

APRIL 2019

SOUTH WEST DISTRICT OFFICERS

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VACANT

SOCIAL ACTION

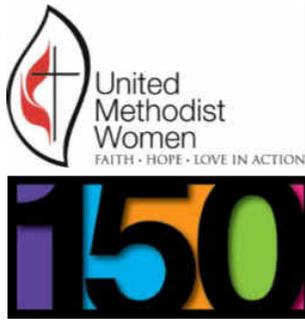
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South West District

Sojourner

United Methodist Women Publication, Florida Conference

Greetings Sisters in Christ!

“ Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus’ body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. They asked her, “Woman, why are you crying?” “They have taken my Lord away,” she said, “and I don’t know where they have put him.” At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.” ~ John 20:11-14

In John’s account of the Resurrection of Jesus, it is amazing to me that Peter and John left the tomb after seeing there was no one there and returned home disappointed and at a loss. They spent three years in his ministry and were told what would happen many times, but it was Mary Magdalene who stayed there weeping and waiting until Jesus suddenly appeared to comfort her. I am sure the disciples were hoping to become great leaders in a new kingdom with Jesus as king. Mary, however, who wrestled with her own demons, was heartbroken over what happened and was grieving for her teacher. Mary being the first to rejoice that Jesus overcame the grave, has shown us how we as women can rejoice in knowing we called to carry the good news of Jesus Christ no matter our stories, backgrounds or experiences.



At our Spiritual Growth Event on March 30th, our leader, Sandy Barton was able to inspire the women to tell who in their lives helped them to achieve their Bold Dreams. I was amazed to hear the stories about how God placed people in their path to help them become the person they are today. Who inspired you? What have they done to uplift your life? How have they shown you that God loves you and cares for you? Are you willing to help others feel the love and compassion you have received just as Mary did so long ago?

As United Methodist Women we are called to help those in need. Our 150-year history shows the many ways our predecessors have done this. Now it is our turn to continue the work in this Easter season and beyond. One of the ways we can do this is to come to our next District event on May 18 in Sarasota at the Sarasota Trinity UMC. Come and hear our special guest speaker, Emily Jones, Executive for Racial Justice, teach us how we can help with the school-to-prison pipeline that is making our young people go down a path of destruction in not only in their lives, but in the lives of their families.

Another way we can learn to be leaders is by attending Mission u! This year it is held on July 11-14 at Florida Southern College in Lakeland. An adult registration form is in this newsletter. Go to our website to download the youth and child registration forms here:

<https://www.southwestdistrictumw.com/mission-u>

Blessings for a very Happy Easter!

Mary Van Tol, District 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.



**SOUTHWEST DISTRICT
United Methodist Women**

The Cost of BOLD

Saturday, May 18, 2019

**Registration: 9:00 am – 9:45 am
Program: 10:00 am – 12:30 pm**

***Emily Jones,
Executive for Racial Justice
“Interrupt the School-to-Prison Pipeline”***

**Sarasota Trinity United
Methodist Church
4150 South Shade Ave
Sarasota, FL 34231**



**Snacks provided for this half day event
RSVP with your Unit Treasurer**

FLORIDA CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN - MISSION u ADULT REGISTRATION FORM

July 11 – July 14, 2019 - Florida Southern College, Lakeland, Florida

Please fill out carefully and completely – Please print legibly – **No Lunch on Sunday**

Name: _____ Phone: _____
 Address: _____ Email: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Home Phone: _____
 Name of Church: _____ City: _____ District: _____

Please check all that apply:

First Time Attendee Attending College/University Lay Missionary Clergy Deaconess
 Member/United Methodist Women District / Conference Officer Position: _____
 Age 18-35 Age 36-50 Age 51-70 Age 71+
 HOUSING: Female: Male: Couple: Choice of Roommate: _____
Roommates MUST send in registration forms together
 Accessibility Needs: 1st Floor Room: Wheelchair Accessible: Wheelchair Accessible Shower:

EMERGENCY INFORMATION (must be completed):

Physician Name: _____ Phone Number: _____
 Insurance Name: _____ Policy #: _____
 Allergies, medical concerns, health/dietary needs: _____
 Mobility Needs: _____

One class will be offered this year. Please select your class and indicate 1st AND 2nd choice of study leader.

Spiritual Growth Study	Geographic Study	2 nd Year Study
Practicing Resurrection: Gospel of Mark and Radical Discipleship	Women United for Change: 150 Years in Mission	What About Our Money? A Faith Response
Sandra Barton _____	Provena Balasundaram (UMW Staff) _____	Deaconess Ruth _____
Dr. Gwen Dixon _____	Jackie Bridges _____	Pierre Jean-Pierre _____
Rev. Intra Jeune (C) _____	Dr./Deaconess Judith Pierre-Okerson (C) _____	
Rev. Joseph Kim (C) _____	Rev/Dr. Patricia Scriben _____	
Juana Lightbourne (S) _____	Rev. Michelle Shrader _____	
Rev/Dr. Larry Rankin _____		Sign Language Needed _____
Rev. David Range _____	Legend	Interpreter Needed _____
Rev. Denise Sawyer _____	(C) Creole (K) Korean (S) Spanish	Interpreter Language _____

Registration Fees (Room & Meals)	
If postmarked by May 31	\$200
If postmarked after May 31	\$220
Amount	_____

Registration Fees (Commuter Only)	
If postmarked by May 31	\$50
If postmarked after May 31	\$70
Amount	_____

Study Books	
Order online - umwmissionresources.org (shipping will be charged) OR	
\$10 - Purchase now, Pick up at event. (no shipping charge) OR	
\$15 - Available at event	
Study Book	Quantity
Practicing Resurrection	_____
Women United for Change	_____
What About Our Money?	_____

T-Shirt - \$10 Each (Saturday will be T-Shirt Day)		
Size	Quantity	Amount \$
Xs, S, M, L, XL, 2X, 3X, 4X		

Total Amount Enclosed: _____

MAIL registration and check, payable to Florida Conference United Methodist Women Mission u, Inc. Judi Frameli, 13508 Oia Florida Circle, Hudson, FL 34669. (813-428-0404, judiframeli.umw@gmail.com)
REFUNDS: Will be made by written request ONLY and must be submitted to the Registrar by July 5, 2019.

2019 MISSION PROJECT: This year we will be collecting gift cards for Walmart or Target for Cornerstone Family Ministries. Checks payable to Cornerstone Family Ministries will be also be acceptable.

Membership Nurture and Outreach

When leaders ask how can we nurture and increase our membership, the answers are varied depending on the interests in your local churches. One thing I have found to be the most helpful is to be open and welcoming to women of all ages and interests.

On January 12th, Cape Coral First UMW held their 5th Annual Welcome All Brunch inviting all the women in the church. Each Circle had a table display showing what mission they supported and describing when, where and what their meetings were about. To make things fun, the tables were decorated to match their UMW tee shirt color and leaders wore hair “fascinators” to help newcomers know who they could go to for answers to questions about becoming a member. Inviting Sandy Segur, District Secretary of Program Resources, to speak about the Reading Plan was a highlight of the event!



Co Presidents Joyce Russell and Ali Pilon



Sandy Segur, Secretary Program Resources



Marti Daltry,
District E & I 2016-18

Photos and article courtesy Mary Van Tol



Michele Mc Carl, Circle Leader

Membership Nurture and Outreach Continued

On February 21st, Ft. Myers Beach UMW, which has been relatively inactive for the past five years hosted a fun Tea Party. Barbara Cantley along with her unit treasurer Sharyn McNeill had Nancy Galand, and Lucy Ortt lead us in prayer and explained how the Prayer Calendar is used. Mary Van Tol, District president was there to explain how the unit connects with the district organization. There were three areas of interest that were presented as possible local support in addition to their annual pledge to UMW. A video about ECHO, the church's Cuba connection and sister church, presented by Pastor Ivan Corbin, and Glad Kids, a preschool in the local community for low income families. Since most of the women at Beach are winter residents, their participation is limited as they are there from December to April. They feel they can still be effective and supportive as they have a heart for mission.



Barbara Cantley, Unit President



Nancy Galand



Pastor Ivan Corbin



Blanca Acosta, Glad Kids



Trinity United Methodist Women, Sarasota

On Sunday March 10th, Trinity Sarasota United Methodist Women celebrated UMW 150 years in a grand way! Our dear Pastor gave us both services to plan and lead. We led both worship services including a skit about our legacy, past, present and future. Our members (all wearing a white rose) served in worship, provided our history display and presented lovely refreshments for both coffee hours. It was a memorable Sunday! We even gained two new members after they heard in worship all that UMW do to put faith, hope and love into action! Our skit was so cute "A Legacy Carol"am willing to share with other units still planning their celebrations.



First United Church UMW—Bonita Springs

The UMW celebrated our 150th last night at First United in Bonita Springs. Seventeen members along with our Loving Link Gloria Heston sang and shared a special cake to mark our decision to gift \$150 to the Legacy Fund.



Submitted by Ruthann Etkorn



Good Shephard—North Fort Myers

Our UMW meeting and celebration was on March 11th. We had our meeting, our Prayer and Self Denial program and commitments were made for that, with us turning them in at our UMW April luncheon and fashion show, and our president, Kay Twa, had arranged, from the UMW website, for us to view an excellent and interesting video about the UMW and our 150 years. We then had a birthday party with a decorated cake. I've also attached a photo of our officers being installed by Mary Van Tol last January. Left to right: Mary Van Tol, Jackie Morton, Beth Ferris, Gilda Wilson, Joyce Campbell, Joan Bowsby, Vicky Carnevale, Shar-Ron Thompson, Lois Jean Wood, and Kay Twa.



Submitted by Beth Ferris

Upcoming Unit Events



Women's Luncheon

brought to you with love
by the

First United Methodist
Church of Naples

338 1st Ave South

Saturday, May 11, 11 am – 1 pm

Childcare provided

Come enjoy delicious food,
fun, and fellowship ...

Plus a dollop of
**Truth gift-wrapped in
humor**

by

Debora Coty

www.DeboraCoty.com

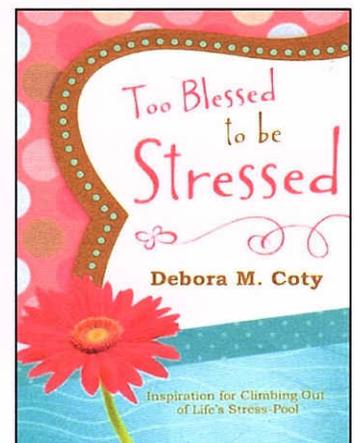
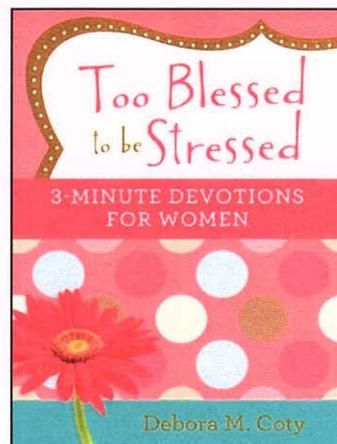
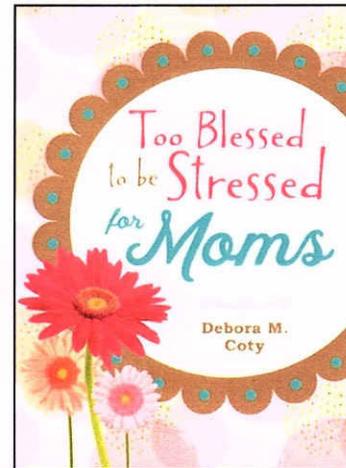
Bestselling author of the
popular series,

***Too Blessed to be
Stressed***

Tickets \$20 each

available online at

www.fumcnaples.org/events

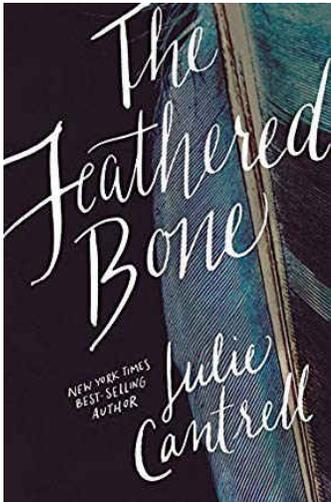


If you have any other questions, please
call Lee Kraus at (443) 799-2822

PROGRAM RESOURCES – For Life!

So, are you still reading? After finishing Martin Luther King, Jr.'s *“Where Do We Go From Here – (King Legacy)”*, I have just finished my promised “next read”: ***“The Feathered Bone”*** by Julie Cantrell. I am exhausted....just as life is exhausting, right! There is no denying the Lord gives us choices that can sometimes turn your life around and this little jewel just happens to have done just that for me. Truly, He guides our Reading Program.

Here is why you may need make ***“The Feathered Bone”*** – Social Action Category - your next read!



“Feathers—no matter what size or shape or color—are all the same, if you think about them. They’re soft. Delicate. But the secret thing about feathers is ... they are very strong.”

“A Note from the Author

Writers are frequently asked, “Where do you come up with your ideas?” While this particular story is a work of fiction, many things came together to inspire Amanda’s tale.

First, the loss of my own brother to suicide when he was a senior in high school. I write this in memory of Jeff, whose light still shines. My brother was loved, and he lived a life of love. He is greatly missed. Every second. Every day.

Second, I have seen too many friends endure the tragic death of a child. I have mourned their loss and observed the struggle they face while navigating this horrific trauma. To each of you who has known this unbearable grief, my heart hurts for you, and I thank you for showing us such models of strength and courage.

Third, I was mesmerized by the story of Elizabeth Smart and her personal account of miracles and faith that kept her spiritually strong in the face of evil. Elizabeth, you inspire me and countless others. This story exists because of you.

Fourth, I am passionate about being the voice for the many women (and men) who endure emotional and/or physical abuse for the sake of keeping a marriage/family together, or because they are too afraid/too in danger to escape safely, or because this abuse is all they know of love, or because this is what they believe they deserve. To you, I ask, what good is it to have feathers if you don’t fly? You are worthy of being loved. You are worthy of being free.

PROGRAM RESOURCES – For Life! (con't)

Fifth, I long to reach the many teens who suffer from depression or despair and who feel misunderstood and hopeless in this great big world. To you, I promise, it will get better! Inhale. Exhale. Good things await. Please don't let the pain win. You are stronger than you think you are.

Sixth, I saw a 2006 documentary film, *The Bridge*, which was written by Tad Friend and directed by Eric Steel. This film explores Golden Gate bridge suicides and led to my alternative telling in this book about a suicidal man in front of Walmart who wanted one person to smile at him. I want to be the person who smiles. I encourage you to be that person too.

Seventh, It was a low point in my own life when I saw a viral video that had been posted on December 12, 2013, by Hope for Paws. This emotional clip featured the story of a dog who was rescued from a terrible life in a trash pile and inspired the final scene of this book, during which Sarah compares the dog's experience to her own. I send a heartfelt thank-you to all of you who reach out a helping hand and who understand the fear that keeps a hurting soul in a place of pain.

Eighth, I've had the honor of meeting with many people who have been abused and/or trafficked in America. These survivors bravely opened their hearts to me and told me their truths. These are people you work with, study with, live near, worship with. People you would never know had endured such unjust cruelties in their lives. They are strong, and many of them believe they only managed to survive because of their faith in God. Whether or not you consider yourself a spiritual person, it is hard to deny someone who stands in front of you and says, "God was with me," when describing one of the most vile scenarios humanly imaginable. There is power in that kind of faith, and that's what I hope to have brought to the pages of this story.

All of these experiences combined to form a novel about the many forms of slavery and the ways our souls can become trapped in dark places. *The Feathered Bone* is written for every person who has ever felt alone, unloved, unsafe, or unvalued. It is written to remind us all that we are loved, we have worth, and we are never alone."

I must share this one snippet from Chapter 27: "My aunt thinks God was trying to say that men had let him down too many times. So he turned to a woman. A virgin, who was not under the control of any man. And he made her a mother for a reason. And he gave her a son for a reason too."

I arched my brows, waiting for the moral to be revealed.

"It's so she could bring a new kind of man into the world, one who could teach men how to love again. We had forgotten."

Submitted by Sandy Segur, Program Resource Secretary, South West District

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN ROCKING THE WORLD FOR 150 YEARS!



2019 SOUTH WEST DISTRICT CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<p>JANUARY 26</p> <p>Unit Officer Leadership Training</p> <p>Sebring St. John</p> <p>Registration starts: 9:00 am Program: 10:00 am - 2:30 pm Lunch \$8.00</p>	<p>FEBRUARY 23</p> <p>Mission Team Meeting (District Officers Only)</p> <p>Christ United Venice</p> <p>10:00 am -2:00 pm</p>	<p>MARCH 30</p> <p>Spiritual Growth Event</p> <p>Wesley Memorial Fort Myers</p> <p>Registration starts: 9:00 am Program: 10:00 am - 2:30 pm Lunch \$8.00</p>
<p>APRIL</p> <p>No Events</p>	<p>MAY 18</p> <p>Social Justice Event (Half Day)</p> <p>Sarasota Trinity</p> <p>Registration starts: 9:00 am Program: 10 am – 12:30 pm</p> <p>Mission Team Meeting (District Officers Only)</p> <p>1:00 pm - 3:00 pm</p>	<p>JUNE</p> <p>No Events</p>
<p>JULY 11-14</p> <p>Mission u</p> <p>Florida Southern College Lakeland</p>	<p>AUGUST 17</p> <p>Mission Team Meeting (District Officers Only)</p> <p>Good Shepherd North Fort Myers</p> <p>10:00 am -2:00 pm</p>	<p>SEPTEMBER 21</p> <p>Mission Sampler</p> <p>Port Charlotte</p> <p>Registration starts: 9:00 am Program: 10:00 am - 2:30 pm Lunch \$8.00</p>
<p>OCTOBER 19</p> <p>South West District Annual Meeting</p> <p>Englewood</p> <p>Registration starts: 9:00 am Program: 10:00 am - 2:30 pm Lunch \$8.00</p>	<p>NOVEMBER</p> <p>No Events</p>	<p>DECEMBER 14</p> <p>Mission Team Meeting (District Officers Only)</p> <p>Charlotte Harbor Trinity</p> <p>10:00 am - 2:00 pm</p>

March 30, 2019

Census 2018 DUE

April 5, 2019

1st Quarter Pledge DUE

April 6, 2019

Simulcast Event

Englewood UMC

700 E. Dearborn St., Englewood, FL

9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Cost: \$10 includes lunch

May 18, 2019

Social Justice 1/2 Day Event

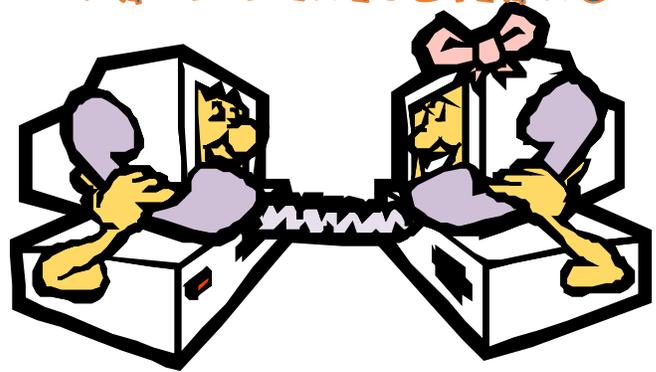
Trinity UMC, Sarasota
4150 South Shade Ave, Sarasota 34231
Registration: 9a—9:45p
Program: 10a—NOON

MTM to follow
District Officers only, plan for 2020
12:30 p—2:30 p

July 11-14, 2019

MISSION u

Florida Southern College
Lakeland, FL.



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/southwestdistrictumw.com](https://www.facebook.com/southwestdistrictumw.com)

Treasurer's Reminder

1st Quarter Pledge is Due April 5, 2019.

Please remit to:

Phyllis Jackman

5317 Congo Ct.

Cape Coral, FL 33904

239-848-6484

phyllisjackman.umw@gmail.com



A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Mission Study and Mission Today reports should be sent to me in the future. Pat McShane has stepped down due to health issues. We send our thanks and prayers out to Pat.

Mary Van Tol,
President

