

**FEBRUARY
2018**

**SOUTH WEST
DISTRICT OFFICERS**

PRESIDENT

Mary Van Tol
Maryvantol.umw.com
239-271-0161

VICE PRESIDENT

Pamela Freeland
Pamelafreeland.umw.com
701-361-7973

SECRETARY/MN&O

Roberta Swords
Robertaswords.umw.com
305-323-2432

TREASURER

Phyllis Jackman
Phyllisjackman.umw@gmail.com
239-848-6484

NOMINATIONS

Gloria Heston
Gloriaheston.umw@gmail.com
239-560-3053

PROGRAM RESOURCES

Sandy Segur
sandysegur@gmail.com
941 249-8726 (c)
941 626-8384 (h)

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Sandra Barton
sandbar369@gmail.com
941-792-1335

E&I

Pat McShane
paticake83@gmail.com
863-655-5290

SOCIAL ACTION

Joyce Shelso
jishelso@gmail.com
941-525-7094

COMMUNCIATION

Ruth Hollandsworth
Ruthhollands-
worth.umw@gmail.com
863-414-6530

WEBSITE

Southwestdistrictumw.com

SOUTH WEST DISTRICT SOJOURNER

UMW Publication Florida Conference

Greetings Sisters-in-Christ!

As I was looking through the United Methodist Women Program Book "Sacred Spaces: Encounter with God and Neighbor" I realized we have just finished our Local Unit Officers/Coordinator training and it made me think of our "calling" to serve as the January 2018 suggested program is titled. This book focuses on where we meet, calling them "sacred places." In Exodus 3:1-8a, Moses leads his people out of Egypt. Judges 6:11-16, 22-24 has Gideon leading his army against a formidable foe. Esther 4:9-17 tells us how Esther risked her life to intervene for her people. Finally, in Acts 9:36-42 Dorcas/Tabitha who was constantly doing good and helping the poor, died and was brought back to life by the Apostle Peter so she could continue serving her community!

The questions asked are: "Do you feel your life has a calling?"; "A focused direction?" Or "do you know someone who follows a life commitment?" As United Methodist Women our Purpose is to "know God," as we are called to turn faith, hope and love into action. One way we are called to Action, just as Moses, Gideon, Esther and Dorcas were called to help their people, is to remember our United Methodist Church deaconesses and home missionaries who are laywomen and laymen called by God to serve in ministries of love, justice and service in the United States and around the world. They make a lifetime commitment to full-time mission-oriented service both within and outside the church.

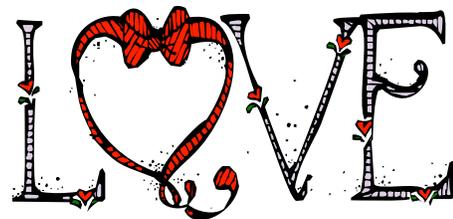
We can help them through our prayers by using the Prayer Calendar, by inviting them to speak at our meetings so we can learn more about their mission and by deciding as a group to support them financially through mission giving. Go to www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/blogs/deaconess-and-home-missioner for other actions you could take.

Jesus said, "You did not choose me, but I chose you and I appointed you to go and bear fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another." John 15:16-17 With February being a month of "love" as we celebrate Valentine's Day, it is the perfect time to all share our love with those who serve!

In His Service,



Mary
President
South West District



PURPOSE of United Methodist Women

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.



TREASURER REPORT

First Quarter pledges are due to the District Treasurer by April 5th.

Please mail to: **Phyllis Jackman**
5317 Congo Ct.
Cape Coral, FL 33904

Please make checks payable to:

South West United Methodist Women

Also, a copy of your budget should be given to the District Treasurer.

If you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to call me at (239) 848-6484 or Email: phyllisjackman.umw@gmail.com

Information Reminders

Rainbow Givers Due January 31

5 Star Units Due January 31

Annual Sampler Packet Due April 1

SECRETARY REPORT

As the new year begins all Units in our District are required to send a list of officers and coordinators to our District Secretary, Roberta Swords. If your Unit makes a directory, you should send a copy to her and the District President.

Roberta Swords

Email:
robertaswords.umw@gmail.com

Phone: 305-323-2432

**Address: PO Box 152913
Cape Coral, FL 33915**





St John UMC— Sebring

St John United Methodist Women is regrouping! Our January meeting was to bring United Methodist Women back together with election of new officers and schedule future meetings. There is much work to be done. Join us for our February 24th meeting at 10:30 am. Submitted by Ruth Hollandsworth, Unit President.

Sebring First UMC—February 6, 2018 Program 9:30 am

This February Unit meeting will host a program discussing “Prison Missions” with a guest speaker from the church who meets with prisoners weekly. Contact Carolyn Rapp at 863-214-6850 to RSVP by February 5th. There is no cost for this event.

Spring Lake UMC—Sebring February 22, 2018

Spring Lake will be hosting a Mission Study using the book “Missionary Conferences of the United Methodist Church in the United States” by J. Ann Craig. Registration deadline is by February 19th, contact Jo Sink at 863-655-6364.

Christ UMC—Venice March 2, 2018

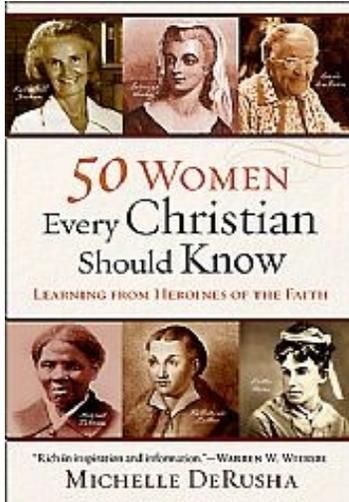
Church Women United will host a luncheon at noon for the World Day of Prayer. Please bring canned goods for South County Food Pantry.

Cape Coral First UMC—March 17, 2018

You are cordially invited to the 10th Annual Women’s Retreat entitled “The Woman God Sees” on Saturday, March 17, 2018 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. RSVP with a registration form by March 12, 2018 to Nancy Serzan, UMW Treasurer, Cape Coral First United Methodist Church, 4118 Coronado Parkway, Cape Coral, FL 33904. Contact Nancy at (704) 861-5757 for additional details.

PROGRAM RESOURCE ROOM

Suggestion of the Month – Leadership Development Category



50 WOMEN EVERY CHRISTIAN SHOULD KNOW - \$17.99

Learning From Heroines of the Faith by Michelle DeRusha

www.unitedmethodistwomen.org

Throughout history, countless women have boldly stepped out in faith and courage, leaving their indelible mark on those around them and on the Kingdom of God. Michelle DeRusha brings into focus 50 incredible women of faith — from Catherine of Siena to Susanna Wesley; Harriet Tubman and Corrie ten Boom, bringing the lives of these admirable women to life with engaging narrative as a reminder that we are not alone, the battles we face today are not new and God is always with us during the struggle.

This book of inspiring stories of the women who helped to shape our faith belongs in the United Methodist Women section of your church library!

A suggested "Unit Use" would be to pass the book to a member at your Unit meeting and ask that they read about one of the 50 women of their choice, talk about that woman at the next meeting, and pass the book to another sister.

They are all amazing women and the sharing would make it all so much more interesting. In just a few pages, and maybe some input from Google, you would spark a very interesting conversation!



PROGRAM RESOURCE ROOM (con't)

Follow up on January's suggestive reading of *Born on Third Base* - Social Action category

In Part IV: *Unnecessary Side Trips*, Chapter 10: *Miro in the Bathroom*, Topic: *Change Not Charity*, Third Paragraph:

"In a book I co-wrote, *Robin Hood Was Right: A Guide to Giving Your Money for Social Change*, we encouraged readers to distinguish between social change solutions and traditional philanthropy – and look for giving structures that share power with people who didn't come from privileged circumstances, like community foundations. In one section, we gave examples of the difference between giving to change versus traditional charity.

Charity: Fund Toys for Tots during the holidays

Change: Fund organizing for a living-wage campaign so parents can afford to buy toys for their own kids.

Charity: Fund a scholarship for one high school student to attend college

Change: Fund a student association organizing to ensure that higher education is affordable for everyone

Charity: Donate to cancer research

Change: Donate to a group organizing to clean up the toxins in our environment and to pressure polluters that dump carcinogens

Charity: Donate a dollar a day to help one child in Guatemala

Change: Donate to organizing to stop corporate free trade policies that undercut local economies and wages.

Is there any question as to "why" Chuck Collins' book made the 2018 Reading Program list! This is an incredible look at the aspects of the inequality of our current reality on several levels.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN'S "Living the Vision of Turning faith, hope and love into action on behalf of women, children and youth around the world" can be realized and stimulate your thinking through the Reading Program.

Are we on the right track or what?!! Join in - get on board the Reading Ride of your life!



South West District Local Officers Training

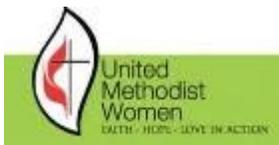


Sebring First hosted our Local Officers' Training on January 27, 2018. Thank you to Unit President Sally Jett and her Unit members who were gracious hostesses by welcoming 81 women from our District. A special thanks goes out to Pastor David Juliano and the District Team who worked hard to train new and returning leaders.

The meeting was called to order by South West District President Mary Van Tol



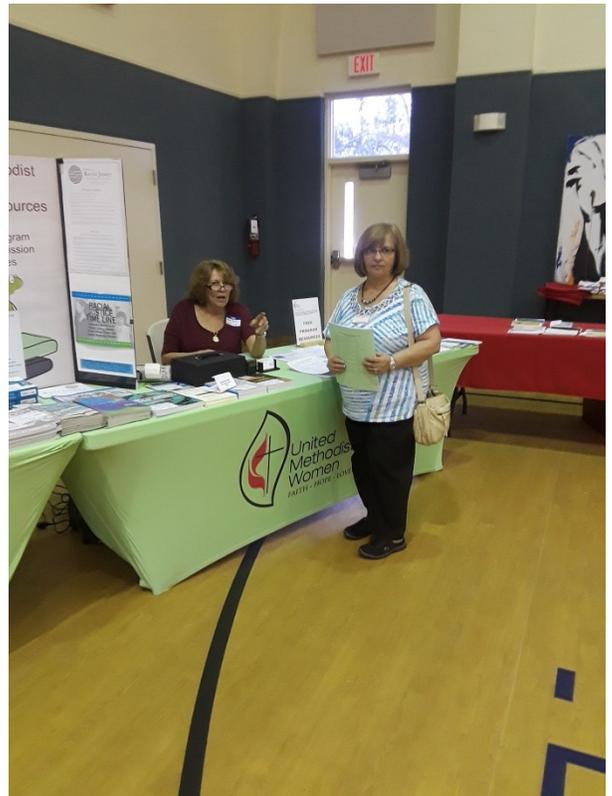
Learning in the Sanctuary





President's Training

Program Resource Table

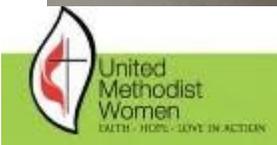




Vice President Pamela Freeland



A wonderful lunch!

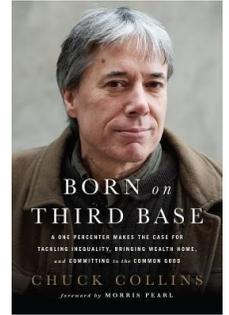


Secretary Training

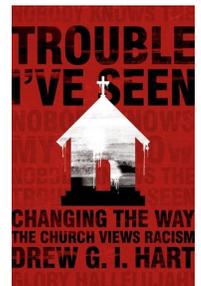
South West District BOOK CLUB

Join in - get on board the Reading Ride of your life! These books are available through the 2018 Reading Program.

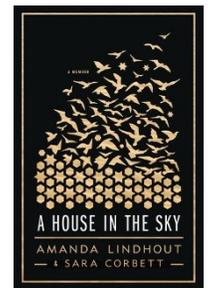
Winter 12/21/2017: *Born On Third Base*, Chuck Collins, Chelsea Green Publishing; RP1815 \$17.95 (Social Action)



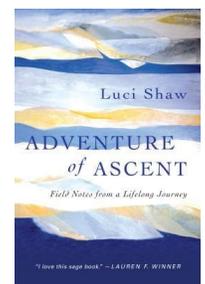
Spring 03/20/2018: *Trouble I've Seen*, Drew G.I. Hart, Herald Press; RP1813 \$16.99 (Nurturing for Community, Large Print)



Summer 06/21/2018: *A House in the Sky*, Amanda Lindhout and Sara Corbett, Simon & Schuster; RP1801 \$16.95 (Mission for Education)



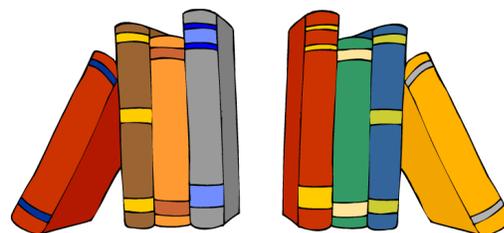
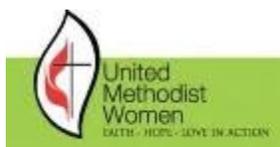
Fall 09/22/2018: *Adventure of Ascent*, Luci Shaw, InterVarsity Press; RP1818 \$15.00 (Spiritual Growth)



Sign Up on our District Website. Join this on-line and/or meet for discussion Book Club!

Sandy Segur, Secretary, Program Resources: sandyrsegur@gmail.com

Home: 941-249-8726, Mobile: 941-626-8384



SOUTH WEST DISTRICT 2018 CALENDAR

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>JANUARY</u></p> <p><u>LOCAL UNIT OFFICERS TRAINING</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">January 27</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sebring First UMC</p> <p>Registration: 9-10 am</p> <p>Program: 10-2:30 pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lunch: \$8</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>FEBRUARY</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">No District Activities Scheduled</p> <p style="text-align: center;">*****</p> <p style="text-align: center;">*<u>MTM</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">February 17</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Clewiston First UMC</p> <p style="text-align: center;">9:30 am</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>MARCH</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">No District Activities Scheduled</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>APRIL</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>SPIRITUAL GROWTH</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">April 28</p> <p style="text-align: center;">First Bradenton UMC</p> <p>Registration: 9-10 am</p> <p>Program: 10-2:30 pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lunch: \$8</p> <p style="text-align: center;">*<u>MTM</u> to follow</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>MAY</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">No District Activities Scheduled</p> <p style="text-align: center;">*****</p> <p style="text-align: center;">*<u>MTM</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">May 12</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Friendship</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Punta Gorda UMC</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>JUNE</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">No District Activities Scheduled</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>JULY</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>MISSION u</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">July 12-15</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Bethune-Cookman</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Daytona, FL</p> <p>Scholarships available: contact District president.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>AUGUST</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">No District Activities Scheduled</p> <p style="text-align: center;">*****</p> <p style="text-align: center;">*<u>MTM</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">August 4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Port Charlotte UMC</p> <p style="text-align: center;">9:30 am</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>SEPTEMBER</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>SOCIAL ACTION EVENT at ECHO</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">September 15</p> <p style="text-align: center;">North Ft. Myers</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Time: TBD</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>OCTOBER</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>ANNUAL MEETING</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">October 13</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Cape Coral First</p> <p>Registration: 9-10 am</p> <p>Program: 10-3 pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lunch: \$8</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>NOVEMBER</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>MISSION STUDY</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">November 10</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Christ Venice UMC</p> <p>Registration: 9-10 am</p> <p>Program: 10-2:30 pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lunch: \$8</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>DECEMBER</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">No District Activities Scheduled</p> <p style="text-align: center;">*****</p> <p style="text-align: center;">*<u>MTM</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">December 8</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sarasota First UMC</p> <p style="text-align: center;">9:30 am</p>

*MTM = Mission Team Meeting, District Officers Only



February 6, 2018

Unit Meeting

Sebring First UMC

Program: 9:30 am

February 17, 2018

Mission Team Meeting

District Officers only

Clewiston First UMC—9:30 am

February 22, 2018

Mission Study

Spring Lake UMC—Sebring

Registration: 9:00 am to 10 am

Program: 10:00 am to 2:30 am

Lunch is provided

March 17, 2018

10th Annual Women's Retreat

Cape Coral First UMC

Program: 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

March 30, 2018

Membership Numbers Due

April 5, 2018

1st Quarter Pledges Due

April 28, 2018

Spiritual Growth

First Bradenton UMC

Registration: 9 am—10 am

Program: 10 am—2:30 am

Lunch \$8.00

*MTM to follow

Communication



Article Deadline

Please submit articles for our next Sojourner issue by the **25th** of the month. Send them to our new Communications Coordinator listed below. All Unit activities are welcome for submission. Digital photos are preferred.

Ruth Hollandsworth

Communications Coordinator

1327 Deer Park Court

Sebring, FL 33872

:

Phone: 863-414-6530

Email: ruthhollandsworth.umw@gmail.com

Be sure to visit our websites to get updated news and find information about our District.

www.southwestdistrictumw.com

www.facebook.com/southwestdistrictumw.com

