

**JUNE
2018**

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SOUTH WEST

DISTRICT SOJOURNER

UMW Publication Florida Conference

Greetings Sisters-in-Christ!

As we enter the summer season, let us celebrate the young people in our lives that have worked so hard to graduate and start to make decisions about their future. Recently I had the privilege of attending Assembly 2018 with Pamela Freeland and Sandy Segur and over 130 of our Florida Conference Sisters! We joined over 6000 women from around the world and were amazed and inspired to hear the stories of how ordinary women became **BOLD** and used their influence to fulfill the Purpose of United Methodist Women. We would like to invite each of you to be **BOLD** and to share your stories with us by sending them to me. We are in the planning stages right now for our Annual Meeting in October and would like to highlight some of them!

The Florida Annual Conference for the United Methodist Church is being held from June 6-9 at Florida Southern College in Lakeland. Please be in prayer for all those attending as they plan for the upcoming year. Pray also for all the churches who will be presenting VBS programs. These are important fun, learning sessions for not only those attending our Sunday Schools, but others in our communities for whom this may be their first-time hearing about Jesus!

Let us not forget our Fathers on Father's Day! As I read about the history of Father's Day, I learned that it has been celebrated since the Middle Ages on March 19 (my birthday!) which was the feast day of Saint Joseph, the "nourisher" of the Lord Jesus. After Mother's Day was made a legal holiday, many others tried to do the same for fathers, but it wasn't until 1966 when President Lyndon Johnson made a proclamation honoring fathers, designating the third Sunday in June as Father's Day. It was signed into law in 1972, by President Richard Nixon as a permanent National Holiday.

Finally, remember to send in your registrations for Mission u (July 12-15) by the June 30! After that the cost is \$10 more. The Adult registration is in this newsletter and children and youth forms are on our website at <http://www.southwestdistrictumw.com/>. This year you will only have one study to attend so there will be free time to attend other activities planned for you!

Blessings & Joy!

Mary Van Tol, President South West District



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.



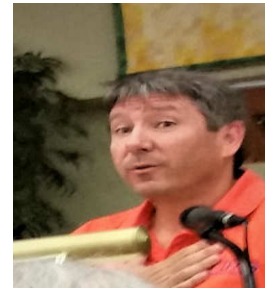
Units in Action

Christ UMC, Venice —April , 2018



CLIMATE JUSTICE - Speaker, Randy Penn; Devotions, Kathy Hinckley

The monthly Mission Program and luncheon on April 17 featured Randy Penn from the University Of Florida Extension Services on waste reduction and its impact on the climate.



WHAT CAN I DO? - Refuse plastic drinking straws & fast food Styrofoam Containers & cups. Recycle!



Esther Circle at Agape

AGAPE FLIGHTS [GREEK GODS' UNCONDITIONAL LOVE]

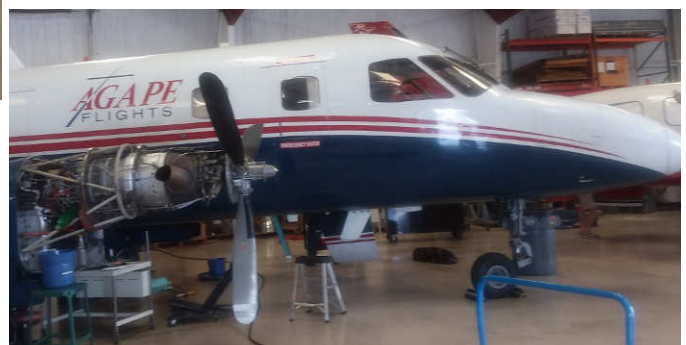
Founded 30 Years ago, each year AGAPE FLIGHTS touches the lives of more than 350 missions through it's affiliated missionaries who provide clean water, community health, education, evangelism, medical services, micro-enterprise, orphan care and vocational training. You can visit them at the Venice Airport.



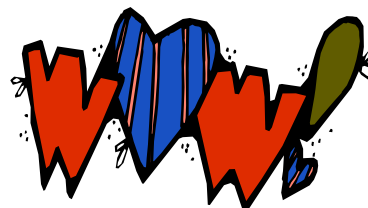
From Left: Elaine Hutter, Cheryl Whidden, Fay Borgeson , Marie Jones, Chris Cooper, Carol Anne ... Agape, Jean Jankowski, Carole Bonanno



Shipment to Haiti



Units in Action



This is a photo of Jean Henry (right) & Nancy Vanderwall (on left) at a boycott demonstration in Sarasota on May 6th . We went as long standing supporters of CIW and representatives of UMW. Coalition of Immokalee Workers has asked that the public boycott Wendy's in support of their wanting Wendy's corporation to sign the Fair Food Agreement.



United Methodist Women Online Treasure Hunt

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S QUESTIONS

- Q1 Where can you find a document titles, "Find United Methodist Women on the Web?"
A1. [Under downloadable forms > click on New Unit Kit.](#)
- Q2 Where can you find information about United Methodist Women Seminars?
A2. Unitedmethodistwomen.org/seminars
- Q3 Name one contact for the seminar programs.
A3. [Jay Godfrey](#) or [Chantilly Mers](#)
- Q4 Where would you find United Methodist Women groups or blogs?
A4. Umwonline.org
- Q5 Is the 2018 program book available for free download?
A5. [No, purchase only](#)
- Q6 Under what category will you find a link to download free materials?
A6. unitedmethodistwomen.org > [Membership Resources](#)
- Q7 What types of maps can you find on www.unitedmethodistwomen.org?
A7. [Mission Maps](#)
- Q8 Where can you find the online registration for Assembly 2018?
A8. unitedmethodistwomen.org > [Assembly](#)
- Q9 Where can you find PowerPoint and other UMW templates?
A9. unitedmethodistwomen.org /[logos](#) or [under "Members & Leaders"](#)
- Q10 Where can you find information on planning a UMW service?
A10. [Under unitedmethodistwomen.org > What We Do > Spiritual Growth](#) or [under Members & Leaders/worship services](#)

How did you do?

CONGRATULATIONS



Upcoming District Events

Mission u—July 12—15, 2018 Daytona, FL
Forms are now available. Contact your Unit
President. Scholarships are available from
the District, contact Mary Van Tol, SW Dis-
trict President for more information.

Florida Conference United Methodist Women
Spiritual Enrichment Retreat—September 7—9, 2018

Sacred Spaces

Retreat Leader: Rev. Vidalis Lopez, Associate Pastor
First United Methodist Church, Coral Gables, FL

Location: Life Enrichment Center, 4991 Picciola Road, Fruitland Park, FL



Upcoming Unit Events

Echo Farms—September 15, 2018 North Fort Myers, FL

This Social Action event is not to be missed. ECHO's purpose is to help those who are teaching farmers around the world. In 35 years of assisting development workers around the world, ECHO has become the "go-to" organization for challenges faced by individuals and organizations. More information to follow.





UNITED METHODIST WOMEN READING PROGRAM Book Club

JOIN IN ANY TIME! Shed light on your life and love perspective through the Reading Program!

*Come to my house at 11am, Saturday, June 16th for a group discussion of our spring read – **Trouble I've Seen**. Bring a sandwich. Drinks and desert will be provided.*

Upcoming: Summer – *A House In The Sky* – 6/21/2018 Fall – *Adventure of Ascent* – 9/22/2018
Book Club Sign up at District Events or on our website: www.southwestdistrictumw.com

This summer we are reading *A House in the Sky* by Amanda Lindhout and Sara Corbett. All of the questions for discussion will be emailed the week of the 21st of June and we will gather at my house Saturday, August 11th for our discussion.

A New York Times Notable Book - *A House in the Sky*

At the age of nineteen, working as a cocktail waitress, Amanda Lindhout began saving her tips so she could travel the globe. Aspiring to understand the world and live a significant life, she backpacked through Latin America, Laos, and India. Emboldened by each adventure, she went on to Sudan, Syria, and war-ridden Afghanistan and Iraq, where she carved out a fledgling career as a television reporter. And then, in August 2008, she traveled to Somalia – “the most dangerous place on earth.” On her fourth day, she was abducted by a group of masked men along a dusty road. Held hostage for 460 days, Amanda survives on memory – every lush detail of the world she experienced in her life before captivity – and on strategy, fortitude and hope. When she is most desperate, she visits a house in the sky, high above the woman kept in chains, in the dark.

Vivid and suspenseful, as artfully written as the finest novel, *A House in the Sky* is the searingly intimate story of an intrepid young woman and her search for compassion in the face of unimaginable adversity.

“This is one of the most powerfully written books I have ever read...beautiful, devastating and heroic.” Elizabeth Gilbert, author of *Eat, Pray, Love* and *The Signature of All Things*.

Sandy Segur, Secretary Program Resources, SW District



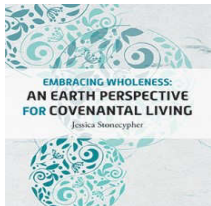


PROGRAM RESOURCES

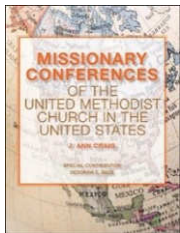
Reminder: Reading Program Plan Reports DUE the end of July – Update your 2017-2018 Plan listing and turn it in to your Program Resource Secretary! Put your summer reads on a new Plan listing for 2018-2019!

Special Notice: You shop. Amazon gives. Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your **eligible** – our Reading Program Books – Amazon Smile purchases to United Methodist Women. **Start your shopping at smile.amazon.com** Once you generate a donation for United Methodist Women, you'll see the amount to date they've received from everyone!

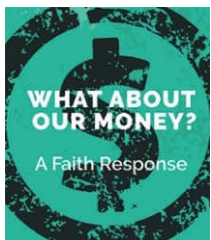
2018 Mission Studies: Even if you are not able to attend Mission u, these studies are a “must read” for your United Methodist Women journey! Registration form next page.



Spiritual Growth Mission Study: Embracing Wholeness: An Earth Perspective for Covenantal Living



Geographic Mission Study 2017 – 2018: Missionary Conferences of the United Methodist Church in the United States



Issue Mission Study: What About Our Money?

Sandy Segur, Secretary Program Resources, SW District
479 Northview Street, Port Charlotte, FL 33954
941-249-8726 sandyrsegur@gmail.com

Summer – A Perfect Time To Read!



FLORIDA CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN
'MISSION u' ADULT REGISTRATION FORM
July 12 – July 15, 2018, Bethune-Cookman University, Daytona Beach, Florida
Please fill out carefully and completely – Please print legibly – No lunch on Sunday

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ E-mail: _____

City _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____ Home phone _____

Name of Church: _____ City: _____ District: _____

First time attendee ___ Attending a college or university ___ Age group 18-35 ___ 36-50 ___ 51-70 ___ 71+ ___

Laity ___ Clergy ___ Missionary ___ Deaconess ___ Member/United Methodist Women ___

District or Conference Officer? ___ Your Office _____

HOUSING: Female ___ Male ___ Couple ___ Choice of Roommate _____
 Roommates must send in registration forms together

Physical/Disability Needs: 1st floor room ___ Wheelchair accessible ___ Wheelchair accessible shower ___

EMERGENCY INFO (Must be completed):

Physician _____
 Name _____ Phone Number _____

Insurance/Policy # _____ Allergies, medical concerns, health/dietary needs _____

This year we are offering only one class. Please select class and indicate 1st or 2nd choice of Study Leader.

Health & Wholeness (Covenant Living Part 2): Dea. Sandra Barton _____ Jackie Bridges _____ Rev. Luc Dessieux (C) _____ Dr. Gwendolyn Dixon _____ Rev. Joseph Kim (K) _____ Linda Parrish _____ Dea. Marie Rivera (S) _____ Rev. Dr. Laticia Scriven _____	What About Our Money: Joyce Waldon Bright _____ Sandi Goodman _____ Dea. Ruth Jean-Pierre (C) _____ Dr. Lorraine Mayfield-Brown _____ Dea. Mary Melvin _____ Rev Ana Andujar Velez (S) _____ Rev. Dr. Dianne Davis (Y) _____	The Missionary Conference of the United Methodist Church in the United States: Danny Davis _____ Legend: (C) Creole (K) Korean (S) Spanish (Y) Youth
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Sign language needed ___ Interpreter ___ What language _____

T-shirts: \$10/each: Please circle size: S M LG XL 2X 3X 4X 5X Number: _____ **Saturday is T-shirt day.**

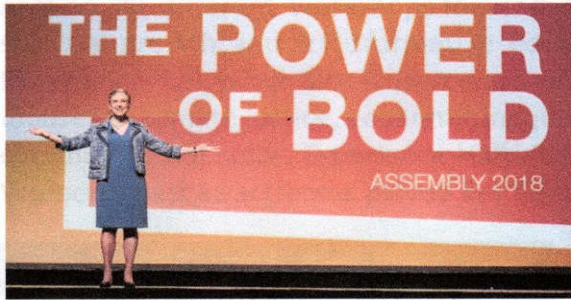
Fees:	Postmarked by June 30	after June 30	Postmarked by June 30	after June 30
	Rooms/Meals \$200.00	\$210.00	Commuter \$50.00	\$60.00

REFUNDS: Will be made by written request only and must be submitted to the registrar by July 5, 2018.

MAIL registration and check, payable to **Florida Conference United Methodist Women Mission u**, to: Gertrude J. Stewart, 17037 NW 66th Court, Hialeah, FL 33015-4641. Phone: (305) 825-7506, email: gjarrett38@aol.com.

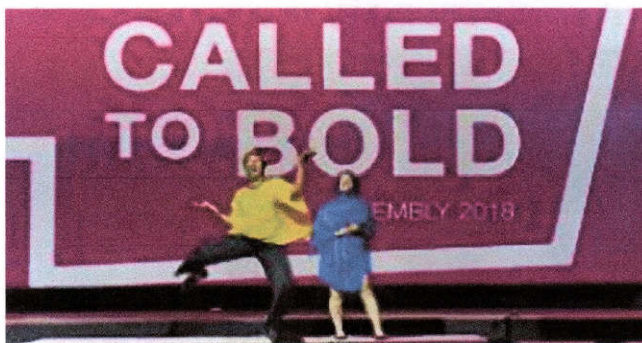
MISSION PROJECT: This year we will be collecting gift cards from Publix and/or Amazon for Wesley House Family Services. Checks payable to Wesley House Family Services will be accepted.

REPORT ON ASSEMBLY 2018



More than 6,000 United Methodist Women members and supporters gathered in Columbus, Ohio, May 18-20, for the 2018 United Methodist Women Assembly with the theme “The Power of Bold.”

Hundreds of women came a day early to participate in an Ubuntu Day of Service, volunteering in the Columbus community. Many more partnered service with advocacy at a rally at the Ohio Statehouse calling for a living wage for all, partnering with 14 local Columbus-area organizations.



The Scripture focus for Assembly 2018 was the story of Mary, Mother of Jesus. Telling the story throughout the weekend were dancers Alexandria “Brinae Ali” Bradley and Dolores Sanchez, joined by spoken word artist Summer Dawn Reyes.

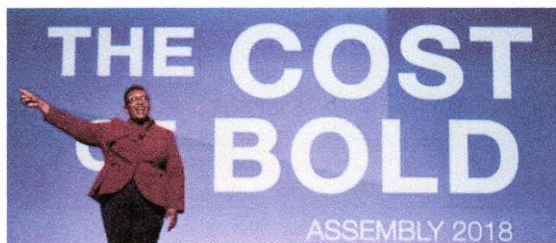
This historic Assembly brought Methodist women in mission back to Columbus, site of the first Methodist women’s Assembly in 1942. It was also the official celebration of 150 years of Methodist women in mission, as United Methodist Women marks 150 years in March 2019. In honor of the bold women that came before and to the bold women to come, the 2018 Assembly offering went to support the Legacy Fund Endowment.



Assembly attendees heard from Climate Scientist Katharine Hayhoe, Nobel Laureate Leymah Gbowee, Children’s Defense Fund President Marian Wright Edelman and *The New Jim Crow* author Michelle Alexander, and young women activists Tamika Mallory, national co-organizer of the Women’s March, and United Methodist pastor the Rev. Hannah Bonner.

Source: <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/news/assembly-2018>

Around 90 different workshops focused on leadership development, service and advocacy, spiritual growth and transformative education, and over 50 exhibitors filled the Assembly Experience Hall, which also featured action stations on United Methodist Women’s social justice focuses of climate justice, economic inequality, maternal and child health and criminalization of communities of color. Experience Hall visitors also heard from women from United Methodist Women’s past as actresses played key figures in mission history in the 150th Journey exhibit.



“We assemble because we must,” said Alisha Gordon, United Methodist Women executive for spiritual growth, during Friday morning’s opening worship. “We gather, and collect, and congregate and convene. We meet, and we rally. We construct, and we build, because we must.”

Because women, children and youth are depending on us.

Join us at the next United Methodist Women’s Assembly **May 20-22, 2022, in Orlando, Florida.**



BOLD Action!
Reverend
Denise Sawyer,
Chaplain from
Cape Coral
Hospital

Florida
Conference



Source: <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/news/assembly-2018>



Alliance for Fair Food

Dear UMW friends,

It was great to meet you all at the United Methodist Women Assembly last week! What a gathering. Our Immokalee delegation was impressed and inspired by all of the wonderful speakers, and by the conviction of all the **bold!** UMW members we met.

Thank you for signing the petition for Wendy's executives ahead of their June 5 shareholder meeting in Dublin, OH. We wanted to follow-up with our contact info and with information about the CIW and the [Wendy's Boycott](#).

CALLS TO ACTION:

- Are you attending Mission U this year? Make sure to sign and collect postcards for Wendy's Board Chair Nelson Peltz and CEO Todd Penegor!
- This Labor Day Sunday (Sep. 2), highlight the contributions and struggles of our farmworker sisters and brothers, and get together with your UMW unit and congregation members to organize a demonstration at your local Wendy's restaurant. It can be as simple as getting together a delegation to deliver a message to the Wendy's manager! Keep an eye out on the [Alliance for Fair Food](#) email list for the resource guide with prayers, reflections, action pointers, and more!
- [Become a Fair Food Sustainer!](#) Commit a monthly contribution to ensure the that our work for farmworker justice and a harvest without violence can continue to grow.

RESOURCES:

I'm also attaching a couple backgrounders on the Wendy's Boycott ([more resources here](#)) and the Publix campaign, and including a couple very informative links below. **Please share these on social media and with your organizations/networks.**

"Meet the Farmworkers Leading the #MeToo Fight For Workers Everywhere," <https://civileats.com/2018/05/21/meet-the-farmworkers-leading-the-metoo-fight-for-workers-everywhere/>

NYC Human Rights Commission invites CIW to join panel of "international and national figures in the fight against sexual harassment and gender equity," <http://ciw-online.org/blog/2018/05/nycchr-panel-sexual-harassment/>

We look forward to seeing you again soon. Reach out to us if you're interested in more ways to get involved!

Peace and grace,

Uriel Perez and Patricia Cipollitti
Alliance for Fair Food
305 305 1212



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

*MTM = Mission Team Meeting, District Officers Only

UPCOMING *Mark Your Calendars* **EVENTS**

July 12-15, 2018

Mission u

Bethune-Cookman
Daytona, FL

August 4, 2018

MTM (District Officers Only)

Port Charlotte UMC
10:00 am

September 7—9, 2018

Spiritual Enrichment Retreat

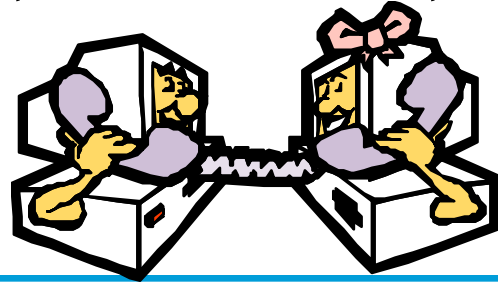
Life Enrichment Center
4991 Picciola Rd, Fruitland Park

September 15, 2018

Social Action Event

ECHO
North Ft. Myers
TBD

Communication



Submit articles for our next Sojourner issue by the **20th** of the month. Send to the Communications Coordinator listed below. Please include your unit location and church name with all articles. No articles in all caps. All Unit activities are welcome for submission. Digital photos are preferred. Please identify persons in the photo.

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 2nd quarter pledges to:

Phyllis Jackman

5317 Congo Court

Cape Coral FL 33904

Please submit by July 5th.

Thank you everyone!

239-848-6484

Thank You!

Roberta Swords has decided to step down as Secretary due to health issues, but will remain on the District Team as Nominations Class of 2018. Please send in any officer changes of address, phone or e-mail to Mary Van Tol at maryvantol.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

