

JANUARY 2019



South West District

Sojourner

United Methodist Women Publication, Florida Conference

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Greetings and Happy New Year!

“Life is not easy for any of us. But what of that? We must have perseverance and above all confidence in ourselves. We must believe that we are gifted for something and that this thing, at whatever cost, must be attained.” Marie Curie

I recently read that the New Year can mean a fresh start, some much needed change, or a continuation of success and happiness. As the New Year begins, many of us make resolutions and most of us end up breaking them before the month is out! For the past several years we have posted some ways to start the new year on a positive note and succeed in turning our failures into successes. Some of our ideas have helped you and some have not brought the outcome you expected. This year I invite you to make a special effort to come to our District events where you will be able to meet others in our District who may just give you an idea which will help your unit grow and stay active.

We all have read the verse from Jeremiah 29:11: **“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”** You can start your rededication to United Methodist Women by coming to our Leaders Training on January 26 in Sebring St. John United Methodist Church. Along with training for your office there will be videos and workshops to help you learn things which will possibly spark that fire your unit needs to grow and to be able to perform the duties of your office in a productive and helpful way. Attending these types of events helps us build the confidence we need as Marie Curie states in the quote above, to perform our duties in the best way we can.

Along with attending our District events I have listed a few ways you can follow your heart right now as you start the new year and be successful in your resolutions for the New Year!

Give to the World Thank Offering

Donate to Mission Giving

Take action by working for justice through Service and Advocacy

Be a part of the Reading Program

Take an Ubuntu Journey

Read your Prayer Calendar daily

Subscribe to response magazine

Support the Legacy Fund

Plan to attend Mission u

Blessings,

Mary Van Tol

President

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

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Email: pamelafreeland.umw@gmail.com

Website: www.southwestdistrictumw.com

December 3, 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 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.** We welcome you!

"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.)

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.

Program Resources: 2019 News Update



response: the print and digital magazine of women in mission! Listed under the “News” tab dropdown on the United Methodist Women Website:

www.unitymethodistwomen.org/response

“**response** is a key part of telling our mission story, sharing what we do in service and advocacy with women, children and youth through our pledges of time, talent and money, educating on important issues and continuing the tradition of publishing our stories. We pack a lot into 48 pages every month, and the time has come to think beyond just the physical magazine, to lift up the voices of United Methodist Women members in as many places as possible.

Starting January 2019, we will increase our capacity to share **response** stories more widely. We will begin by moving to a bimonthly publication schedule of 6 issues per year. The award-winning quality and content of the magazine will remain the same, as will the subscription price [U.S. Print Subscription (Includes complimentary digital subscription) 1 year (6 issues) \$24.00, 2 year (12 issues) \$45.00] which has remained low and unchanged for more than 10 years. We’ll be creating new ways to connect us across the country and world and help us dig deeper in service and advocacy, transformative education, leadership development and spiritual growth. We encourage you to tell your United Methodist Women story in as many places as possible, and **response** magazine will be working even more to help you do this.” *

In this special issue of response you'll read about:

- AIDS and its ongoing impact on the vulnerable communities.
- The 2019 United Methodist Women Reading Program.
- Ways to promote Reading Program participation.
- Mission Giving-supported Dallas Bethlehem Center in Texas.
- Bible study and How to Use This Issue and more!

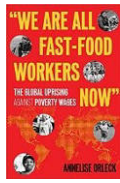


****Tara Barnes, Editor, response|december 2018**

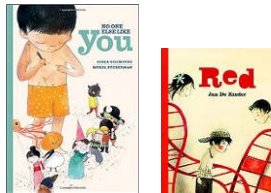
2019 Reading Program Action suggestions to assist you: The response - December 2018 issue contains a write up of all the books on our 2019 Reading Program. EVERYTHING you need to know for your Reading Plan goal!



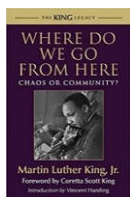
Pray. Books often raise concerns about people, countries and issues. Bring these concerns to God during your prayer time at home and at group meetings. Pray for those concerns. Read “*Spoken into Being*” and think about creating and telling your story.



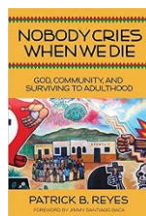
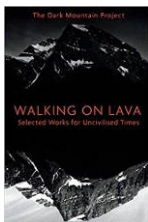
Host a program. Read “*We Are All Fast-Food Workers Now*” and continue the discussion on economic injustice around the world.



Teach a Sunday School Class. Read “*No One Else Like You*” and celebrate diversity and tolerance. Read “*Red*” and continue your discussion around bullying.



Be Inclusive. Continue your action on the Charter for Racial Justice Policies of The United Methodist Church. Read “*Where Do We Go from Here: Chaos or Community?*”



Bonus Books: Bonus Books count as two books in Education for Mission or Social Action, or as one book in either of two categories. For example, *Walking on Lava* and *Nobody Cries When We Die* count as two books in Social Action

South West District Leadership Team Meeting and Holiday Celebration

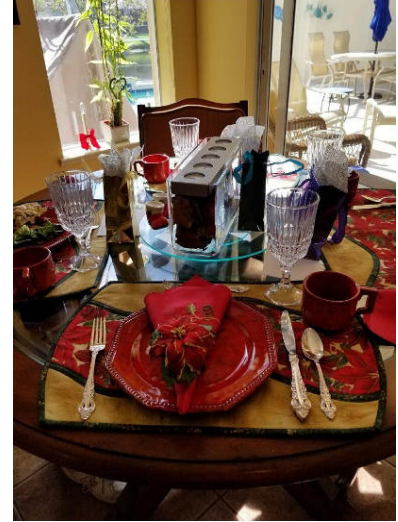
December 8, 2019

Not all meetings are just work, work, work! Sometimes we like to have fun together after we work. Our lovely hostess, Pamela Freeland, provided a scrumptious lunch with all the holiday trimmings. Since there were so many of us, she set two beautiful tables to accommodate us. Dressed in her elf sweater, Pam was busy in the kitchen making Chicken Divan in Filo Pastry, blueberry coffee cake, greens and fruit salad with Cinnamon Vinaigrette and a yummy ice cream dessert. Such a delicious meal by such a talented lady! Pam also informed us that "The camels are coming, The camels are coming." She gave each of us a beautiful camel to remind us of the Christ child.

Thank you for inviting us into your home which was so beautifully decorated.



Pam in her elf sweater during the meeting



Two beautiful table settings.



Sandra Barton, Roberta Swords & Pat McShane, Pam Freeland, serving



The camels are coming, the camels are coming!



Sandy Segur, Joyce Shelso, Ruth Hollandsworth, Jannette Hawley ,
Gloria Heston, & Mary Van Tol, taking picture

Units in Action

St. John, Sebring

Every December St. John United Methodist Women and Hope and Sunshine Circles prepare “cookie bags” for our church member shut-ins. They are delivered to ladies and gents who are in assisted living, care homes or at home. This year we prepared 17 bags, delivered with wonderful holiday spirit and hopes for a Happy New Year! My thanks to all the ladies who donated cookies and helped pack and deliver the bags. We had just a few to spare for us to taste test the cookies!



Ruth Hollandsworth, Unit President



We'd like to hear from you!!

As the new year begins, I invite local units to share their events and pictures for the Sojourner. Sharing ideas helps other units who may be unable to think of something fun and wonderful for their own units. And pictures say a thousand words, so even if you don't want to write an article per se, send pictures but please, identify where you are from, what the event was about and identify those lucky ladies who got their pictures taken! If you have any questions, please call or drop me an email.

Ruth Hollandsworth, Communications Coordinator 863-414-6530 or ruthhollandsworth.umw@gmail.com



South West District Calendar 2019

| | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <p style="text-align: center;"><u>JANUARY, 2019</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">JANUARY 26 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;">*****</p> <p style="text-align: center;">*<u>MTM</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">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>Spiritual Growth Event Wesley Memorial Ft. Myers Registration: 9-9:45am Program: 10am-2pm Lunch \$8.00 *****</p> <p style="text-align: center;">*<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 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 Dis- trict 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;">*****</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 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 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;">*****</p> <p style="text-align: center;">*<u>MTM</u> Charlotte Harbor— Trinity December 14 District Officers Only 10:00 am-2pm</p> |



Florida Conference United Methodist Women

RAINBOW GIVERS WORKSHEET

| | <u>Completed</u> |
|--------------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Pledge to Mission | _____ |
| 2. World Thank Offering | _____ |
| 3. Special Mission Recognition | _____ |
| Name of Recipient: _____ | |
| 4. Gift to Mission | _____ |
| Name of Recipient: _____ | |
| 5. Gift in Memory | _____ |
| Name of Recipient: _____ | |

Member's Name _____
Name of Unit _____
City _____
Date _____



United
Methodist
Women
FAITH · HOPE · LOVE IN ACTION

Florida Conference United Methodist Women
South West District

COPY

5 STAR UNIT WORKSHEET _____
Year

Criteria for a 5 Star Unit. You must raise your pledge and participate in the following Mission Giving areas.

| | This year | Next year | Completed |
|--------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Pledge to Mission | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 2. World Thank Offering | | | _____ |
| 3. Gift to Mission | | | _____ |
| 4. Gift in Memory | | | _____ |
| 5. Special Mission Recognition | | | _____ |

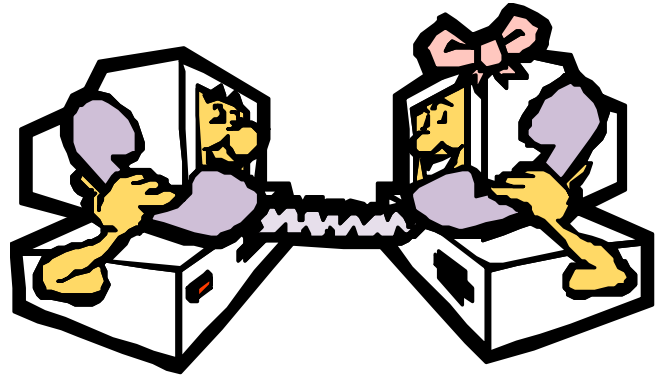
Name of Unit _____

City _____

Name of Treasurer _____

Please mail to your District Treasurer by January 31, each year

Communications



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

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

www.southwestdistrictumw.com

www.facebook.com/southwestdistrictumw.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark Your Calendars



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

March 30

Spiritual Growth Event

Wesley Memorial, Ft. Myers

Registration: 9-9:45am

Program: 10am-2pm

Lunch \$8.00

*MTM to follow 2:15-3pm

January 31

5star units and rainbow givers
Due

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Reminder

**5 Star Units and
Rainbow Givers
DUE January 31**