

**SUMMER  
2018**

**SOUTH WEST  
DISTRICT OFFICERS**

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VACANT**

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**WEBSITE**

Southwestdistrictumw.com

# SOUTH WEST DISTRICT SOJOURNER UMW Publication Florida Conference

Wow, can you believe summer is in full swing and many of us are enjoying visiting with families and summer vacations? When my children were growing up we went on many camping trips. We enjoyed the outdoor activities that always went along with that. What I enjoyed along with that was meeting other people from different parts of the country and listening to their stories about their families, jobs, general interests. As I was reading the July/August "response" magazine I saw the message from our National United Methodist Women President, Shannon Priddy. She reminds us that "summer is a time for spiritual growth, reflection and transformational opportunities with Mission u." She further goes on to say, "as women of God, our faith does not take a break." I agree, we may not have regular meetings or programs in the summer, but we still see and interact with other people.

Some of the suggestions she had included talking about our ideas and passions with people we meet each day. If you are camping or at the beach or even on a cruise, you could bring along a United Methodist Reading Plan book and recommend it to someone you meet. I hope if you attended Mission u you were able to sit with someone new and share what your Unit and/or Circle does to fulfill our Purpose.

Speaking of Mission u, I was wowed by the number of "first timers" to Mission u this year. We had nine from our South West District alone! I hope they all felt it was an awesome experience and will take back the lessons they learned to their Units and share the ways we have learned to live in balance and peace with our families, friends, neighbors and all those around us. The theme this year was "Transforming Grace" and in the "Embracing Wholeness..." Mission Study we learned that "Life comes from soil, is sustained by soil and finally returns to soil." Our mission is to learn how to live in right relationship in community with the Earth. "What About our Money..." was a faith perspective to how we can help our economy get back in balance, so we can stop "Affluenza," the constant buying and accumulating of things that we don't necessarily need, but feel we must have, causing an imbalanced way of living which has caused the middle class to shrink and our country to become one of haves and have-nots. Learning how having a "living wage" rather than a "minimum wage" can transform lives of those at risk today in our society.

Finally, I would like to remind you that we have two special upcoming events in September. The Florida Conference **Spiritual Growth Retreat** "Sacred Spaces" at the Life Enrichment Center, 4991 Picciola Rd., Fruitland Park takes place from September 7-9. Rev. Vidalis Lopez, Assoc. Pastor of the First United Methodist Church in Coral Gables will be the keynote speaker. The Youth Leader will be Kenya Monroe. See the enclosed form for registration fees. A limited number of scholarships are available. Call or email me before August 19<sup>th</sup>.

Also on **September 15<sup>th</sup>** our District will tour **ECHO** (<https://www.echonet.org/>) to find out how for the past 36 years they have been teaching people from around the world better ways to grow food for their communities in our ever changing world with the goal of eliminating hunger throughout. This will be a half day event you shouldn't miss!

I leave you with this thought, "The Lord God planted a garden in Eden in the east and put there the human he had formed." Genesis 2:8. Now what will you do?

Blessings,  
Mary Van Tol  
President, South West District

*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.*



Florida Conference



**Spiritual Enrichment Retreat  
September 7 – 9, 2018**

**Life Enrichment Center  
4991 Picciola Rd., Fruitland Park**

# **Sacred Spaces**

Then you will live a life that honors the Lord, and you will always please him by doing good deeds. You will come to know God even better.

Colossians 1:10 (CEV)

Graphic from United Methodist Women Program Book 2017-2018

**Retreat Leader: Rev. Vidalis Lopez**

Associate Pastor, First United Methodist Church,  
Coral Gables

**Youth Leader: Kenya Monroe**





**Spiritual Enrichment Retreat Registration Form**  
**Sept. 7-9, 2018**  
**Life Enrichment Center**  
**4991 Picciola Road, Fruitland Park, FL 34731**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
 As you would like it on your name tag Cell Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_ District: \_\_\_\_\_

- \$145** for room and meals (Friday dinner – Sunday breakfast) Double occupancy.
- \$185** for room and meals (Friday dinner – Sunday breakfast) Single occupancy
- \$75** for room and meals (Saturday lunch – Sunday breakfast) Double occupancy
- \$95** for room and meals (Saturday lunch – Sunday breakfast) Single occupancy
- \$40** for Commuter (Saturday lunch, dinner and day fee)
- \$75** for Youth

Make checks payable to: **Florida Conference United Methodist Women.**

A limited number of Scholarships are available. Check with your district president. Scholarship deadline is Aug. 10. Include Registration form with scholarship application.

Please indicate if interested in the **Craft Class** \_\_\_\_\_ A \$3 fee will be collected at Registration. (Class size limited to first 25 requests. Registrar will advise.)

Registration Deadline: Aug. 19 Check-in begins on Friday, Sept. 7 at 3:00 P.M.  
 Choice of Roommate: \_\_\_\_\_

Physical Disability Housing Needs (1st floor, Handicapped) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Do you need wheelchair access? \_\_\_\_\_ Do you need an interpreter for the hearing impaired? \_\_\_\_\_ Do you need a language interpreter? \_\_\_ Language? \_\_\_\_\_

In case of emergency, please notify:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relation: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Physician: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Insurance Carrier: \_\_\_\_\_ Policy #: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Allergies or Medical Concerns: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Health/Dietary Needs/Other \_\_\_\_\_

Childcare Needed? \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Children \_\_\_\_\_ Ages: \_\_\_\_\_

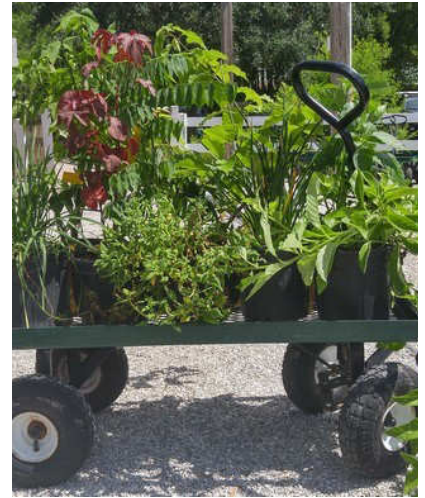
**Send to Registrar:** Ethel Ewing, 823 Lakeside Ct, Lakeland, FL 33815.  
 Phone: 863-680-4072 Home 863 370-8757 Cell Email: ethelewing@msn.com

Southwest District United Methodist Women  
Social Action Event

September 15, 2018

ECHO Farms

17391 Durrance Road  
North Fort Myers, Fl  
10:00 am



Tours are *walking tours*, however special accommodations can be made for those with mobility challenges. Please arrive at least 15 minutes before the tour.

Recommendations for Visitors: Should have a refillable water bottle,  
Should wear sunglasses &/ a visor or hat,  
Should wear comfortable, closed walking shoe's  
May want to use sunscreen,  
Please, use insect repellent,  
MUST NOT pick/eat anything on the Farm unless invited.

**\$10.50 pre-regisration is required.** Please register through your Unit Treasurer by September 7. Please complete a Global Farm Tour Registration form for which ECHO requires each individual to sign. (Each church could use one form. Individual signatures required.) You can print a copy or your Unit treasurer will be able to print a copy of the form for you to sign when you register.

**Directions:**

Take exit 143 (old 26) off I-75. Go 1 mile east on Bayshore Road (Rt. 78). Turn left on Durrance Road at the prominent ECHO sign. Turn in at the second left to park.

Visit ECHO at [www.echonet.org](http://www.echonet.org)



**UNITED METHODIST WOMEN  
SOUTH WEST DISTRICT**

Florida Conference

Pamela Freeland, District Vice President

Phone: 701-361-7973

Email: [pamelafreeland.umw@gmail.com](mailto:pamelafreeland.umw@gmail.com)

Website: [www.southwestdistrictumw.com](http://www.southwestdistrictumw.com)

July 23, 2018

Dear All United Methodist Women:

Blessings to my sisters of the South West District! Our next 2018 District event is scheduled for September 15, 2018 at ECHO Global Farm in Fort Myers. Located near I-75, just minutes from historic downtown Fort Myers, the ECHO Global Farm is one of Southwest Florida's top tourist destinations. As noted on their website, ECHO's Global Farm Tour is:

*"a fascinating guided, walking tour of the most creative working farm you have ever experienced. Along the way you will find unique demonstrations, plants, and techniques useful to farmers and urban gardeners in developing countries. Experience the seven settings of the Global Farm which feature crops, techniques, and animals from around the world. Goats, chickens, ducks, fish and rabbits are all found on our farm; and ECHO is home to one of the largest collections of tropical food plants in the United States. You won't want to miss the demonstrations in our Urban Garden, a perennial favorite, which features some wacky, yet effective ways to grow crops where there is little or no soil."*

Please join us!!!

September 15, 2018

ECHO Global Farm Tour

17391 Durrance Road -- North Fort Myers, FL 33917

Tour: \$10.50

10am to noon

**\$10.50 pre-registration is required.** Please register through your Unit Treasurer by September 7. I've also attached a Global Farm Tour Registration form for which ECHO requires each individual to sign. (Each church could use one form. Individual signatures required.) You can print a copy or your Unit treasurer will be able to print a copy of the form for you to sign when you register.

Please note there will be a golf cart available for any who should not walk the whole tour. They also ask that all visitors have a refillable water bottle, closed walking shoes, sunscreen, and mosquito repellent.

The tour will be completed by noon. You may bring a lunch if you desire (we have access to a large screened in area until 2pm) or may leave for lunch at a local restaurant! There will not be an additional program after the tour.

Your attendance will be appreciated for this fascinating event! Please share this letter and attachments and encourage your United Methodist Women members and any non-member guests to attend.

Blessings always,  
Pamela Freeland



United  
Methodist  
Women

FAITH · HOPE · LOVE IN ACTION

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.



**UNITED METHODIST WOMEN—SOUTH WEST DISTRICT**

Florida Conference

Pamela Freeland, District Vice President

Phone: 701-361-7973

Email: [pamelafreeland.umw@gmail.com](mailto:pamelafreeland.umw@gmail.com)

Website: [www.southwestdistrictumw.com](http://www.southwestdistrictumw.com)

**Dear Unit Treasurers:**

The South West District will meet Saturday, September 15, 2018, at **ECHO Global Farms in Fort Myers**. **As Unit treasurer, we are asking for your assistance in coordinating reservations for your Unit and collecting the \$10.50 per person to cover the tour fee and the signed registration form ECHO requires.**

Please send the Reservation Form below, the check to cover the tour, and the ECHO registration form signed by registrants by Friday, September 7, 2018 to:

**Phyllis Jackman  
5317 Congo Court  
Cape Coral, FL 33904  
239-848-6484**

Please contact Phyllis with any questions regarding registration. Joyce Shelso (941-525-7094), South West District Social Action Coordinator, is the program coordinator for this event and is also available for questions.

Blessings always,  
Pamela Freeland

**South West District United Methodist Women  
Registration Form  
September 15 ECHO Farm Tour Event  
Please mail by September 7, 2018**

Name of Church Unit \_\_\_\_\_

Number of registrants for the tour \_\_\_\_\_

Enclose a check for tour reservations at \$10.50/person in the total amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(Make checks payable to South West District United Methodist Women)

Enclose the registration form ECHO requires with signatures of registrants from your church. Please make additional copies of the form if needed to accommodate your number of registrants.

**SEND TO:**

**Phyllis Jackman  
5317 Congo Court  
Cape Coral, FL 33904  
941-792-0367**





**Please Print—One per Household**

Mr. and Mrs. Mr. Mrs. Ms. Dr. Rev. (Please Circle)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Apt \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ DOB \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Seasonal/Alternate Address

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Apt \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Dates this address used \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

**Every individual must sign the Safety Agreement before going on the tour. ECHO will never share your information.**

- I understand that I take this tour at my own risk and will not pick or eat any fruit or leaf unless offered to me by the tour guide.
- I will not hold ECHO responsible for falls, animal or insect bites, allergic reactions, lightning strikes, or injuries caused by my own medications or medical conditions.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Sign \_\_\_\_\_ Print \_\_\_\_\_

Sign \_\_\_\_\_ Print \_\_\_\_\_

Sign \_\_\_\_\_ Print \_\_\_\_\_

Sign \_\_\_\_\_ Print \_\_\_\_\_



**Please Print—One per Household**

Mr. and Mrs. Mr. Mrs. Ms. Dr. Rev. (Please Circle)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Apt \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ DOB \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Seasonal/Alternate Address

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Apt \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Dates this address used \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

**Every individual must sign the Safety Agreement before going on the tour. ECHO will never share your information.**

- I understand that I take this tour at my own risk and will not pick or eat any fruit or leaf unless offered to me by the tour guide.
- I will not hold ECHO responsible for falls, animal or insect bites, allergic reactions, lightning strikes, or injuries caused by my own medications or medical conditions.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Sign \_\_\_\_\_ Print \_\_\_\_\_

Sign \_\_\_\_\_ Print \_\_\_\_\_

Sign \_\_\_\_\_ Print \_\_\_\_\_

Sign \_\_\_\_\_ Print \_\_\_\_\_

# Florida Conference



**Forty-fifth  
Conference Annual Meeting  
November 3, 2018  
10:00 AM – 4:00 PM  
Registration begins at 9:00 AM**

## “Sacred Spaces”

*Then you will live a life that honors the Lord, and you will always please him by doing good deeds. You will come to know God even better.*  
Colossians 1:10 (CEV)

**Special Guest: Julie Taylor**  
Executive Director, National Farm Worker Ministry  
Raleigh, North Carolina

**First United Methodist Church  
72 Lake Morton Drive  
Lakeland, FL 33801**





**FLORIDA CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**  
**FORTY FOURTH CONFERENCE ANNUAL MEETING**  
First United Methodist Church, 72 Lake Morton Dr, Lakeland, FL 33801  
November 3, 2018 – 10:00 AM. – 4:00 PM

**“Sacred Spaces”**

Please complete the REGISTRATION FORM for CONFERENCE ANNUAL MEETING and **mail to reach the Registrar no later than October 15, 2018. All attending must register.** Please send each individual registration on a separate form (form may be duplicated). If registration is for more than one person, please attach all forms to the check. The registration of \$25.00 includes meeting and lunch. The **REGISTRATION FEE OF \$12.00 IS FOR THE MEETING ONLY (NO LUNCH)**. On-site registration is available. If you register on-site, you will not be able to have lunch at the church. We need a count for lunch by the **15th of October**. Make check payable to **Florida Conference United Methodist Women**.

Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. on the day of the meeting in the sanctuary lobby. There will be no refunds for cancellations after October 15, 2018.

**FREE CHILD CARE** will be made available beginning at 9:00 AM at the church. If needed, please indicate on the registration form. Advance reservations necessary.

Be sure YOUR NAME IS PRINTED ON THE FORM AS YOU WOULD LIKE IT ON YOUR NAME TAG. **Send the registration form** Ewing, 823 Lakeside Ct. Lakeland, FL 33815 TN# 863-680-4072 Home 863 370-8757 Cell  
E-mail: [ethelewing@msn.com](mailto:ethelewing@msn.com). Be sure to use **Conference Annual Meeting** in the subject box.

**FLORIDA CONFERENCE ANNUAL MEETING 2018**

Reg # \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ (H) (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ (C)

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

In case of emergency notify: \_\_\_\_\_ Relation \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name, area code, phone number)

Physician: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Insurance Carrier: \_\_\_\_\_ Policy# \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies or Medical Concerns: \_\_\_\_\_ Health/Dietary Needs \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail** \_\_\_\_\_ **District** \_\_\_\_\_ **Local Unit** \_\_\_\_\_ **City** \_\_\_\_\_

Check all that apply: Conference/District Officer \_\_\_\_\_ Current 2018 Local Unit President \_\_\_\_\_ Local Unit Member \_\_\_\_\_  
Bishop \_\_\_\_\_ Deaconess/Missionary \_\_\_\_\_ Pastor \_\_\_\_\_ District Superintendent \_\_\_\_\_ Member of Conference CON \_\_\_\_\_  
Member of District CON \_\_\_\_\_ Alternate, replacing Local President as a voting delegate \_\_\_\_\_ Visitor \_\_\_\_\_

Child Care Needed \_\_\_\_\_ Ages of Children: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

Request: Signing for hearing impaired \_\_\_\_\_ Need language translation (language) \_\_\_\_\_

**Enclosed:** \_\_\_\_\_ **\$25.00 (meeting and lunch)** \_\_\_\_\_ **\$12.00 (meeting only)**



# Units in Action



## Good Shepherd United Methodist Women, North Fort Myers, FL.

Every year, the Good Shepherd United Methodist Women in North Fort Myers turn a weekend marked nationally by massive consumer consumption into a local weekend of caring. The group of about 20 women have held an annual “Souper Bowl of Caring” on the weekend of the Super Bowl, to benefit the Harry Chapin Food Bank, since 2008. They stand at the church doors at 2951 Trail Dairy Circle as people exit after each service, and collect donations for the food bank in large soup pots.

They are an example of the many donors to the food bank who show their support year after year in smaller ways that make a big impact. They include various clubs, church or community groups, school groups, small businesses and others. Their continuing support is priceless.

The Souper Bowl of Caring is actually a nationwide movement started back in 1990 by a church youth group. “They prayed that we’d be mindful of those without a bowl of soup to eat on that day,” said Beth Ferris, social action officer for the Good Shepherd United Methodist Women, who coordinates the Souper Bowl of Caring. Eventually the movement expanded nationwide to include schools, businesses and other groups, she said. They each hold an event in the weeks or days leading up to the Super Bowl, then give 100 percent of their donations to a chosen local charity.

“Everyone has so many snacks and things on Super Bowl Sunday, we were thinking about food for the hungry, and couldn’t we do something on that day for people who are hungry,” Ferris said.

“Snacks and things” is an understatement. The National Retail Federation’s annual survey showed spending on the 2018 Super Bowl was expected to exceed \$15 billion in food, beverages, team apparel and accessories. In the meantime, the total raised by the 2018 Souper Bowl of Caring was \$18.1 million, through the efforts of 3,719 different groups.

At Good Shepherd United Methodist Church, they raised \$1,420 for the Harry Chapin Food Bank. They know their efforts make a difference. “We’re small but we’re mighty,” said Lois Jean Wood, a member and past president of the women’s group.

During the church service, information about the Harry Chapin Food Bank and who it serves is provided to the congregation, and information about the food bank is also in the church’s newsletter.

“I’m sure (the congregation) are more aware of what Harry Chapin is doing because of this collection,” Wood said. “I think we generate the enthusiasm and the congregation generates the cash,” Wood said.

In the 11 years the group has been contributing the proceeds from Souper Bowl Sunday to the food bank, they have raised about \$13,760, Ferris said. In 2014, the nearby Sunseekers RV Park Church began adding to the church’s donation to the food bank. “One of Good Shepherd’s members conducts the service at the park and they wanted to help the Harry Chapin Food Bank also,” Ferris said.

Submitted by Beth Ferris  
(See pictures on next page)



## Good Shepherd United Methodist Women, North Fort Myers, FL.



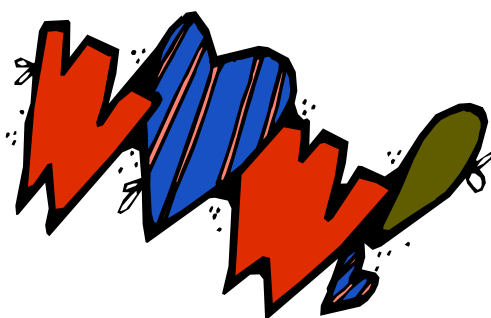
Beth Ferris, Linda Lane, Joyce Jacobs( from the food bank), Joan Bowsby, Jackie Morton, Lois Jean Wood, and Shirley Smalley



Beth Ferris and Lois Jean Wood

# Sarasota Trinity UMW

Last December, Trinity Sarasota UMW honored one of our UMW members who turned 100 Dec. 15th, 2017. Jerry Marshall has been a Pastor's wife (husband was also a DS), raised two children and has numerous grand children and great grands too. She has been an active member of UMW all her life. She still attends all Trinity UMW meetings and Hannah Circle regularly, is at church every Sunday, attends bible study, lives in her own home and is sharp as can be. She often does the devotions at meetings for us! She is an amazing woman and certainly a tribute to UMW with her long life of serving, her generosity and her beautiful smile and happy disposition.



# Assembly 2018

## My Experiences

Here is an article from Sherrill Carr about Assembly

May 18th - 20th, I attended my first UMW Assembly in Columbus Ohio. What an experience! Every woman should have this experience at least once. Just singing Blessed Assurance with 6000 women was an experience in itself.

Some highlights for me were amazing speakers, informative workshops, great displays and information, and wonderful worship and music! Being with so many of my UMW sisters from all over the US and the world showed how inclusive United Methodist women are! My experience was made especially comfortable and fun thank to my roommates. Shelley Davidson (former President from our District) and Jeanine Christian (former DP from North Central District)....they made my time at Assembly exceptional!

But most inspiring to me from Assembly is that each and every one of us can make a difference...like our fore mothers did 150 years ago. I attended workshops to learn ways to reach out to the younger generation of women to come and join us in our mission.

I came home with many ideas but one thought is important to note: We need to get as many women (especially young women) to the next assembly in 2022 - which is in Orlando!!! Assembly inspires women....and shows the amazing work that over 800,000 members are able to accomplish, and is a key way that we can support one another and grow our membership.

I am going to begin a special fund in my Unit for my ladies to begin contributing to regularly over the next 4 years...so that we will be able to send some of our younger women at my church to Assembly next time. If we pick up some of the cost, it certainly would make attendance more accessible to them. And being in Orlando lessens the travel expense considerably. So I invite other units to consider doing this also. I may personally begin saving over the next four years so I can go and also invite and pay for another woman to go with me.

Blessings,  
Sherill Car, UMW President, Trinity Sarasota

# Assembly 2018

## My Experiences

Meet Jalen Lawson, District Secretary Program Resources - Western North Carolina Conference! We actually sat together on the plane to Columbus, Ohio - thank you Lord. That was my introduction to just how amazing and inspiring **The Power of BOLD - Assembly 2018** was going to be. Every aspect of the Power of Bold event was confirmation of God's plan for United Methodist Women all over the world for the coming four years. You will see many references to this incredible event - heads up, you don't want to miss the next one. As one speaker put it: "we are bigger than the NRA and WE ARE GOING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!" Start planning for the 2022 Assembly to be in Orlando! Awesome Lord! Start a jar of your spare change for your **total United Methodist Women Experience!**

Sandy Segur, District Secretary Program Resources



# Mission u Highlights and Photos

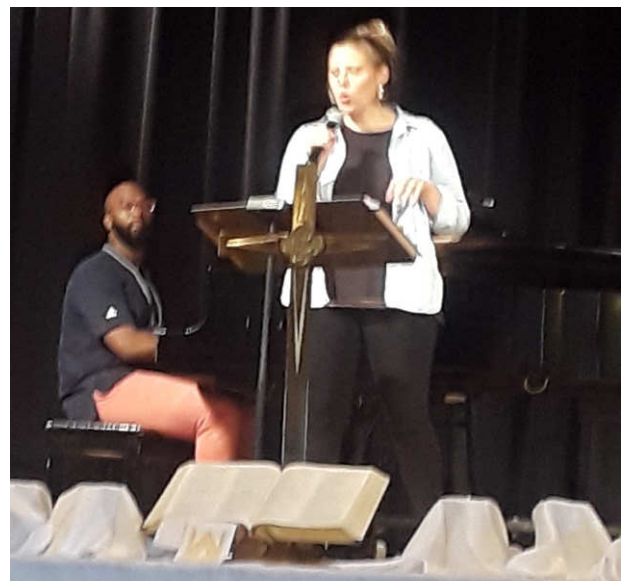


In the Chapel, every morning, singing and announcements!

Song Leader, Emily and Pianist, Brandon



Talent Show, singing are Ruth and Alecia , daughters of Magdala Edmond. They were a great hit!



Next years Mission u Committee



**Mission u – Reflection:** July, 14<sup>th</sup>, Saturday morning, just at dawn looking out over the court yard at Bethune-Cookman University I read the following devotion for that very day from “For the Beauty of the Earth: Daily Devotions Exploring Creation” featuring watercolor paintings by Kathrin Burleson:

“Use your peripheral vision,” our Tai chi instructor tells us. We need to be aware of each other’s movements in order to achieve a smooth and continuous pace through the form. This is what birds do, he explains, when they fly in a flock – each one is aware of the birds on either side so they move in perfect unison.

You have watched videos of – or perhaps seen in real life – clouds of birds that appear seemingly out of nowhere, wheeling, swooping, soaring, diving – great streamers of birds sweeping across the sky in perfectly choreographed dances.

The entrancing movements of a murmuration of starlings, or flocks of other migrating birds, involve more than simple eye contact. Scientists think that two factors make the birds’ coordinated movements possible. The first is each bird’s ability to sense quickly the movements of other birds. The second is a constant transfer of leadership – as a lead bird becomes tired, the bird drops back and another takes the place in front.

As the Body of Christ, we are Jesus’ flock, and we too need the ability to move in the world as a single organism. We can learn from the birds to be intensely aware of our sisters and brothers, sensing the direction of their movements and taking turns in leadership by not allowing a leader to become so weary that the progress of the whole flock slows. Who are the people in your life whose movements you see and match? Is it your turn to lead or to drop back and let someone else move forward? This way of being begins with peripheral vision – really seeing each other – and becomes a soaring dance as we move together toward God’s dream for all creation. By Mary W. Cox



Kathrin Burleson



Murmurations - Ephemeral Plastic Sculpture #1

This reading stayed with me all day. I felt that the Lord was giving me this gift of insight to share with you. That “Mission u” was all about being together. All of us were in orange T-Shirts that day - emphasizing that we were like a “murmuration” for the good of his Kin-dom. Blessing each of us with knowledge, the warmest of fellowship and renewing our strength with hearts singing of His joy; joy in carrying out the mission of the Purpose of United Methodist Women. We love you Lord and thank you for your heavenly grace upon us. Amen!

Plan on attending “Mission u” next year, a must in your faith journey!  
Bountiful Blessings,  
Sandy Segur, Secretary Program Resources

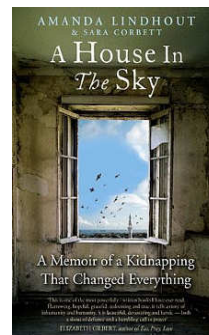
\*Picture taken from Google: pictures of starling murmuration



# Program Resources:



**Currently Reading:  
A House In The Sky –  
beginning 6/21/2018**



**Fall – *Adventure of Ascent* – 9/22/2018**

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.southwetdistrictumw.com](http://www.southwetdistrictumw.com)



I have received this years' Reading Program Plan reports from the following Program Resource Secretaries with much appreciation: Pam Heady, Kathryn Hanley, Gilda Wilson and Barbara Newcomb. I'll be checking email and the mailbox for the rest of the reports daily. You need to submit to me the names of the participants of your church and the Reading Program Plans they have completed. **THEY ARE DUE NOW!** All the information needs to be gathered and submitted to District and Conference level Program Resource Secretaries in preparation of Annual Conference Reports.

I have some news. Yesterday I received a mailing from Global Ministries: The United Methodist Church, indicating that the General board of Global Ministries has decided to end the publication of the print resource *New World Outlook* - which had been a communication channel for 107 years - at the end of 2018. The final issue will be published in October. Therefore, we no longer will consider it in the Reading Program as a requirement.

Now for you over-achievers - Start your 2018-2019 Reading Report List NOW: The attached 2019 Reading Program Book List is on the [www.unitedmethodistwomen.org](http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org) website/ reading program website. However, the 2019 Reading Program catalog and the books are not yet available from the Resource Center SHOP. Just keep checking, if that is to be your source.

The 2018-2019 Program Book is available at the cost of \$10 and also the 2019 Date Book for \$1.50 in the Resource Center Shop.

The 2018-2019 Reading Program books are available on [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com). United Methodist Women receive credit if you put your order through with United Methodist Women listed as recipient.

Bountiful Blessings,  
Sandy Segur, Program Resource Secretary  
South West District - I AM SO PROUD OF ALL OF YOU!  
Florida Conference - YES!!!

**The Amazing United Methodist Women with a PURPOSE:**

"Remember: We are a community of women with a PURPOSE. We educate and equip members for mission. We learn together.... Transforming Grace!" \*

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

\*MTM = Mission Team Meeting, District Officers Only

Mark Your Calendars  
**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**August 4, 2018**

**MTM (District Officers Only)**  
Port Charlotte UMC  
10:00 am

**August 11, 2018**

**Book Review Group**  
Port Charlotte, FL  
Time 11:00 am  
Contact Sandy Segur for more info  
sandyrsegur@gmail.com  
R.S.V.P. by August 7, 2018

**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  
Arrive 10:00am

**October 13, 2018**

**Annual Meeting**  
Cape Coral First UMC  
Registration: 9—10 am  
Program: 10-3 pm  
Lunch \$8.00

**November 3, 2018**

**Fl. Conference Annual Meeting**  
First UMC—Lakeland  
Registration: 9:00 am  
Program: 10 am—4 pm

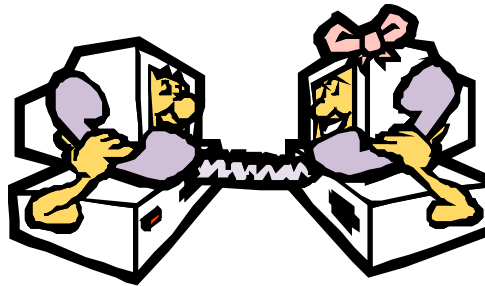
**November 10, 2018**

**Mission Study Event**  
Christ Venice UMC  
Registration: 9-10 am  
Program: 10-2:30 pm  
Lunch: \$8.00

**December 8, 2018**

**MTM—(District Officers only)**  
Pam Freeland's Home in Venice

# Communication



Please submit articles for our next Sojourner issue by the **20th** of the month. Send 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

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

**[www.southwestdistrictumw.com](http://www.southwestdistrictumw.com)**

