new challenges for all of us. Thank you for your past pledges, and I hope 2024 blesses all of you so you can continue to bless UWIF with your support and your pledges. So far, this year we have been blessed with \$1385.00 toward our \$14,000.00 goal.

I hope you will also strive to achieve to complete the 5-Star giving program, which means all five of the required areas were completed: Pledge to Mission, Special Mission Pin/Donation (coming soon a new special recognition UWIF pin), Gift in Honor or Mission, Gift in Memory, World Thank Offering.

The Mission cards that we have purchased from the treasurers in the past are now available on the website to download.

Looking forward to working with you this year.

Your District Treasurer, Jill Farris

We are women like you, a powerful, fearless force driven by God's love and united in sisterhood. With a focus on women, children, and youth, we act for justice and transform communities. We connect and nurture women through Christian spiritual formation, leadership development, creative fellowship, and education so that they can inspire, influence, and impact communities, locally and globally.

**Local Units who received certificates of recognition for
The 2023 year was presented at
District Annual Day April 5, 2024**

Mission Today

Gold: Auburn, Millbrook

Silver: Aldersgate, Metropolitan

Bronze: Locust Bluff

5 Star Units

Aldersgate, Auburn, Locust Bluff, Metropolitan, Millbrook

CRJ Participation

Aldersgate, Auburn, Locust Bluff, Metropolitan, Millbrook

Mission Study Participation

Locust Bluff- Host and Attendance

Auburn- Host and Attendance

Metropolitan- Attendance

Mission u

Aldersgate-host and attendance

Metropolitan- attendance

Millbrook-attendance

Reading program

Level I- Sherry Moore (Aldersgate)

Julia Norton, Debbie Rollins, Carol Icenology, Amy Krietemeyer, Lisa Steele Patti Coleman,
Kathy Raym Suzanne Bottoms, Mary Richburg, Ann Whatley, Natacha Lwamba, (Auburn)

Brenda Hargrave, Joy Rogers, Eloise McLean, Dawn Daniel (Millbrook)

Level II-Flavin Glover (Auburn)

Participation: Brenda Arnett, Velma Gober (Millbrook)

Auburn 2023:

Charter for Racial Justice, 5-Star, Mission Today, mission Study Host



Jill Lowman
Spiritual Growth Coordinator



United
Women
in Faith

Greetings, in the name of the Lord!

We are working diligently on plans for the Spiritual Enrichment Retreat on August 24th at Locust Bluff UMC. Our theme for this year is Food, Faith, and Fellowship. We hope to see you all there! As always, I encourage you to use the Daily Prayer Guide. It is rich in devotion, includes the lectionary readings, as well as information about our missionaries around the world.

Peace and Grace,

Jill



Mattie Baker
Nominations member

The Central Alabama District United Women in Faith executive team needs to fill the offices of the **Vice-President, Education & Interpretation Coordinator, Social Action Coordinator, Nomination Chairperson, and 1 additional person to serve on the nomination committee.**

If you would like to serve on the Montgomery District Executive team, please contact me or one of the women on the District Executive Team.

Fill out a Talent form today. You can find a talent form on the conference website awf-umw.org.

The Central Alabama District Executive Team needs you!!

In His Service
Mattie Baker, Nominations Member



**Mable Lawrence****Membership Nurture
and Outreach**

On April 5th at District Annual Day, we remembered those women who have given their time and service faithfully to support women and children. We lite a candle in their memory to God be the Glory.

In Loving Memory**Mary Badskey****Ora Gillespie****Mary Nell Hester****Linda Hill****Louise Price****Hattie Willis****Tips for nurturing and recruiting members**

1. Smile, be pleasant and positive.
2. Send birthday cards to prospective members and cards to new mothers. (Gift to Mission cards are great choices for these cards!)
3. Plan and promote United Women in Faith celebrations such as A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial and United Women in Faith Sunday; sponsor a Children's Sabbath.
4. Recognize obstacles that prevent ladies from participating like childcare or elder care issues and try to change.
5. Hold informal gatherings like United Women in Faith (teas, breakfasts, brunches, etc.).
6. Be flexible in scheduling United in Faith Women's meetings.
7. Share issues of response magazine with prospective members.
8. Use and display United Women in Faith materials and resources.

**Carolyn Davis****District Secretary**

Greetings to all United Women in Faith! We are off to another year. Local secretaries: find secretary duties, and minutes taking tips below for secretaries to keep minutes in your local units.

Duties include:

1. Records minutes of all meetings and events, including conference calls, and distributes those to the mission team as soon as possible for review within two weeks of the meeting.
2. Assists the president in setting the agenda for unit meetings and events.
3. Take care of and coordinate all written correspondence. Read any important correspondence received.
4. Immediately after the unit's elections, the secretary should forward the names, addresses contact numbers, and email addresses for the new officers to the district communications coordinator and district secretary, but at a date no later than November 30th of each year.

Minute taking tips:

Listen with care—focus on major issues, actions, and decisions and less on comments. Minutes are written in the third person. Minutes answer who, what, when, why and where (5Ws).

Stick to the Facts – Differentiate between statements that are facts and those that are opinions.

Motions—it is necessary to record the name of the person who made the motion and who seconds a motion. Minutes note all votes.


Don't Delay—the sooner the minutes are drafted the better. As time passes, important items that you heard but did not write down are forgotten and the less accurate the minutes will become.

Proofread—to ensure minutes do not contain misspelled words, incomplete sentences, and inaccurate punctuation. Before minutes are distributed have them reviewed by the president or other designated person for accuracy.

United Women in Faith
We believe
love in action
can change
the world.

Central Alabama District United Women In Faith 2024 Calendar

FEB 3 (Saturday)	District executive mission team officers AND Local Presidents.	District Executive Mission team meeting- Via Zoom 10:00 start time
MARCH 9 (Saturday)	ALL INVITED	UWF - United Women in Faith Conference Annual Day Auburn First UMC Easter – Sunday, March 31st
April 6 (Saturday)	ALL INVITED	Central Alabama District Annual Day – Millbrook 1 st UMC Start Time 10:00 a.m.
APRIL 19 -21 (Fri., Sat., & Sun.)	All Invited	Southeastern Jurisdiction Quadrennial Event. Chattanooga, TN
MAY 18 (Saturday)	District executive mission team officers AND Local Presidents.	District Executive Mission team meeting - Zoom Meeting 10:00 start time
JUNE 16-19	Attendees: AWF-UWFaith Conference President & District Presidents	AWF Church Annual Conference - Montgomery
JUNE 22 (Saturday)	ALL INVITED	District Mission Study- Title to TBA – Metropolitan UMC
JULY 13 (Saturday)	Conference executive mission team officers, District Presidents and District Treasurers	AWF – UWFaith conference Executive mission Team Meeting St. Luke UMC 9:30
August 17	ALL INVITED	Mission U – Fairhope UMC – Fairhope, AL
August 24 (Saturday)	ALL INVITED	District (SER) Spiritual Enrichment Retreat -Locust Bluff UMC
September	Open	
October (Date? _____)	ALL INVITED	AWF-UWFaith Conference Spiritual Enrichment Retreat (SER) and 2025 EX. Mission Team election & installation.
November Entire Month	ALL LOCAL UNITS RECOGNITION	UWFaith Sunday Celebrations
NOV 2 (Saturday)	Conference & District Presidents, Treasurers Training Meeting	Leadership Development Lunch & Training for district presidents & district treasurers, 8:30 – 3:30, via ZOOM
NOV 20	Local Units President Reports Due	Local Consolidated President Report forms due to District presidents
December 5 (Thursday)	District Team, Unit Presidents, Vice, Two Reps	District Executive Mission Team Meeting - Review, Evaluations, Planning, Calendar for 2025 Location: ZOOM Meeting at 10 a.m.
December 10	District Presidents Reports Due	District President's Consolidated Report Forms due to Conference

 District Meetings & Events Highlighted
 Newsletter (The Messenger Flame) Tentative Schedule

Spring Newsletter	Articles due April 20th	Article Emailed April 30th
Summer Newsletter	Articles due July 24th	Article Emailed August 31st
Fall Newsletter	Articles due October 20th	Article Emailed November 5th
Winter Newsletter	Articles due December 12th	Article Emailed December 30th

United Women in Faith Reading Program

Start a reading program today in your local units. The reading program is a cherished tradition that brings together members to explore, share and discuss books. Choose a reading program this year. Start a book club.

READING PROGRAM PLANS

PLAN 1

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

PLAN II

- 10 books each year.
- 2 books 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 magazine.

PLAN IV

- 20 books each year.
- 2 books from each category.
- PLUS 10 additional books from any category
- Selections from the current reading lists if not included in previous reports.
- Regular reading of response magazine.

WAYS TO RECEIVE READING PROGRAM CREDIT • For 2024, books from the 2019, 2020, 2021–2022, 2023, and 2024 Reading Program lists are all eligible for Reading Program reporting credit.

You can find a combined list of all these books at bit.ly/RPBookList. • You are always welcome to use audiobooks if that's an easier and more accessible way for you to read the material.

You can also receive Reading Program reporting credit for:

- Listening to the Faith Talks podcast: 1 credit in Spiritual Growth for 2+ episodes
- Listening to the Voices from the Field podcast: 1 credit in Education for Mission for 2+ episodes
- Reading response magazine: 1 credit in Nurturing for Community for reading one year (6 issues)

Reading Program reporting credit can also be earned for being part of a Mission u study:

- 1 credit in Spiritual Growth for reading a Mission u study on your own
- 2 credits in Spiritual Growth for joining a Mission u study together with others, as a leader or participant.
- Several movies are also available for Reading Program reporting credit, including Hidden Figures (Leadership Development), Pushout (Social Action), and The Hate U Give (Social Action).

Books can be purchased directly from the retailer of your choice, from bookshop.org/shop/uwfaith, or borrowed from your local public library. For books on previous reading lists go to: uwfaith.org/resources/reading-program Eligible years: For 2023, books from the 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021–2022, and 2023 Reading Program lists are all eligible for Reading Program reporting credit, if you have not previously read them.

**Central Alabama District United Women in Faith Annual Day
April 5, 2024, at Millbrook 1st UMC**



Millbrook 1st United Women in Faith was the host unit for the District Annual Day



Frances Parker received service Pin.



Rev. Dr. Tyler Cox,
pastor of Millbrook 1st
UMC extended
Greetings & Prayer.



United Women in Faith
received certificates



Alabama-West Florida United Women in Faith who attended the Southeastern Jurisdiction meeting April 19-21, 2024, in Chattanooga, Tennessee
Theme: Let's GET TOGETHER! (John 13:34)



The new officers and Board of Directors members from the AWF-UWFaith membership: Zan Jones and Katy Wrona were elected to the UWF National Board of Directors, Deb Ketzal was elected to the SEJ Committee on Nominations, and Debbie Bracewell was elected president of SEJ.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER
Rev. Janet Wolf



MUSIC DIRECTOR
Linda Furtado



**CHRISTIAN
COMEDIENNE**
Karen George



**UWFaith General
Secretary & CEO**
Sally Vonner

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 Women in Faith do not
furnish lists of their elected leaders or members to individuals or agencies
outside the organization unless authorized by the Executive Committee.

ALERT! . . . Conference Newsletter

Are you a Subscriber

You too can become informed of Alabama-West Florida Conference United Women in Faith 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 debbracewell@gmail.com and you will be added to the email list.

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