

APRIL
2018

**SOUTH WEST
DISTRICT OFFICERS**

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701-361-7973

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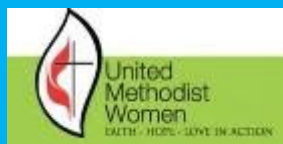
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WEBSITE

Southwestdistrictumw.com



SOUTH WEST DISTRICT SOJOURN-



Greetings South West District Sisters!

"Christ Has Risen! He has Risen Indeed!"

Recently I had the opportunity to visit the Holy Land and have returned amazed and humbled by the vast wilderness, lush valleys and mountains where Moses, David, the Prophets and Jesus lived and taught us how to live and act as a loving, caring, and devoted people. Last month I wrote about being conflicted in how the peace process can work for all living in the region. Everyone in our group had the opportunity to dine with a Palestinian family in the West Bank, one of the areas that are under a great deal of conflict. We learned first-hand what it was like to live under strict rules and regulations that, quite frankly, are causing extreme hardship for those living there. While the family my group dined with had a nice home and jobs, they are restricted in where and when they can travel outside of their homes. Israelis are also limited in their travel. Can you imagine living in Florida and not being able to visit a family member who lives in Georgia? The area in conflict between these two countries is about the size of New Jersey! When we asked what we could do, they said they just want us to pray for peace so they can take the Wall down and just live side by side as they did before it went up as one nation. All they want is a two state system much like we have here with our 50 different states, but one government for all. If this can be achieved, then there will finally be peace. I told them I would bring that request back for all of you to pray for them!

As a reminder, if you have not completed the **2017 CENSUS** on the United Methodist Women site, please do so ASAP. The original deadline of March 30 has been extended to April 3 due to the Easter holiday. **All Unit presidents** are required to do this. If you do not have access to the website, please ask your church secretary to help you go online to fill out the form. Remember, just input the number of UMW members, not the whole church congregation numbers as some have done in the past! Go to here: https://secure3.convio.net/umw/site/SPageNavigator/Census_2017.html

I encourage you all to come to our **Spiritual Growth Event** on **April 28, 2018** at First Bradenton United Methodist Church. See the enclosed flyer and registration.

If you plan on attending **Assembly 2018** in **Columbus, Ohio** on **May 18-20**, please email or call me to let me know as we will be gathering together as a District for a welcome with other Florida participants. Those Conferences who meet their goal of attendees will be given a special recognition at the event!

Blessings,

Mary Van Tol
President



The organized unit of United Methodist Woman shall be a community of woman 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.

Upcoming Unit Events

SOUTHWEST DISTRICT
UNITED METHODIST WOMEN
SPIRITUAL GROWTH EVENT

Peace...Like a River

With Sandy Barton, Southwest District Spiritual Growth Officer



*"He who believes in Me, as the Scriptures said
'From his innermost being will flow rivers of living
water'." John 7:38*

Come join us as we explore the four rivers that flow through the Southwest District – the Manatee, the Myakka, the Peace and the Caloosahatchee. We'll also look at the major rivers in the Bible.

This interactive program will be inspirational, informative ... and fun!

Saturday, April 28, 2018

First United Methodist Church

603 11th St. W.

Bradenton, FL 34205

Registration: 9:00 am - 9:45:am

Session: 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Lunch: \$8

SEND RESERVATION FORM AND CHECK BY April 20 TO:

Ruth Qualich

6501 17th Ave. W. Apt. I-217

Bradenton, FL 34209

941-792-0367





**UNITED METHODIST WOMEN
SOUTH WEST DISTRICT**

Florida Conference

Pamela Freeland, District Vice President

Phone: 701-361-7973

Email: pamelafreeland.umw@gmail.com

March 26, 2018

Dear All United Methodist Women:

Blessings this Easter season to my sisters of the South West District! I so look forward to welcoming spring and celebrating Easter in a matter of days!

Our second 2018 District event will focus on Spiritual Growth is scheduled for April 28, 2018 at First United Methodist Church at Bradenton. The theme, **Peace....Like a River**, will be offered by Sandy Barton, our South West District Spiritual Growth officer. She has an exciting and thought provoking program that will draw to a (perhaps new!) perspective on growing spiritually in our faith walk. Please join us!!!

South West District Spiritual Growth Event: **Peace...Like a River**

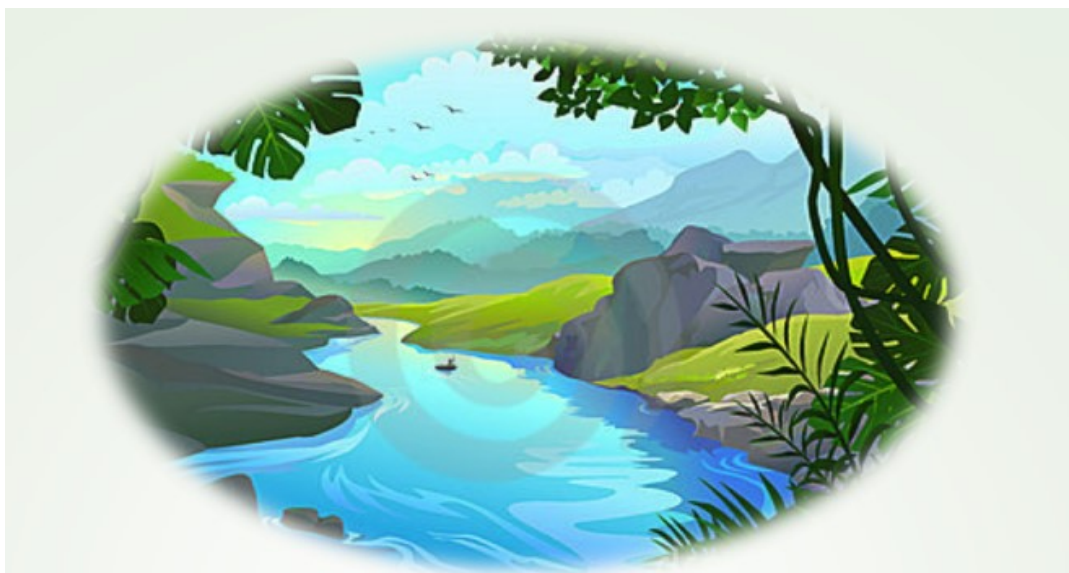
April 28, 2018

First United Methodist Church at Bradenton

603 11th St. W.

Bradenton, FL 34205

Registration and a light continental breakfast will be available from 9:00 to 9:45 am. Our session will begin promptly at 10:00 am. We look forward to answering any questions you may have and welcome your ideas and suggestions!



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

SOUTH WEST DISTRICT

Florida Conference

Pamela Freeland, District Vice President

Phone: 701-361-7973

Email: pamelafreeland.umw@gmail.com

Website: www.southwestdistrictumw.com



Dear Unit Treasurers:

The South West District will meet Saturday, April 28, 2018, at **First United Methodist Church Bradenton**, 603 11th St. W., Bradenton, FL 34205. The theme, **Peace....Like a River**, will be offered by Sandy Barton, the South West District Spiritual Growth officer. **As Unit treasurer, we are asking for your assistance in coordinating reservations for your Unit and collecting the \$8.00 per person to cover the luncheon being prepared by First Methodist United Methodist women.**

Please send the Reservation Form below and the check to cover luncheons by Friday, April 20, 2018 to Ruth Qualich, First United Methodist Church of Bradenton United Methodist Women co-president, at the address listed below. Make checks payable to First United United Methodist Women.

If you have questions, Ruth can be reached by phone at [941-792-0367](tel:941-792-0367). My contact information is provided above, and I would welcome comments or questions at any time.

Blessings always,

Pamela Freeland

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**South West District United Methodist Women
Registration Form
April 28 Spiritual Growth Event
Please mail by April 20, 2018**

Name of Church Unit _____

Number of registrants for the luncheon _____

Enclosed check for luncheon reservations at \$8/person in the total amount of \$ _____
(Make checks payable to First United United Methodist Women)

Name of individual picking up luncheon tickets _____

SEND RESERVATION FORM AND CHECK BY April 21 TO:

**Ruth Qualich
6501 17th Ave. W. Apt. I-217
Bradenton, FL 34209
941-792-0367**

Program Resources: Mission Study books, United Methodist Women essentials and 2018 Reading Program Books will be available at the Program Resource Table at the Spiritual Growth Event held April 28th at First Bradenton UMC.
Forms will be available for the **2018-19 Annual Sampler Offer ends 4/2018.**

With praises to our Lord, Sandy Segur, SPR



SW District United Methodist Women Book Club: March 20th – SPRING READ: *Trouble I've Seen: Changing the Way the Church Views Racism* by Drew G. I. Hart Discussion week of June 11th. Please Note: You can join the Book Club at any time and you will be included even if you do not have access to a computer – call me at 941-249-8726. Register online

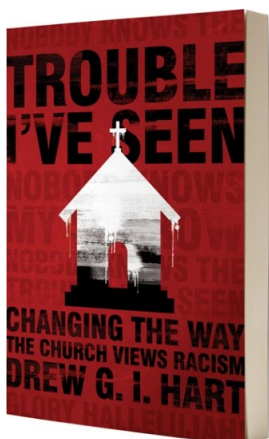
www.southwetedistrictumw.com

Recommended Interview of February 3, 2016 with Drew Hart: www.youtube.com/watch?



Drew G. I. Hart is a blogger, PhD candidate in theology and ethics at Lutheran Theological Seminary, part-time professor, and activist. His writing and speaking are informed by his ten years of pastoral ministry experience and his ongoing commitment to following Jesus. His blog, *Taking Jesus Seriously*, is hosted by *Christian Century*, and he speaks regularly at churches, universities, conferences, and seminaries. His writing has appeared in *Sojourners* and in books such as *Living Alternative: Anabaptist Christianity in a Post-Christendom World* and *Exploring the Gospel of Peace*. He also can be found on [Twitter, @druhart](https://twitter.com/druhart), where he reflects on life and faith as it unfolds, and at www.drewgihart.com. He and his wife, Renee, have two young sons, Micah and Dietrich, and live in Philadelphia.

REVIEWS:



"Drew Hart masterfully cuts through all the platitudes and good intentions to reach the fleshy, beating heart of true justice. An unforgettable read, *Trouble I've Seen* deserves the church's full attention and considered action. It certainly challenged and changed me."—Rachel Held Evans, bestselling author of *A Year of Biblical Womanhood* and *Searching for Sunday*

"In a critical moment of American history, Drew Hart has given us a book that is vital for the church. *Trouble I've Seen* captures the complexity of race in its systemic and personal consequences and points us to why race should be central to any Christian's life as a follower of Jesus. It is a book for people who are just beginning this journey and for those of us who need encouragement along the way." —Brian Bantum, associate professor of theology, Seattle Pacific University and Seminary



REVIEWS con't:

"Drew Hart makes a courageous and compelling call to the church to get on the road to racial reconciliation and righteousness. He provides practical insights and deep theological reflections in this challenging and necessary resource. You won't be comfortable with this read, but you will be led into the deep waters of the social dilemma and reality of the race matrix. In the end, there is an opportunity for the church to be a bridge over these troubled waters."

—Efre Smith, president and CEO of World Impact and author of *The Post-Black & Post-White Church*

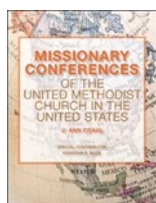
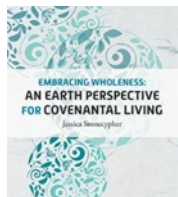
"*Trouble I've Seen* makes it plain: in repenting of white supremacy, we have nothing to lose and everything to be liberated from. Hart refuses to silence two gospel scandals that cannot be separated: that in Christ, Pharaoh's armies are invited into the Promised Land, but the only way in is through the waters, where 'Pharaoh's supremacy' and his chariots are 'drown-ded.' This is the saving solidarity of Christ's cross."

—Jarrod McKenna, award-winning peace activist and co-founder of First Home Project

In listening to the interview you will become familiar with the author in a very unique way, he is personable and personal on a very raw topic of our society. ENJOY the Blessings of this man's journey for us!



APRIL, MAY AND JUNE – ADVANCE READING FOR MISSION U
JULY 12 – 15, BETHUNE-COOKMAN IN DAYTONA



Spiritual Growth - Embracing Wholeness: An Earth Perspective for Covenantal Living

Geographic (Education for Mission) – *The Missionary Conferences of the United Methodist Church in the United States*

Issue Study (Social Action) – *What About Our Money? A Faith Response*

Local Leaders are trained to lead one of the three mission studies through the organization's Mission u program offered around the country. Those leaders, in turn, are able to lead mission studies in their local and district groups.

View Mission u on the United Methodist Women website for additional information and forms (soon to be added).



MEET THE DISTRICT TEAM!



Sandra Barton
Spiritual Growth Coordinator

Sandra is a member of First United Methodist Church in Bradenton, Florida. She is a Certified Lay Servant, a delegate to Annual Conference, a member of the choir, handbells, and the Leadership Team.

She has been a study leader at **Mission u** for several years, including the upcoming **Mission u** this July.

Born and raised in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Sandra has taught high school English in several locations when she discovered that one could take teaching “on the road.” She started in the Pennsylvania public schools and taught there for 20 years.

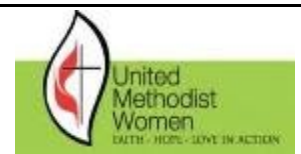
Sandra then became a Peace Corps volunteer and served for two years in Rabat and Oujda, Morocco, as a university teacher. From there, Sandra went to St. Croix, USVI, and taught in an independent school.

Moving on, she went to Denver, Colorado and taught in a Jewish academy. Sandra finally ended her career at IMG Academies in Bradenton, Florida having taught English at that facility for 11 years.

In retirement, apart from church and UMW, Sandra makes a couple of trips a year to Ounaminthe, Haiti, to volunteer at FONHARE (Foundation of Haitian Rehabilitation).



<p><u>JANUARY</u> <u>LOCAL UNIT OFFICERS TRAINING</u> January 27 Sebring First UMC Registration: 9-10 am Program: 10-2:30 pm Lunch: \$8</p>	<p><u>FEBRUARY</u> No District Activities Scheduled ***** *<u>MTM</u> February 17 Clewiston First UMC 10.00 am</p>	<p><u>MARCH</u> No District Activities Scheduled</p>	<p><u>APRIL</u> <u>SPIRITUAL GROWTH</u> April 28 First United Bradenton UMC Registration: 9-10 am Program: 10-2:00 pm Lunch: \$8 *<u>MTM</u> to follow</p>
<p><u>MAY</u> No District Activities Scheduled ***** *<u>MTM</u> May 12 Friendship Punta Gorda UMC 10:00 am</p>	<p><u>JUNE</u> No District Activities Scheduled</p>	<p><u>JULY</u> <u>MISSION u</u> July 12-15 Bethune-Cookman Daytona, FL For Scholarships contact District President</p>	<p><u>AUGUST</u> No District Activities Scheduled ***** *<u>MTM</u> August 4 Port Charlotte UMC 10:00 am</p>
<p><u>SEPTEMBER</u> <u>SOCIAL ACTION</u> <u>EVENT at ECHO</u> September 15 North Ft. Myers Time: TBD</p>	<p><u>OCTOBER</u> <u>ANNUAL MEETING</u> October 13 Cape Coral First UMC Registration: 9-10 am Program: 10-3 pm Lunch: \$8</p>	<p><u>NOVEMBER</u> <u>MISSION STUDY</u> November 10 Christ Venice UMC Registration: 9-10 am Program: 10-2:30 pm Lunch: \$8</p>	<p><u>DECEMBER</u> No District Activities Scheduled ***** *<u>MTM</u> December 4 Sarasota First UMC 10:00 am</p>



Mark Your Calendars
UPCOMING EVENTS



Communication

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

May 12, 2018

Friendship Punta Gorda UMC

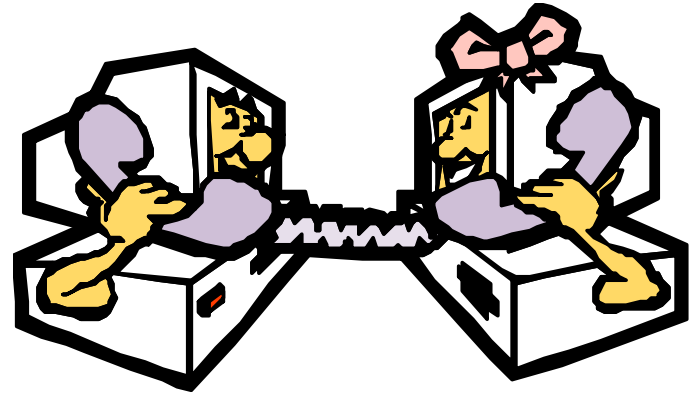
MTM—District Officers Only

July 12-15, 2018

Mission U

Bethune-Cookman

Daytona, FL



Please submit articles for our next Sojourner issue by the **25th** of the month. Send them to the 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

Treasurer's Reminder

Just a reminder to send in
your 1st quarter pledges to:

Phyllis Jackman

5317 Congo Court

Cape Coral FL 33904

Please submit by April 5th.

Thank you everyone!

Phyllis



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

www.southwestdistrictumw.com

www.facebook.com/southwestdistrictumw.com

