

**DECEMBER
2018**

**SOUTH WEST
DISTRICT OFFICERS**

PRESIDENT

Mary Van Tol
maryvantol.umw@gmail.com
239-271-0161

VICE PRESIDENT

Pamela Freeland
pamelafreeland.umw@gmail.com
701-361-7973

SECRETARY/MN&O

INTERIM

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

TREASURER

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

NOMINATIONS

Gloria Heston
gloriaheston.umw@gmail.com

Laurie Leskanic
Lleskan1@gmail.com
914-850-9841

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
jjschelso@gmail.com
941-525-7094

COMMUNCIATION

Ruth Hollandsworth
ruthhollandsworth.umw@gmail.com
863-414-6530

WEBSITE

Southwestdistrictumw.com

SOUTH WEST DISTRICT SOJOURNER

UMW Publication Florida Conference

Christmas Greetings!

This greeting comes with good cheer and love to all dedicated United Methodist Women in the South West District. I just want to thank all of you who have supported me and the District team this year as we learned our new jobs and were able to come together to put on programs that we hope have helped you in your individual units. As the new church year begins, we have HOPE that your units will grow and continue to support the mission of United Methodist Women in more ways, using new ideas, and forming new partnerships!

On December 2nd we began the season of ADVENT. Pastor Chuck Engelhardt from Cape Coral First wrote in his newsletter that is mailed out every week that "Advent is a time of remembering what God has done to give us faith to live with the expectation of what he will do. His Kingdom is here, yet not complete. He will return to make all things new." 1 Thessalonians 5 talks about when Jesus will return and what we should expect when he does. Paul told the people in that church that instead of worrying about when that will happen in the future, they should "Live in peace with each other. And we urge you, brothers and sisters, warn those who are idle and disruptive, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone. Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always strive to do what is good for each other and for everyone else" (V. 13-15). Now, isn't that the essence of the Vision of United Methodist Women "Faith, Hope and Love in Action"?

Sometimes we get caught up in the busyness of the season and sometimes we get annoyed when others don't acknowledge our beliefs and the reason for the season. But, we as loving and caring people we should follow the advice of Paul and stop for a moment when these things become to overwhelming and just breathe in the peace of knowing we have someone who loves us (Jesus!), the hope of knowing He watches over us and will someday return to us, the joy of the birth of one so special, and how the love He showed us can be shared with others.

Wishing you all a very Merry & Blessed Christmas!

Mary Van Tol, 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.

South West District United Methodist Women

LOCAL UNIT OFFICERS LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Walking Boldly

“
Greetings Favored One, the Lord is with you.”
~ Luke 1:28

Saturday, January 26, 2019

Registration: 9:00 am - 9:45 am

Training: 10:00 am – 2:30 pm

Lunch \$8.00



**Sebring St. John
United Methodist Church**

33631 Grand Prix Drive

Sebring, FL 33872

(Reservations required - contact your local Unit Treasurer)



**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

December 14, 2018

Dear United Methodist Women:

Greetings and blessings to you all! In addition to the excitement of celebrating the true Christmas season, your District Mission Team is busy planning for the next South West District event. **Local Unit Officers' Leadership Training** is scheduled for **January 26, 2019, in Sebring, FL**. The theme, **Walking Boldly**, reflects the command to be bold in service.

"Greetings favored one, the Lord is with you." ~Luke 1:28

This was Gabriel's message to Mary. She was called to give birth to a son who would be called the Son of the Most High. Mary was young, poor, female – all characteristics that, to the people of her day, would make her seem unusable by God for any major task. But God called Mary for one of the most important acts of obedience ever demanded. She accepted the call.

And, as a UMW member or an officer in your Unit, you have accepted a call. You may feel somewhat insecure or unprepared for God's service through United Methodist Women, and yet, as a leader, you have boldly stepped forward. Congratulations to your commitment to be part of a "bold" team! **We encourage all who have accepted leadership roles to attend the January 26, 2019, training to become better equipped for the positions you hold.**

"Walking Boldly"

Local Unit Officers' Leadership Training
January 26, 2019
Sebring St. John United Methodist Church
33631 Grand Prix Drive
Sebring, FL 33872

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. As hostesses, the ladies of Sebring St. John will be making preparations for your arrival. Reservations are necessary! **Please register with your Unit treasurer no later than January 18, 2019.** The cost for lunch is \$8. (I have attached a registration form for Unit Treasurer's to use to send in registrations for the Unit.)

Training sessions for Unit Officers will orient new (and "old") officers to their roles and the support available at the District level. Specifically, there will be training for the roles of president, Vice president, secretary, treasurer, and Coordinators for Social Action, Education and Interpretation, Spiritual Growth, Program Resources, Membership, Communications, and Nominations Committee. The day will include informational videos and opportunities to learn more about setting up email and using the District and National websites.

I cannot stress enough how much your attendance will be appreciated for this important event. Please share this letter and post the flyer. Although the training targets Unit officers, any woman is welcome to attend. I look forward to seeing you in January! Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Blessings always,

Pamela Freeland

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.



United Methodist Women's 2019 HIGHLIGHTS

ASSEMBLY: Assembly 2018 – 6,000 thousand women assembled in Columbus, Ohio, May 18-20 in a quest to find **THE POWER OF BOLD**. This is the time for our own, bold, action! Start a fund for the next United Methodist Women's Assembly May 20-22, 2022 in Orlando, Florida. As Alisha Gordon said: "We assemble because we must!" It's going to be in our own backyard and we cannot miss it!

MISSION U: *Save the Date!* Plan to attend **Mission u 2019** July 11 – 14 at Florida Southern College, Lakeland, FL for opportunities of learning and spiritual growth!

The 2019 mission studies are:

Spiritual Growth: *Practicing Resurrection: The Gospel of Mark and Radical Discipleship*. Author Janet Wolf explores the timeless issues of poverty, gender, justice, liberation, equality and others using Mark as a guide.

Geographic Study: *United for Change: United Methodist Women in Mission – 150 Years and Beyond* by Ellen Blue, a two-year study, will provide a historical survey of United Methodist Women and amplify the voices that shaped the work changing the fact of mission.

Issue Study: *What About Our Money? A Faith Response*. A repeat study of 2018 on how we understand money within the context of our faith.

RESPONSE – the official magazine of United Methodist Women brings it all together each month with articles pertaining to all current issues and Bible Study! Look at the "How to use this Issue" page as it highlights important issues, puts a "face" to them, and helps with program preparations.

2019 READING PROGRAM BOOKS – The catalog is on our United Methodist Women website and each of the five categories feature books regarding our current mission studies and more!

The Reading Program this year looks at the history between the United Methodist Church, the United States and Native people; Alzheimer's disease; and the importance of wellness in body and spirit. Of course, we continue to look at the quadrennial focuses of economic injustice, the environment and exploration of intellectual and spiritual leadership. And, as always, we walk together on personal journeys of spiritual growth.

Enjoy the books on this reading list and continue to read, pray and act!



READING PROGRAM BOOK LIST: UNITED METHODIST WOMEN 2019

Shop at www.unitedmethodistwomen.org www.umwmissionresources.org and www.smile.amazon.com for “Kindle” and out of stock books. Call: 1-800-305-9857.

EDUCATION FOR MISSION:

Escape From the Green Mansion – *Ordinary Church Women and their Extraordinary Rescue of San Francisco’s Broth-
el Slaves* by Christine Taylor – Kindle

An Insider’s Guide to Praying For The World by Brian C. Stiller – Kindle

Threading My Prayer Rug – *One Woman’s Journey from Pakistani Muslim to American Muslim* by Sabeeha Rehman

The Mission-Minded Guide to Church and School Partnerships by Jake McGlothlin

One – *Unity in a Divided World* by Deidra Riggs

Make A Difference – *Following Your Passion and Finding Your Place to Serve* by James A. Harnish

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT:

Eleanor: A Spiritual Biography - *The Faith of the 20th Century’s Most Influential Woman* by Harold Ivan Smith

Fresh Expressions *A New Kind of Methodist church for People Not in Church* by Kenneth H. Carter Jr. and Audrey Warren

Synergy – *A Leadership Guide for Church Staff and Volunteers* by Ann A. Michel

Who Is My Neighbor? Quien es mi vecino?- *Learning Spanish as Church Hospitality* by Joyce Carrasco – Kindle

NURTURING FOR COMMUNITY:

Better – *Waking Up to who We Could Be* by Melvin Bray

Hope For The Future – *Answering God’s Call to Justice for Our Children* by Shannon Daley-Harris

The Hidden Life Awakened by Kitty Crenshaw and Cathy Snapp

The Same Sky: A Novel by Amanda Eyre Ward

When Did Everybody Else Get So Old? by Jennifer Grant

SOCIAL ACTION:

Nobody Cries When We Die- *God, Community, and Surviving to Adulthood* by Patrick B. Reyes BONUS

Walking on Lava *Selected Works for Uncivilized Times* by Chelsea Green BONUS

“We Are All Fast Food Workers Now” – *The Global Uprising Against Poverty Wages* by Annelise Orleck BONUS

Where Do We Go From Here- *Chaos or Community* by Martin Luther King, Jr.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH:

Lessons to Nourish The Soul – *Sermons to Encourage and Challenge You* by Rev. Marjorie E. Palmer – Large Print Kin-
dle Only

Be Still – *Departure From Collective Madness* by Gordon C. Stewart and Eric Ringham – Kindle

Spoken Into Being – *Divine Encounters Though Story* by Michael W. Williams

The Soulmaking Room by Dee Dee Risher

The Wesley Challenge – *21 Days to a More Authentic Faith – Leader Guide* by Chris Folmsbee

The Wesley Challenge – *Participant Book* by Chris Folmsbee

What We Need Is Here – *Practicing the Heart of Christian Spirituality* by L. Roger Owens – Kindle

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT:

Weird! *A Story about Bullying in Schools* by Erin Frankel – Kindle Only



Program Resources



READING PROGRAM TRANSITION

We are being given an opportunity to be better stewards of our Mission Giving dollars. Money given so faithfully by all of us to provide change to the lives of women, children and youth down the street and around the world. So here we are, 2018, being presented with new concepts and new choices for our United Methodist Women Reading Program and **BOLD ENRICHMENT RESOURCES**.

There is no longer a printed catalog of the Reading Program category books. The catalog is available on line - www.unitedmethodistwomen.org - under the “members and leaders” tab and then select the “reading program” drop down. Books will no longer be available at events. Literature and other free items will be displayed on the Program Resources table at events to enrich your Unit programs. The books from the five categories in the Reading Program are to be purchased through Amazon – smile.amazon.com and a designation of United Methodist Women will yield a .5% donation from Amazon. Barnes & Noble and Cokesbury are also sources for the books listed on this year’s Reading Program. Your public library is also a source. If your unit has an Amazon Prime member, shipping would be free!

United Methodist Women publications of Mission Studies, membership reference books such as the Handbook, Gifts/Promotional Items, Mission Giving resources, Program Planning Resources {Prayer Calendar, Program Book, etc.} and Assembly 2018 items are all available through the “Shop” tab of the United Methodist Women website coming from the Program Resource Center located in Georgia. A cost effective way to cover shipping would be to place an order as a Unit sharing the shipping and handling costs. You can call in your order at 1-800-305-9857 and Mission Resources will assist you. Shop on the website – www.unitedmethodistwomen.org.

We are about to embrace this new process in the name of progress and reality. The reality that in order to survive and thrive in our Sisterhood of Grace, big changes are necessary. Our Mission Giving dollars are needed to support our Purpose and we must do all we can to make that happen. Shipping and Handling costs incurred through consignment for District Events is no longer cost effective. Shipping is not free and the District covering those costs now proves to be too much money to be absorbed.

The Reading Program is phenomenal. The benefits are, without question, an influence in our perception of culture and our Faith Journey in the choices we make. The program will continue to keep us current as well as efficient in updating our operating procedures!

Sandy Segur – Program Resources Secretary - Here for your questions and concerns!
Cell: 941-626-8384 Home: 941-249-8726

Program Resources—Florida Conference United Methodist Women

Greetings to my District SPR Sisters in Christ!

As most of you know, a lot of changes have been happening regarding our Reading Program and I am writing today to update you on what I have been told from our National Division. As I convey this to you, please bear in mind that more changes will be occurring over the next few weeks and months, so please keep in touch with your District SPR for those updates.

The decision to eliminate the consignment process was not easy, nor was it taken lightly. The consignment conversation has taken place for years. Our National Division tried to correct and perfect the process, but it did not help. It became clear to National that continuing consignment was costing more energy and funds than expected. It just became necessary to make the change.

What was accomplished were the following:

- a. Recent unsold books were returned to the publisher, without much penalty.
- b. Books were donated to women's shelters.
- c. Books were donated to prisons and jails.
- d. Books were donated to national mission institutions.
- e. The Korean Network received some donated books.
- f. Some went to Regional Missionaries.
- g. All books from the Assembly were donated to institutions in the Columbus area.
- h. Books were donated to local libraries, book mobiles, schools, etc.
- i. Books were also made available to the members.

What will be kept on hand at Mission Resources?

The ONLY books that can be ordered through Mission Resources as of January 2019:

- a. Program Book
- b. Prayer Calendar
- c. Response
- d. Mission u study books, material
- e. SMR pins, yes SMR pins (more info to come regarding this)

Annual Sampler:

The Annual Sampler is still available.

Secretary, Program Resources (SPR) Position:

The SPR office has not been eliminated. The work will be different but not eliminated.

I know this is a lot of information to absorb, but I hope it helps in addressing the concerns that many, if not all of us are having. National continues to meet regarding this subject and I have been assured that I will be given additional information as it becomes available.

In faith, hope and love in action on behalf of women, children and youth around the world,

Shelley Davidson

Secretary Program Resources

Florida Conference United Methodist Women

863-599-9070

Shellydavidson.umw@gmail.com

*“Keep alert, **stand firm in the faith, be courageous, be strong.** Let all that you do be done **in love.**” 1 Corinthians 16: 13-14*

South West District Calendar 2019

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>JANUARY, 2019</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">JANUARY 26</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Local Unit Officers Training St John UMC, Sebring Registration:9-9:45am Program: 10-2:30 pm Lunch: \$8</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>FEBRUARY, 2019</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">No District Activities Scheduled</p> <p style="text-align: center;">***** *<u>MTM</u> February 23 Christ Venice UMC 10:00 am– 2pm</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>MARCH, 2019</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">March 30</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Spiritual Growth Event Wesley Memorial Ft. Myers Registration: 9-9:45am Program: 10am-2pm Lunch \$8.00 ***** *<u>MTM</u> to follow 2:15-3p</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>APRIL, 2019</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">No District Activities Scheduled</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>MAY, 2019</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">May 18</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Social Justice 1/2 day Event Trinity UMC, Sarasota Registration:9-9:45am Program: 10am-12 pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">***** *<u>MTM</u> to follow District Officers only, plan for 2020 12:30– 2:30 pm</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>JUNE, 2019</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">No District Activities Scheduled</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>JULY, 2019</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">July 11–14</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>MISSION u</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Florida Southern College Lakeland</p> <p style="text-align: center;">For Scholarships contact District President</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>AUGUST, 2019</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">No District Activities Scheduled</p> <p style="text-align: center;">***** *<u>MTM</u> August 17 Wesley Memorial UMC Ft. Myers 10:00 am-2pm</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>SEPTEMBER, 2019</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">September 21</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Mission Sampler Location: TBD Registration: 9- 9:45am Program: 10am-2pm Lunch \$8.00</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>OCTOBER, 2019</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">October 19</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Annual Meeting Sarasota, St. John UMC Registration: 9-9:45a Program: 10-2pm Lunch: \$8</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>NOVEMBER, 2019</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">No District Activities Scheduled</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>DECEMBER, 2019</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">No District Activities Scheduled</p> <p style="text-align: center;">***** *<u>MTM</u> Charlotte Harbor— Trinity December 14 District Officers Only 10:00 am-2pm</p>

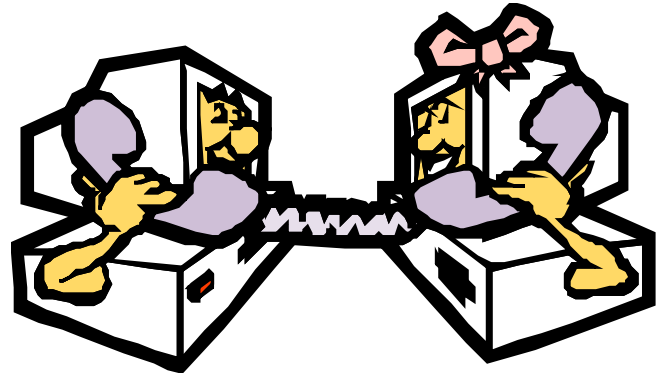
Mark Your Calendars
UPCOMING EVENTS



Communications

January 26
Local Unit Officers Training
St John UMC, Sebring
Registration: 9-9:45 am
Programs: 10-2:30 pm
Lunch \$8.00

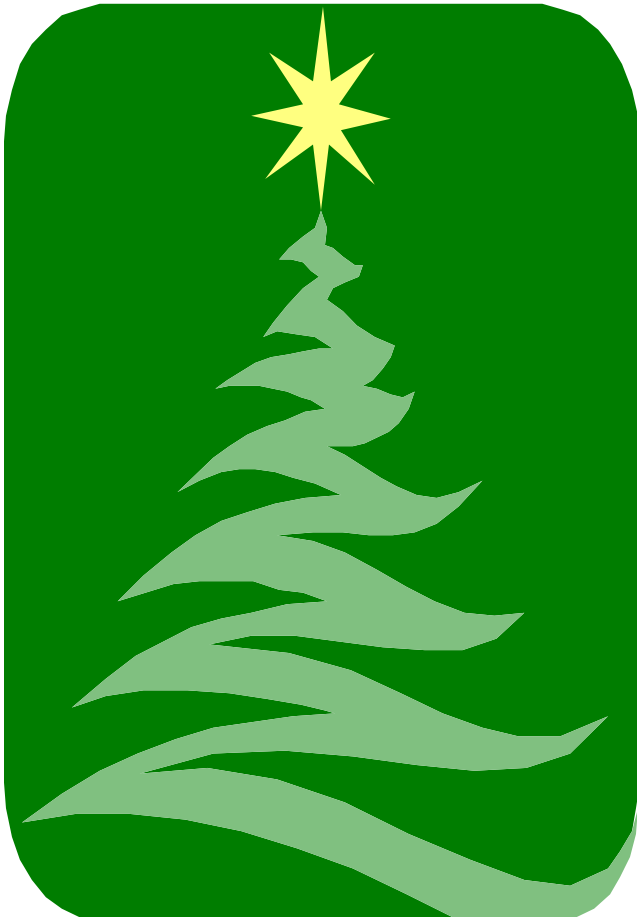
February 23
MTM (District Officers only)
Christ Venice UMC
10 am—2 pm



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

Merry Christmas



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

www.southwestdistrictumw.com

www.facebook.com/southwestdistrictumw.com



*May your
Christmas be
special and bright!*