



# The Messenger's Flame

Montgomery-Prattville District UMW

*August 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



## **A Message from the District President**

Hello, everyone.

We now find ourselves almost at the end of another year in United Methodist Women. Thanks to the will of our Heavenly Father, this year has not been quite as tumultuous and uncertain as last year. However, with the threat and onset of another virus infiltrating, we still question how we are going to get to where we know God wants us to be. We get through still knowing and experiencing God through spiritual growth; still being a supportive community by addressing the needs of women, children, youth, and the marginalized in our local, national and international communities; and still expanding the concepts of mission as emphasized for the quadrennial.

We will continue to serve together in faith, love, and action. Though the hurdles may be difficult to overcome, the steadfastness and endurance of faithful United Methodist Women, with God's help, will get us through successfully. Stay aware of what's happening in the circle of United Methodist Women by checking the national and conference websites regularly. No access to the websites? Try partnering with a willing friend who does and share. Make plans now to attend our next district event: **Montgomery-Prattville Spiritual Enrichment** on **September 18**. (See more later in this newsletter).

Following that event will be the **Conference Spiritual Enrichment** at Blue Lake on **October 8-9**. Be on the lookout for registration information.

Around September 1, 2021, start looking for registration information on **Assembly 2022** to be held in Orlando, FL. Hopefully, your unit has been making plans to send at least one representative to Assembly. If your unit cannot pay full expenses, perhaps it could offer a stipend to someone who would really like to attend.

Unit presidents or unit representatives, please start collecting/gathering information for your consolidated annual reports due to the district president by November 30. Let's strive to make this a record year in submitting reports. Forms are available on the website or by request as needed.

Please know that your district president is open to any invitation to visit your unit and share in any way that serves the mission of United Methodist Women. Know also that if there is something you would like to see being initiated in our district, speak up and make suggestions. Likewise, if you see something that needs to be discontinued or be done in another/different way, feel free to say something. Your voice is important. It really does matter. Remember, "we are (all) knitted together for God's good works".



**Brenda Hargrave**  
Treasurer

**Montgomery Prattville District UMW Treasurer's Report  
2021**

<b>Balance on Hand 1/1/21</b>		<b>309.01</b>
Donations from Units		1485.00
Funds from Conference		800.00
On-Line Donation for Conference Annual Day		25.00
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>2619.01</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Postage	9.20	
Printing	24.60	
Audit of 2020 Books	100.00	
Assembly/Jurisdiction	300.00	
Pledge	1315.00	
Special Mission Pins	120.00	
Gift to Missions	40.00	
Gift in Memory	30.00	
World Thank	10.00	
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>-1948.80</b>
<b>Balance on Hand 7/31/21</b>		<b>670.21</b>

As you can see from this report, we have only received \$1515 towards our Conference pledge of \$10,000 for 2021. I know that many of our units have either not met this year or are just starting to meet. Hopefully by September, we will all be meeting again. I recently sent each unit treasurer a report of funds received so far this year.

The many mission projects of UMW continue and need our support and I trust that you will vote to continue your giving through your local unit this year. There is a change this year on the due date for funds to be received for credit in 2021.

**It is November 20 instead of November 30.**

If I may be of assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me at 334-285-5788 or 334-322-4086. [jbhargrave@elmore.rr.com](mailto:jbhargrave@elmore.rr.com)

Brenda Hargrave



**Carla Lumpkin**  
Education And Interpretation

A tremendous “thank you” to each of you for your dedication and unity and best efforts this year to fulfill the last phrase of our United Methodist Women Purpose: to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

Members from several of our units attended the very informative mission study: Women United for Change – 150 Years in Mission hosted by the Montgomery-Opelika District in June. And we are grateful to all those who worked so hard to provide us the opportunity this year to virtually participate in three outstanding studies at **Mission U in July**.

I would encourage each of you to visit two websites containing helpful information about items discussed in this article. Our national website is **[unitedmethodistwomen.org](http://unitedmethodistwomen.org)**, and the home page displays several helpful icons such as **Faith Talks**, **Response** magazine, and the Legacy Fund. The page also contains a Site Map with a lengthy list of topics. Our Conference website is **[awf-umw.org](http://awf-umw.org)** and is also easy to navigate.

The Reading Program 2021-2022 is in full swing. On the national website, download the book lists (including the 34 additional titles to this year’s list) and the reporting form. Also available is the latest info from Andris Salter, Operations Officer. **Faith Talks**, which are conversations on mission, advocacy, and spiritual-growth topics, are hosted online and can be joined live or listened to online anytime. The link is on the national website. **Two** Faith Talks count as **one book** read, and **three** count as **two books**. Three movies on the list count as a book each: **Just Mercy, The Hate U Give, and Pushout**. The reporting form can be downloaded on the website, and you may also subscribe to **Response** magazine.

Remember that mission giving is our method of contributing funds to support vital ministries and advocacy nationally and around the world, to support regional missionaries, and to fund our educational resources. Visit “Where the Money Goes” on our national website. Learn or “brush up” about our Five Channels of Mission Giving, along with World Thank Offering and Call to Prayer & Self-Denial programs and opportunities of giving.

Encourage your members to participate in our Mission Today program and thereby complete the criteria for a Mission Today Unit. You may download the criteria/reporting form on the Conference website, **[awf-umw.org](http://awf-umw.org)**. Our units are performing many of these items already in our meetings, programs, and ministry. It’s fun to achieve a goal and have your unit recognized with an award. THANK YOU for your love of others, your hard work and your sacrifices of time and money to enable United Methodist Women to fulfill our mission. May we continue to be informed and transformed to better serve God’s purpose for us at this time in His beautifully created world.

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



**Jill Lowman**  
**Spiritual Growth Coordinator**

Greetings,

I recently took a class called “Jesus’ Abba the God Who Has Not Failed”. One of the questions proposed concerned how we think of God, as monarchial (King) or familial (Father). Something to ponder.

I see God as both, we worship him as the Almighty but also think of him as Father in our personal relationship with him. Jesus refers to God as Abba (Father) in Mark 14:36 while praying in the Garden of Gethsemane. “Abba, Father, he said everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me.

Yet, not what I will but what you will”. (NIV) Paul also refers to Abba in Romans 8:15 and Galatians 4:6. “Because we are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son the Spirit who calls out, Abba, Father”. (NIV) Is he your Abba?

**Our Spiritual Enrichment Day is September 18, 2021 and will be held via Zoom.** Our speaker will be **Rev. Meghan Kelley**. I encourage everyone to attend and be blessed by her program. The Zoom link will be sent out closer to the date:



**Cynthia Brown**  
**Nominations Chair**

The Montgomery-Prattville District United Methodist Women Mission Team need to fill the offices of **Social Actions Coordinator, Vice-President 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 of the women on the district United Methodist Women Mission Team. Fill out a Talent form today. You can find a talent form on the conference website [awf-umw.org](http://awf-umw.org).

**The District UMW Team needs you!!**

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



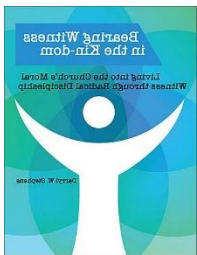
**Gloria Jean Williams**  
**Social Action Coordinator**



I attended The Alabama-West Florida Conference United Methodist Women and Conference Board of Church, and Society co-sponsored a virtual Cooperative Mission u 2021 event Thursday, July 22 – Saturday 24, 2021 that offered an opportunity for all of us to grow spiritually to learn about current issues, and discover new ways to put my faith, hope and love into action! What an awesome virtual weekend! Mission u offered the following studies (you could take one class Friday and one Saturday). Opening worship Service was Thursday 6:30-7:30 p.m. The study books count as 2 bonus books in the reading program.

**Mission Study Books**

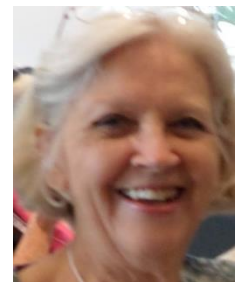
**Study Leaders**



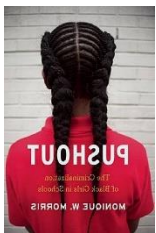
**Bearing Witness in the Kin-dom:  
Living into the Church's Moral  
Witness through Radical  
Discipleship**  
Author **Darryl W. Stephens**  
**Spiritual Growth category**



**Judith Pierre-Okerson**



**Joyce Genz**



**Pushout: The Criminalization  
of Black Girls in Schools  
Issue Mission Study**  
**Social Action category**



**Clara Estes**



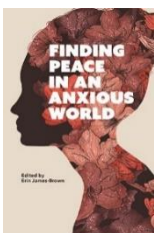
**Brenda Boman**



**Zan Jones**



**Kim Sanders**



**Finding Peace in an  
Anxious World**  
edited by **Erin James-Brown**  
**Spiritual Growth category**



**Debbie Bracewell**



**Celeste Eubanks**



**United Methodist Women  
Montgomery-Prattville District  
2021 Up Coming Events**

- September 18** - District Spiritual Enrichment, Election will be **via Zoom**
  
- 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



**\$330 Early Bird Registration from  
Sept. 1–Nov. 30, 2021  
Scholarships Available: [PDF](#) [Excel](#)  
through the conference UMW website  
[awf-umw.org](http://awf-umw.org)**

**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)

<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/memberresources>  
**has some great information about how to host a virtual event, copyright and permissions for virtual events, and guidelines.**

## **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.*