Happy New Year!

Every year when the clock strikes twelve on New Year’s Eve, we hear and might sing that old song “Auld Lang Syne” which may be loosely translated as “for the sake of old times.” This year I received a slide scanner which I have been using to copy some old, old slides of days gone by. Some of them were from my husband’s family going all the way back into the early 50s. As I looked at the pictures, it brought back fond memories of people I once knew and loved. I have to admit I started to become a little sad, but after looking at the pictures and sharing them with my family, it made me happy to relive those old memories again. It also made me look ahead and wonder what new friends I will make and what new adventures I will have as this new decade begins.

As we begin this new year we look back on what United Methodist Women have accomplished in the last 150 years and can feel good about the lives that have been changed for the better in so many ways. As our District leadership team began preparing for our events this year we chose the theme from the United Methodist Women Program book “Ignited for Justice” to emphasize our commitment as leaders to “Be the Light” so others may follow us as we fulfill the Purpose of being a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ, while developing a creative supportive fellowship who expand concepts of mission through the participation in the global ministries of the church.

I encourage you to start the third decade of the 21st century and join us this year by coming to our Training session on January 25th in Cape Coral First, our Spiritual Growth event on March 28th in Christ Venice and our Social Action commitment on May 16th at Grace Venice. Take an extra step and join us at Mission u from July 9-12 at Florida Southern College and learn how to hold a mission study for your Unit. If you have any children or grandchildren, this is a great opportunity to show them how to learn to be of service to others while having fun themselves.

In closing I would like to remind you as your Units elect new leaders to please send in their names and contact information to our secretary Gloria Heston. (info on sidebar). Finally, please send in your events and missions you support along with photos to our Sojourner editor, Ruth Hollandsworth, so we can all share in the joy happening in our District.

Blessings, Mary Van Tol, President

Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
And never brought to mind?
Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
And auld lang syne.

CHORUS
For auld lang syne, my love,
For auld lang syne.
We’ll take a cup o’ kindness yet,
For auld lang syne.

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.
IGNITE!!!

BE THE LIGHT

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

SOUTH WEST DISTRICT UNIT OFFICERS’

LEADERSHIP TRAINING

JANUARY 25, 2020

Registration 9am

Program 10am – 2:30pm

CAPE CORAL FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

4118 Coronado Pkwy

Cape Coral, FL 33904

Lunch: $8.00

Reservations required - see your Unit Treasurer
December 18, 2019

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 25, 2020. The theme, **Ignite!! Be the Light**, reflects the command to be on fire as leaders for United Methodist Women in your Unit.

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. “In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in Heaven.” (Mathew 5:16). Congratulations to your commitment to be part of a team of light! **We encourage all who have accepted leadership roles to attend the January 25, 2020, training to become better equipped for the positions you hold.** We welcome you!

**Ignite!! Be the Light**

Local Unit Officers’ Leadership Training
January 25, 2020
Cape Coral First United Methodist Church
4118 Coronado Pkwy, Cape Coral, FL 33904
Cape Coral, FL 33904

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 Cape Coral First will be making preparations for your arrival. **Reservations are necessary! Please register with your Unit treasurer no later than January 17, 2020.** 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
Dear Unit Treasurers:

The South West District will hold Local Unit Leadership Training on January 25, 2020 at Cape Coral First United Methodist Church. As Unit treasurer, we are seeking your assistance in coordinating reservations for your Unit and collecting the $8.00 per person to cover the luncheon.

Please send the Reservation Form below and the check to cover luncheons by Friday, January 17, 2020, to Nancy Montange at the address listed below. Make checks payable to Cape Coral First United Methodist Women. Please indicate which officers will be attending the training. If you have questions, call Gloria Heston at 239-560-3053. My contact information is provided above, and I would welcome comments or questions at any time.

Blessings always,

Pamela Freeland

South West District United Methodist Women
Registration Form: January 25, 2020 Officer Training Event
Please mail by January 17, 2020

Name of Church Unit ____________________________________________________________

Number of registrants for the luncheon ___________

Positions Registered:

- President
- Vice President
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Communications
- Membership, Nurture and Outreach
- Social Action
- Education and Interpretation
- Spiritual Growth
- Program Resources
- Nominations Committee

Enclosed check for luncheon reservations at $8/person in the total amount of $______________

(Make checks payable to Cape Coral First United Methodist Women)

PLEASE SEND THIS RESERVATION FORM AND CHECK BY JANUARY 17, 2020 TO:

Nancy Montange
4009 Palm Tree Blvd  Unit 401
Cape Coral, FL  33904
734-368-6499
ron.nancy01@gmail.com
"Growing in Grace"

Friday, January 17, 2020, 5:30-8:30pm  
Saturday, January 18, 2020, 8:30am-3:30pm

Featuring Speakers

Sarah Baldridge  
Jennifer Speer

Ticket Information

**Early Bird tickets**: $30.00  
November 1–January 1

**Tickets**: $35.00  
January 2-January 17

Tickets can be purchased at: [EnglewoodUMC.net](http://EnglewoodUMC.net)

- Events—Featured Events-2nd EUMC Women’s Conference

Friday night snacks, Saturday continental breakfast & lunch included. (Check website for menu)

Breakout Sessions

Two (2) breakouts session on Saturday to be selected at time of registration (space is limited):

- Puah & Shiphrah, Women of the Old Testament by Carole Storch & Pat Kelly
- Bible Basics: How to Look Up Scripture and Use a Bible by Joyce Doyle
- Biblically Beautiful Woman by Maria Ciampi
- Becoming a Woman of Prayer

All women are welcome! Invite a friend!
United Methodist Women of First United Methodist Church of Sarasota

Will Host a Free Author Event With Jeffrey Staley, Author of

GUM MOON: A Novel of San Francisco Chinatown

Everyone is Invited!

March 10, 2020 ~ 2 p.m.

Reservations are required. Email gummoonevent@gmail.com

Gum Moon (Cantonese for "golden gate") is the remarkable coming-of-age story of a Chinese-American girl who loses everything -- family, friends, and home -- but through the gift of music, ends up singing at the White House in 1908 at the age of thirteen. She, along with a group of seven other Chinese-American children from San Francisco, later sang in Brooklyn, making the front page of the New York Times. The novel is based on events in the life of the author's wife's grandmother. The book is available at the Braren Library, on Amazon and via Kindle.

Dr. Jeffrey Staley has published three academic books and edited three others. He has taught at the University of Portland, Pacific Lutheran University, and most recently at Seattle University, where he taught courses on religion and film. Now retired, he spends his time traveling, writing, and spoiling his two-year-old granddaughter. He is the historian of Gum Moon Women's Residence and Asian Women's Resource Center in San Francisco, which is a mission of United Methodist Women.

First United Methodist Church • 104 S. Pineapple Ave • Sarasota 34236 • (941) 955-0935
Event is in Fellowship Hall. Parking is available across the street at the Mark, in spaces marked FUMC.
Grace UMW Christmas Tea

The Annual Grace United Methodist Women’s Christmas Tea in Venice Florida on Dec 10th was a great success! We collected over 388 lbs of flour, rice, sugar, dry beans, over 6 gallons of oil and $114.00 in cash donations for Cornerstone Ministries in Ybor City. The families served by Cornerstone will have staples to help make Christmas dinner sweeter. Entertainment was provided by Erinn Abu, soprano saxophonist playing beautiful Christmas music. Thanks to all our guests for their giving spirit!

Arla Henthorn, Membership Chairperson
Grace United Methodist Church
Venice, FL

IMPORTANT REMINDER
Submit new Officers information to:
Gloria Heston:
3918 SE 20th Avenue
Cape Coral, FL 33904
E-mail: gloriaheston.umw@gmail.com
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>JANUARY 25</th>
<th>FEBRUARY 29</th>
<th>MARCH 28</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Unit Officer Leadership Training</strong>&lt;br&gt;Cape Coral First</td>
<td><strong>Mission Team Meeting</strong>&lt;br&gt;(District Officers Only)&lt;br&gt;Naples North</td>
<td><strong>Spiritual Growth Event</strong>&lt;br&gt;Christ Venice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registration starts: 9:00 am  Program: 10:00 am - 2:30 pm  Lunch $8.00</td>
<td>10:00 am - 2:00 pm</td>
<td>Registration starts: 9:00 am  Program: 10:00 am - 2:30 pm  Lunch $8.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>APRIL 17-19</th>
<th>MAY 16</th>
<th>JUNE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **South Eastern Jurisdiction**<br>(SEJ)<br>Mobile Alabama | **Social Action Event**<br>Venice Grace<br>(Half Day)<br>Registration starts: 9:00 am  Program: 10 am – 12:30 pm  Mission Team Meeting<br>(District Officers Only)<br>1:00 pm - 3:00 pm | **No District Events**  

**June 4-6**  
FL Annual Conference of UMC |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>JULY 9-12</th>
<th>AUGUST 1</th>
<th>SEPTEMBER 19</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Mission u**<br>Florida  
Southern College | **Mission Team Meeting**<br>(District Officers Only)<br>Good Shepherd  
N. Ft. Myers  
10:00 am - 2:00 pm | **Mission Sampler**<br>Wesley Memorial  
Ft. Myers  
Registration starts: 9:00 am  Program: 10:00 am - 2:30 pm  Lunch $8.00 |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OCTOBER 24</th>
<th>NOVEMBER</th>
<th>DECEMBER 5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **South West District Annual Meeting**<br>At St. John Sebring with Lake Placid & Avon Park, Sebring First | **No District Events** | **Mission Team Meeting**<br>(District Officers Only)<br>Venice  
Pamela  
Freeland home  
10:00 am - 2:00 pm |
| Registration starts: 9:00 am  Program: 10:00 am - 2:30 pm  Lunch $8.00 | |
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](http://www.southwestdistrictumw.com)  
[www.facebook/southwestdistrictumw.com](http://www.facebook/southwestdistrictumw.com)

---

**January 25**  
**Unit Officer Leadership Training**  
Cape Coral First  
Registration starts: 9:00 am  
Programs: 10:00 am—2:30 pm  
Lunch $8.00

**February 29**  
**MTM (District Officers only)**  
Naples North  
10 am—2 pm

**March 30**  
**Spiritual Growth Event**  
Christ Venice  
Registration starts: 9:00 am  
Program: 10:00 am—2:30 pm  
Lunch $8.00

**April 17-19**  
**South Eastern Jurisdiction (SEJ)**  
Mobile, Alabama