



United
Methodist
Women

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

The Connection

DOTHAN DISTRICT UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Volume 2019 Issue 2

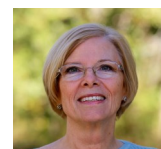
SUMMER 2019

LOVE in Action 2019

Let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

1 John 3:18 NIV

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



This year is half over, and we as United Methodist Women still have much to do!

This summer we have Mission u scheduled for July 19-20 at St. Luke United Methodist Church, 1394 E. Nine Mile Road, Pensacola, FL. The Courtyard Marriott (850-857-7744) at 451 Creighton Road, Pensacola, FL, is the reserved hotel for our group. Three excellent studies will be offered:

Women for Change: 150 Years in Mission, The Gospel of Mark and Radical Discipleship, and the Friday only study, *What About Our Money*. The registration deadline is July 8. Your registration fee includes your study books and three meals. Mission u is a great time for fellowship and education to transform us as better servants of God.

Our Dothan District Spiritual Day is scheduled for August. We are looking for a host church—if your church would like to host Spiritual Day, please let me or Jane Brown know!

District officer elections are coming up. Offices that are available are Vice-President, Treasurer, Nominations Chair, Membership Nurture and Outreach, and Spiritual Growth. Although it is not on the election schedule, the leadership position for Education and Interpretation is vacant and can be filled now.

Those of us who are currently serving in leadership positions know the unexpected blessings that come as part of our tasks. With a great team of officers and coordinators, serving in any capacity on the district team is made easier. Our leadership team has learned much about United Methodist Women and the members in our district. When looking through a small lens, we may feel we are just one of many, but the larger picture shows us that everyone of us is important to the group. When I read about our early founders focused on helping women by saving pennies and nickels to send a doctor and an educator to India, I am reminded they stepped out of their place and stepped up to meet the needs of women they would never meet or know. Our district needs us to step out of our places and step

(Continued on page 2)

2019

**Dothan District
Mission Team**

President

Debbie Bracewell

Vice President

TBD

Secretary

Marilyn Skipper

Treasurer

Carolyn McInnis

Program Resources

TBD

Spiritual Growth

Jane Dyer Brown

Membership Nurture & Outreach

TBD

Social Action

Jean Johnson

Education & Interpretation

TBD

Communications

Carolyn McInnis

Nominations

TBD

up to answer the call to leadership. We joined United Methodist Women for different reasons. I don't think that any one of us truly understood the work being done, but we joined, and we stayed to fulfill that early promise to women and children.

You are all equipped to be leaders; *Hebrews 13:21* tells us that God will “equip you with everything good for doing his will.” Prayerfully consider joining our leadership team, joining the ranks of those who came before us to assist the Dothan District in fulfilling our purpose in mission with women, children, and youth.

Joyful blessings,

Debbie Bracewell

President

Dothan District United Methodist Women

2019 Dothan District
Pledge to Mission
\$14,750

TREASURER

What Are the Five Channels of Mission Giving and How are They Related to Our District Pledge?

2019 Dothan District
Pledge to Mission
Received
\$5,027.89

The Five Channels of Mission Giving are the undesignated gifts that United Methodist Women members give to help empower and improve the lives of women, children, and youth in the United States and around the world. The combination of these “channels,” or areas, of giving make up our district Pledge to Mission.

1. **Pledge to Mission** — Each woman gives the amount that she feels able to give to her local unit. There is no set amount! The local unit then sends part or all of this money to the district. The district then sends it to the conference. The conference United Methodist Women pledges a specific amount to United Methodist Women's national office for mission with women, children, and youth. The conference retains a designated percent to be used for district and conference administration and membership development expenses and sends the rest to the national office.
2. **Special Mission Recognition Pins and Certificates** — These pins come with certificates and offer a meaningful way to honor members who have dedicated their time and effort to service. Gift amounts range from \$40 to \$2,000. Pins are purchased through your local unit treasurer.
3. **Gift to Mission Cards** — These cards are a wonderful way to make a gift to United Methodist Women in honor of someone and to send the honoree a beautiful card. Cards are purchased from the local or district treasurer for \$5 per card. The following cards are available: Congratulations, Thank You, A Baby, In the Service of Christ, On Your Special Day, Thinking of You, Happy Birthday, Peace, and assorted Christmas cards.
4. **Gift in Memory Cards** — Give a gift in memory of a member, a friend, or anyone, in any amount of \$5 or more. Gift in Memory cards, available free from your local or district treasurer, may be sent to the family of the deceased. These cards have a removable attachment that is given to the local treasurer along with the donation.
5. **World Thank Offering** — The World Thank Offering is an opportunity for individuals to respond to God's abundance and grace with spontaneous gifts of gratitude. The funds collected are used in the United Methodist Women's total program of mission in the United States and around the world.

These five “channels” of giving provide us with ways to help fulfill the Purpose of United Methodist Women and to meet our 2019 district pledge of \$14,740. Our Pledge to Mission and World Thank Offering are simply our gifts for mission. The Special Mission Recognition Pins, Gift to Mission Cards, and Gift in Memory Cards also give us the opportunity to recognize and honor others while helping women, children, and youth throughout the world.

If you feel that you have already pledged as much as you can, then please consider buying a card from United Methodist Women instead of from a store. The cards are a simple way of helping. The United Methodist Women cards are only \$5 per card and most of that money goes to improve the lives of women, children, and youth.

If you have any questions or need more information about the Five Channels of Mission Giving or our district Pledge to Mission, please let me know.

Carolyn McInnis

Mattie Kolb Scholarship

It is that time of year when we are blessed to give our scholarship away to a young person in need of a little help with school. This year we were able to give two \$500 scholarships. We received 67 completed applications, and even though it was a smaller group than last year, it was still tough to pick two! This year's recipients are Deja Craig from Slocomb and Benjamin Tew from Headland. They have been notified, but if for some reason they do not follow through with the rest of the requirements, we have two back-ups in place. Thank you to all of you that make these scholarships possible.

Jolinda Strickland
Mattie Kolb Scholarship Chair

REPORTING DUE DATES

Local Officer to District Officer

FROM

TO

Treasurer's Report
Unit Treasurer

By November 30
Carolyn McInnis, District Treasurer

*Name of Deceased Members
Unit Secretary

By November 30
(please report any December
deaths by January 10)
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
Jean Johnson, 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
Debbie Bracewell, President

New Officer Lists
Unit Secretary

By November 30
Marilyn Skipper, District Secretary

*Included in the Consolidated President's Report

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Spiritual growth leads to action. There may be no other justice issue that affects us as human trafficking does. Awakening to the reality of human trafficking is essential for spiritual growth. True awakening breaks our hearts open; then love is possible. Acting on the loving impulse to eradicate trafficking can change the world. Knowing the truth can help set the prisoners free.

Jesus spent his ministry serving those forgotten by his culture. We must also serve those the world has forgotten.

United Methodist Women members are followers of Jesus Christ who live their faith through acts of justice and mercy.

The fact sheet below has been developed by United Methodist Women. It is important to know what is happening. While some of these statistics may be dated, the human trafficking is still an important issue. Please read and pray for the women and children that are being trafficked. Ask this question: What can I do or my United Methodist Women's group do to help recognize and prevent trafficking?

HUMAN TRAFFICKING FACT SHEET

Definition: The United Nations defines human trafficking as the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Trafficking includes forcing people into prostitution or other forms of sexual exploitation. Children can also be victims, trafficked often for prostitution, illegal adoptions, trafficking for early marriage or recruitment as beggars or sporting contestants.

Why it Happens: Globalization has created a widening gap in wealth between countries and made many people "victims of the excesses of a global economic system that rewards wealth and exploits the poor." Such pressure has severely impacted women seeking a way to make a living, and "has had a direct impact on the movement of workers, the degradation of work and income distribution, and increased the conditions for human trafficking. International Human Sexual Trafficking is inextricably linked to the feminization of poverty. Seventy percent of the world's poor are women. Most poor women live in developing countries, and tolerate terrible conditions because economically or culturally, there are limited options available to them."

Estimated Scale: Human trafficking is the second largest and fastest growing criminal industry in the world. The total annual revenue for trafficking in persons is estimated to be \$150 billion and impacts an estimated 20.9 million people around the world. The United States is the second highest destination in the world for trafficked women. An estimated 20,000 victims, some estimates are as high as 50,000, are trafficked into the U.S. each year.

Policy: The problem of trafficking in women has been addressed at the international, national, and some state levels. In 2000 President Bill Clinton signed and the Senate ratified the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children. The US Department of State annually publishes a *Trafficking in Persons Report* on the efforts of governments to combat trafficking and issues a report to Congress as required under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act. The report categorizes countries as to whether they fully comply with the Acts minimum standards to prohibit and punish those involved in trafficking. To read the report visit www.state.gov

Who is Being Trafficked: According to the United Nations, 71 percent of people trafficked are women and girls and 28 percent are children.

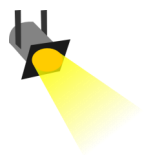
Where Can Victims of Trafficking Be Found: Victims of trafficking can be found in all types of establishments and locations, in rural, suburban and urban settings, on streets, in houses, in trailers, and on farms. Victims can be found as agriculture and landscaping workers; in factories (garment, meat-packing, industrial welding); street panhandling/peddling; in hotels and homes (housekeepers, nannies, or servile marriages); on day labor sites and internet sites (Craigslist and others); in door-to-door sales; in restaurants, bars, and

other service industries (nail or hair salons); and in the commercial sex industry (street prostitution, strip clubs, massage parlors, escort services, phone chat lines, and residential brothels).

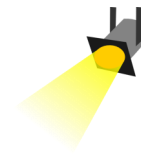
The United Methodist Women website has PowerPoint programs and Bible studies available for us to use. In the search bar, type *spiritual growth* to find information for you to use.

Jane Dyer Brown

Spiritual Growth Coordinator



DOTHAN DISTRICT UMW SPOTLIGHT ON SOCIAL ACTION



As United Methodist Women, we should be more aware of the social action priorities of our wonderful organization. If something we read sparks our interest, it is time for action. This article's focus is on Criminalization of Communities of Color & Mass Incarceration.

In the love of Christ, who came to save those who are lost and vulnerable, we urge the creation of a genuinely new system for the care and restoration of victims, offenders, criminal justice officials, and the community as a whole. Restorative justice grows out of biblical authority, which emphasizes a right relationship with God, self, and community.

(Social Principle Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church 2012, ¶164)

The only women's prison in the State of Alabama is Julia Tutwiler Women's Prison in Wetumpka, AL, an aged facility (opened in 1942) that has had serious problems over the years. The facility was named in honor of the "Angel of the Stockades," Julia S. Tutwiler, a noted Alabama educator and crusader for inmate education, classification, and improving prison conditions. In spite of this legacy, five years ago, DOJ investigators found "unabated staff-on-prisoner sexual abuse and harassment" and an atmosphere where the "women at Tutwiler universally fear for their safety." These conditions were aggravated by the fact that the prison is chronically understaffed. Although Tutwiler is still understaffed, steps have been taken to improve conditions related to sexual abuse.

Some prisoners come through Tutwiler on their way to another facility, but many women call this place their home. They search for ways to deal with the lack of privacy, outbreaks of violence and other dangers of prison life. Some of the women have found salvation behind bars, often through contact with those from outside who have come in to minister to them and love them.

Kairos is a Christian faith-based ministry which addresses the spiritual needs of the incarcerated by sharing the love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ. A team of Godly women enters the prison for four days to meet with 35 women who have been chosen by the prison chaplain. They talk, share meals with, listen, teach, witness, and love the women. Expressions of the love of Christ through action is essential for Kairos. People from "outside" may send messages of love to the women on the walk.

As United Methodist Women of the Dothan District, we are considering ways to send love and support to the women of this year's Kairos Walk to be held at Tutwiler in September. Ideas include decorated posters, a letter of encouragement to the "women in white," decorated placemats, small-sized toiletries, and other items.

Jean Johnson

Social Action Coordinator

2019 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

 <p>13 — District-Wide Officer Training, 9:30, Enterprise First UMC, Fellowship Hall, District Mission Team meeting following Training 25-26 — Conference Executive Meeting, Enterprise First UMC, Enterprise, AL 27 — Super Sunday</p>	 <p>15-16 — Conference Annual Day, Demopolis First UMC, Demopolis 23 — Dothan District Annual Day, 9:30, Abbeville UMC</p>	 <p>8-9 — COSROW, Blue Lake</p> 
 <p>21 — Easter Sunday 27 — District Mission Study, 8:00 Registration, 8:30 Welcome and Study, Dothan First UMC, District Mission Team meeting after Mission Study</p>	 	 <p>2-5 — Annual Conference, Frazer United Methodist Church</p>
 <p>12-13 — Conference Executive Meeting, Pine Hill, AL 19-20 — Mission u, St. Luke UMC, Pensacola, FL</p>	 <p>3 — Dothan District Mission Team Meeting, Enterprise First UMC, Gathering Room, 9:30 District Spiritual Day</p>	 <p>District Mission Study, 8:00 Registration, 8:30 Welcome and Study, Headland UMC</p>
 <p>11 –13 — Conference Spiritual Enrichment Retreat (SER), Blue Lake</p>	 <p>2 — President & Treasurer Conference Training for District Officers</p>	 <p>Come let us <i>Adore</i> Him</p> 



TALENT BANK INFORMATION ON PROSPECTIVE LEADERSHIP

(To be completed by prospective leader)

Type or Print (attach additional sheets as necessary)

Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone Home _____ Work _____ Cell _____

Local Church _____ District _____

Age _____ Email _____

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 _____

Areas of Special Interest or Concern

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

Do you wish to serve on which level (circle): Local District Conference

Which office(s) on the 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"/> Program Resources |
| <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? _____

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 _____.