



United
Methodist
Women
FAITH · HOPE · LOVE IN ACTION

The Connection

DOTHAN DISTRICT UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Volume 2021

Issue 1

SPRING 2021

2021

May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of 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

2021
Dothan District
Mission Team

President
TBD

Vice President
TBD

Secretary
TBD

Treasurer
Carolyn McInnis

Program Resources
TBD

Spiritual Growth
Jane Dyer Brown

**Membership Nurture
& Outreach**
TBD

Social Action
TBD

**Education &
Interpretation**
TBD

Communications
Carolyn McInnis

Nominations
TBD

A Call to Prayer and Self Denial 2021

“A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial” encourages women to step out in faith and bring the love of Christ into a hurting world through their prayers and selfless giving. The 2021 theme is “She Leads: Empowering Women to Make a Difference.” This is the time for you to come pray, learn, and offer your gifts that will make a real change in the lives of women, children and youth around the world.

This event usually takes the place of one of the programs. If it is not possible to meet using masks and social distancing, then perhaps you can have a Zoom meeting. If, like me, you aren't technology savvy, then ask one of the youth in your church to help set up a Zoom meeting.

The following ideas offer some possibilities and you may find these at www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/call-to-prayer :

- Plan a dedication service based on the [order of worship](#) reproduced from the Program Book.
- Download a poster to invite members and others to the dedication service.
- Plan a quiet day or retreat for all members of your unit and anyone interested. Use the appropriate year's Quiet Day Service in the United Methodist Women [Program Book](#), available through the e-store.
- Plan a prayer vigil for your church or unit using the [Prayer Calendar](#) along with the Quiet Day Service.
- Explore with your pastor the possibility of having your United Methodist Women unit lead a Quiet Day Service for a Sunday-morning worship service.
- Prepare a meal as part of a year's observance.
- Distribute the [Prayer Card](#) to members who are absent. Order additional cards to give to friends.
- Remind your treasurer to send all offering for A Call to Prayer and Self Denial 2021 to Carolyn McInnis as soon as possible. Even though we may not be meeting in person, the needs of women and children still continue and they are depending on our contributions. Join together to bring justice and inspire change through United Methodist Women's faith, hope, and love in action.

Jane Dyer Brown
Spiritual Growth Coordinator

It's that time again: 2020 Unit Survey

Over the past five years, the United Methodist Women census has moved beyond just a numbers-reporting tool to more of a questionnaire about the health and vitality of United Methodist Women units. As a result, we now call the census the unit survey. This year, we are asking unit presidents to select the area(s) in which their members and units are thriving. This will help define what it means to thrive at the local and district level and inform the national office and conference leadership on strengths and areas for improvement.

Local unit presidents, please complete the 2020 Unit Survey to get your units in the database. This is our last reporting before the 2021 General Conference.

The deadline is March 30, 2021. The 2020 Unit Survey link is unitedmethodistwomen.org/census2020.

2021 Dothan
District Pledge to
Mission
\$12,000.00

TREASURER

2021 Dothan
District Pledge to
Mission Received
\$885.00

Welcome to 2021! While it does not look much different than 2020, there is hope. As Christians, we always have the love of Christ to lead us through whatever happens. 2021 is a new year and has new opportunities for us to grow and to help others. Your continued support of United Methodist Women makes a huge difference to women, children, and youth at home and around the world.

We have learned so much in the last year about ourselves and what we are capable of doing. The pandemic has not stopped us. We have continued to meet (online and by telephone), to pray, and to help others. Please remember that although we are not meeting in person, we need to continue to support the work of United Methodist Women. Women, children, and youth are depending on us.

Hopefully, we will be able to meet in person by later this year, but I would like to encourage you to continue look for ways to reach out and connect with members of your circle, local unit, and district while we are maintaining "social distancing." I am looking forward to our next in-person meeting, but am also looking forward to seeing you are our next Zoom meeting.

Blessings,

Carolyn McInnis

Dothan District Treasurer

Our 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.



SPIRITUAL GROWTH



Spiritual Growth: Praying is the Answer

Spiritual Growth is a long held part of the work of the United Methodist Women. It is an expression of our personal and communal commitment to see Christ in the world.

Spiritual growth is an act of engagement. It is something in which you believe and practice on a daily basis. Changes are being considered in our church, the United Methodist Church. The United Methodist Women were asked to join our bishops for the 2016 General Conference and the meetings/sessions that have been held afterwards through prayer to guide the way.

Prayer is a way to the light. It is time for each of us to daily pray for the United Methodist Church as considerations for it's future are being determined. We need to pray individually, as a unit of the United Methodist Women and as a church and/or district/conference community. It is important for us to remember that our God is in the business of using imperfect vessels to do kin-dom work. Each of us individually and as members of the community of faith strive to grow spiritually so that we can be both faithful to our calling and fruitful in God's mission in the world. May this be a time of profound spiritual growth for all of us as we seek God's will for The United Methodist Church.

Praying we will be able to meet in person soon,

Jane Dyer Brown

Dothan District Spiritual Growth Coordinator

48th Annual Alabama West Florida United Methodist Women Virtual ANNUAL DAY 2021 March 6, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

The first Virtual Annual Day online in real time.

You are invited to the Alabama West Florida Conference (AWF) United Methodist Women's (UMW) one day virtual event, focusing on this year's theme: Hope, Joy, Peace, Trust, Power with Keynote Speaker: Celeste Eubanks, AWFUMC Director of Leadership Strategies.

Please go to www.awf-umw.org to register!

REPORTING DUE DATES

Local Officer to District Officer

<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>
Treasurer's Report Unit Treasurer	By November 30 Carolyn McInnis, District Treasurer
*Name of Deceased Members Unit Secretary	By November 30 ** Jane Dyer Brown, Spiritual Growth
*Local New Unit Report Unit Secretary	By November 30 TBD, Membership Nurture & Outreach
*Social Action Report Unit Social Action Coordinator	By November 30 TBD, Social Action
*Reading Program Reports Unit Program Resource	By November 30 TBD, Program Resources
*Mission Study Participants Unit Education & Interpretation	By November 30 TBD, Education & Interpretation
Consolidated President's Report Unit President	By November 30 TBD, President
New Officer Lists Unit Secretary	By November 30 TBD, District Secretary

***Included in the Consolidated President's Report**

**** Please report any December deaths by January 10**

2021 District and Conference UMW Dates

February 20 — Dothan District Annual Day, 9:30, Zoom

March 5-6 — Conference Annual Day, Virtual, Register at www.awf-umw.org

April — Mission Study, TBD

July 23-24 — Mission u, Virtual

August 14 — Dothan District Spiritual Day, Zoom

September — Mission Study, TBD

October 8-9 — Conference Spiritual Enrichment Retreat (SER), Blue Lake