



Florida Conference United Methodist Women



Genesis

Fall 2018 vol. 45 no.3

Purpose

United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God, 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.

President: Kay Roach
kayroach.umw@gmail.com

Vice President:
Judith Pierre-Okerson
judithpierreokerson.umw@gmail.com

Secretary: Gwendolyn Dixon
gwendolyndixon.umw@gmail.com

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ethelewing.umw@gmail.com

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Chair, Committee on Nominations: Denise Morrell
denisemorrell.umw@gmail.com

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sharynladner.umw@gmail.com

From President Kay Roach

Greetings Sisters in Christ: The Beauty of Simplicity
Truth Defeats Fear

"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever. Psalm 107:1 (NIV)

Reading the above scripture from *Daily Guideposts 2018* I am reminded just how good our Lord is and that his love certainly endures forever. How could I forget such a truth and remember to always give Him thanks?



As I write this, I have to admit I have heavy thoughts and worries on my mind as my older sister recently had a stroke but just a little reminder such as this scripture can take all those worries from me and I know I can turn the situation over to the Lord.

As the hot and humid summer continues, schools are getting ready to begin a new school year and children, youth and adults are preparing for a safe and happy experience.

Since our Spring issue of *Genesis* we have attended the Florida Annual Conference in June at Florida Southern College, had a great Mission u in July at Bethune Cookman University and now experiencing our Spiritual Enrichment Retreat this month at the Life Enrichment Center in Fruitland Park. United Methodist Women's Conference Annual Meeting will be hosted by First United Methodist Church, Lakeland on November 3. Please read about our upcoming events in this issue. Your presence is always necessary and appreciated at all events and remember to bring a "first timer" along with you. The sisterhood of United Methodist Women is so important which I personally value greatly and I pray all of you do as well.

I look forward to seeing you soon and please know that your district and conference leaders are available to you.

Let's make Faith, Hope, Love in Action happen!

Blessings,
Kay Roach

"It is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me" Galatians 2:20

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**



United
Methodist
Women

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

Come and Celebrate!

You are invited to attend our Conference Annual Meeting this fall! In addition to conducting the business of the Conference Organization, the Annual meeting is a time to celebrate the mission work of our local units, commemorate the legacy of the women throughout this conference who have gone to glory this past year, and to fellowship with one another.

The event will be held Saturday, November 3rd, 2018 at First United Methodist Church in Lakeland. Julie Taylor will lead us in understanding the importance of linking sacred spaces and building relationships with all God's creation. Julie is a Former United Methodist Women Spiritual Formation Director, she is currently serving as the Executive Director for the National Farm Worker Ministry, in Raleigh North Carolina.

As you are making plan with your local women to participate in the event, please do note October 15th is the deadline to register if you are planning to have a meal. The cost for the registration is \$25 per person for the program and lunch or \$12.00 for the program only. Limited scholarships are available through your District President.

Registration will begin at 9:00 a.m. in the Narthex of the Church.

I am looking forward to celebrating the journey with you.

Deaconess Judith Pierre-Okerson,
PhD
Vice-President
Judithpierreokerson.umw@gmail.com

Meet Your Nominees!

Hello, beautiful United Methodist Women of the Florida Conference. It has been a joy serving and working with you this year. We are doing something innovative with the Nominations Committee, after consultation with the National Office we will have a Chair and Vice-Chair for this next term.

Jannette Hawley from the Southwest District will be the Chair. She is active in her church and community, and served on the South West District in several offices.

Sophia Pak from the Gulf Central District will be the Co-Chair. Sophia served the Conference as the Korean Language Coordinator and serves her church as the Nominations coordinator. She is a teacher with Hillsborough County and a wife and mother; she attends the Tampa Korean Church.

Annette Samuels, new Class of 2022, is from the North East District; she attends Ebenezer. She served the Conference as a Child Care Coordinator at Mission u. She is a nurse and loves providing care and giving to those in need.

Jibria White, new Class of 2022, is from the Atlantic Central District; she attends Stewart Memorial. A recent graduate of Bethune Cookman University, she has served the Conference as a Youth Counselor, Classroom aide, and Teacher at Mission u. She works with youth and has the dream of starting a non-profit to provide shoes for the under privileged

Marie Rivera, our Hispanic Language Coordinator, is from the North East District; she attends Arlington. She is a Deaconess and has served as the former district president of the NE District.

Denise Morrell
Chairperson
Committee on Nominations

**FLORIDA CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN
FORTY FIFTH 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). The registration of \$25.00 includes meeting and lunch. The **REGISTRATION FEE OF \$12.00 IS FOR THE MEETING ONLY (NO LUNCH).**

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 narthex. There will be no refunds for cancellations after October 15, 2018.

Be sure YOUR NAME IS PRINTED ON THE FORM AS YOU WOULD LIKE IT ON YOUR NAME TAG.

Send the registration form to: Ethel Ewing, 823 Lakeside Ct. Lakeland, FL 33815 TN# 863-680-4072 Home 863 370-8757 Cell, E-mail: ethelewing@msn.com Be sure to use **Conference Annual Meeting** in the subject box.

FLORIDA CONFERENCE ANNUAL MEETING 2018

Reg # _____

Name _____ Phone (____) _____

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 ____

Nominee _____ First Time attendee: Yes _____ No _____

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)**

You still have time to qualify as a **RAINBOW GIVER** in 2018

Here is all you need to do:

- Make and pay a pledge to your local unit
- Honor someone with a Special Mission Recognition pin
- Send a Gift to Mission card
- Remember someone with a Gift in Memory
- Give to the World Thank Offering



The Florida Conference United Methodist Women has pledged \$410,000 to the National organization of United Methodist Women. Join the other Rainbow Givers in our conference and help us reach our goal. We appreciate your generous gifts in previous years and know that all of us giving together can help us meet our pledge for 2018.

Ethel Ewing, Conference Treasurer

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Keeping Up as District Secretaries

It was really refreshing to meet with so many of you at Mission u officers' update session. Sharing your role and what works for you in your district was most helpful to others around the table. Many of the questions that you asked and suggestions made by you led me to believe that you take your position seriously. As conference secretary, I say, "Hats off to you!"

As we move forward, keeping informed is so important to the women in your district who are putting faith, hope and love into action for the many women, children and youth in the district and around the world. You serve as custodians of all records and official documents, as well as keep accurate rolls of district and local elected leaders. The time is approaching in which there may be elections, appointments, or interim changes of leadership in your district. Collecting and sending this information to me, your conference secretary, as well local units, is vitally important. Information should include your district, unit and home addresses and, zip codes, telephone and emails.



Continue to make yourselves available to your counterparts at the local level. I am, likewise, available to you via email or phone. Hope to see each of you at our next event, which is Conference Annual Meeting.

Gwendolyn Dixon, PhD
Conference Secretary
gwendolyndixon.umw@gmail.com



Greetings Florida Conference Ladies!

Summer is ending and Mission u 2018 is behind us. It was so nice to put names with faces while in Daytona, and I hope each of you had not only an enjoyable time, but educational.

Fall will soon be upon us and I hope you have been able to take advantage of the many books available through our reading program. Reading Plan Reports are soon due, so if you haven't finished that last book on your list, you still have a few days left so you can get credit.

Looking ahead...the 2019 Reading and Program Books are now available as well as the 2019 Prayer Calendar. Please check with your Secretary of Program Resources in your district for details.

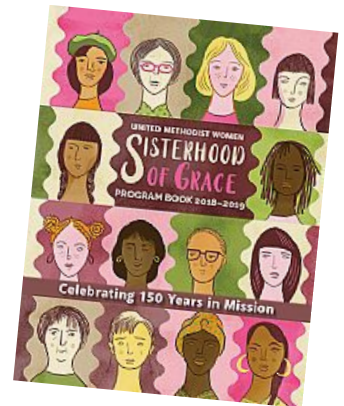
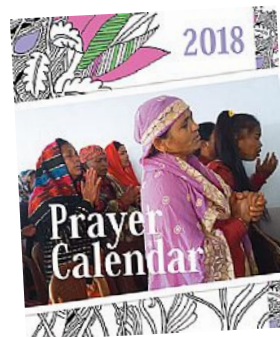
I will have these and many other items for purchase at the Conference Annual Meeting. Put this date on your calendar. This will take place on Saturday, November 3rd at First United Methodist Church in Lakeland. Please make plans to attend as there will be many accomplishments recognized from the year!

As always, please feel free to email or call me at:
shelleydavidson.umw@gmail.com or at 863-599-9070.

Happy Reading!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Shelley Davidson".

Shelley Davidson
Secretary, Program Resources
Florida Conference United Methodist Women



United
Methodist
Women

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

Mission u 2018: Experiencing Transforming Grace

“...but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ...” II Peter 3:18

Did you join with 283 other United Methodist Women and yes, some men, too, and attend Mission u 2018 at Bethune-Cookman University in July? What an awesome experience! Was it life-changing for you? I know it was for me back in 2010 when I attended my first Mission u (or School of Christian Mission, as it was called back then). And every year it's been better and better.

Mission u is a wonderful way to rekindle or deepen one's faith. It is a Christian educational program grounded in social action and spirituality—Wesley's acts of mercy and acts of piety. For the past six years the focus of Mission u has been on TRANSFORMATION. And 2018 was no different—II Peter 3:18 says it all: Mission u is where we grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ—where we can experience Jesus Christ's TRANSFORMING GRACE.

The Mission u Committee tried something different – some things new and some things “tried and true” – this year that was based on attendees' comments and evaluations from prior years: we offered one mission study instead of two. We wanted to provide more time for study and relaxation, spiritual formation, fellowship, and social action. We had a new “First Timers” gathering, a re-revised update session for District Officers, a Focus on Action session, and the “Mission Sampler”: an event brought from past years where attendees had the opportunity to experience an overview of all three mission studies.

As 2018 Dean Paulette Monroe wrote in her Mission u program introduction: by providing more opportunities to experience transformative learning, attendees would be so challenged that they would take this learning beyond their comfort zone into their local churches and communities. The one class, reminiscent of early SCM years, and based on the feedback we received, it was what you wanted—and needed. It was well received as comments of attendees provided – it was “applauded”. We will continue the one-class format next year.

As the new dean for 2019, I welcome your comments and suggestions for improving our Florida Conference United Methodist Women Mission u – and look forward to seeing you next year.

Sharyn Ladner, Dean
2019 Florida Conference United Methodist Women Mission u
sharynladner.umw@gmail.com



Mission u 2018 Photo Album



Morning watch in Residence Hall
Courtyard,
Dr. Judith Pierre-Okerson, Worship Leader



Sophia Williams
and Layanne ?,
youth
participants in
the Saturday
morning
Worship
Service.



Above: Social Action Focus Group—School
to Prison Pipeline presentation by Dr. Judith
Pierre-Okerson and Media Coordinator
Kenya Monroe.



Haitian Choir, with musician Brandon Boyd
and Song Leader Emily Andrews (backstage)



Opening of
Children's
Talent Show
with Lord's
Prayer by
James, son of
UMWomen
member
Phoebe Lustre.

Money Matters was the focus for the Children's study in the Florida Conference. Showing generosity and children using their spiritual gifts and talents were some of the key concepts.

The children and youth were excited about their creative endeavors, making gratitude boxes, bookmarks, beautiful paintings on canvas, jewelry, door hangers, fresh lemonade, and more. In addition, twenty bags of school supplies were donated to children! These were displayed at the **Marketplace** prior to the evening Plenaries. Students networked with the adult participants about their creation, collected and counted the funds donated, working with Donna Spear, business manager. Ms. Spear said that the students learned skills for future roles in UMW! The children were so excited about their accomplishments and they raised approximately \$460 which was donated to Wesley Family Ministries, Key West, Florida.



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Seeking Health and Wholeness: An Earth Perspective for Covenantal Living



This year's study, part two of the 2017 study, was geared toward God's design for our lives in the present times. The study's primary focus was centered in a theology of wholeness in which God is creator of everything, is in all of His creation and covenants His disciples to a faith of mutuality in caring for the earth and its inhabitants. Creation, community and self are to be faithfully revered as sacred. Preventing pollution in its various forms; caring for oneself through individual and corporate worship; making Sabbath for self; and making it all work in practical ways in local, national and international communities; all honor the Creator.

The women put together a quilt in which in their own word, design, or scripture demonstrated their faith in ecology and movement toward planetary wholeness. They used colored markers on squares of cloth to visually portray faith and action on the road to 'ecological resurrection.' The finished product was

not only beautiful, but also demonstrated our oneness in Christ as we work individually and corporately to be in covenant with our Creator.

Great Events...



We had a great time at the 2018 United Methodist Women's Assembly.

We were **Powerfully Bold** women!

North Central District Great MEETS AND GREETs

The North Central District Leadership Team held a Meet and Greet for the United Methodist Women of the new churches that had been moved into the District. The officers introduced themselves to the groups who attended and told them of the upcoming events for the United Methodist Women in the North Central District. Our thanks to Brooksville for hosting this event; it was an opportunity for a fellowship time with other United Methodist Women.

CONGRATULATIONS TO FREEDOM UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The United Methodist Women of Freedom United Methodist Church in Waldo have been reinstated as an official United Methodist Women unit. Deaconess Mae Griner, District President, led the reorganizational service.

Advocate for our great children...



*Florida Conference United
Methodist Women great Website:*
www.flconfumw.org

Great place to be...Southeastern
Jurisdiction Quadrennial Meeting
April 17-19, 2020 in Mobile, AL

Mission u 2019



Save the Date! Plan to attend Mission u 2019 July 11 – 14 at Florida Southern College, Lakeland, FL

Mission u offers opportunities of learning and spiritual growth for adults, young adults, youth, and children. As in prior years, classes will be offered in English, Creole, Spanish, and Korean.

The new mission studies for 2019 are:

Spiritual Growth Study: Practicing Resurrection: The Gospel of Mark and Radical Discipleship In *Mark and Radical Discipleship*, author Janet Wolf explores what it means to live a life of radical discipleship today using the Gospel of Mark as the foundation. Wolf explores the timeless issues of poverty, gender, justice, liberation, equality, and others using Mark as a guide.

MARKED: A Mission Journey with Jesus in the Gospel of Mark: A Children's Study

In *MARKED: A Mission Journey with Jesus in the Gospel of Mark*, author Rita Hays invites children to join Jesus on an exciting lifelong pilgrimage of discipleship and mission.

Who do you say that I am? Meeting Jesus through the Eyes of Mark (Final Title TBD)
A Youth Study

In *Who do you say that I am? Meeting Jesus through the Eyes of Mark*, author Carolyn Poling guides youth through the Gospel of Mark, helping them to define who Jesus is to them, who he says he is in scripture, and how this impacts how we live our lives..

Geographic Study: United For Change: United Methodist Women in Mission: 150 Years and Beyond (Final Title TBD)

United for Change by Ellen Blue is the first in a two-year study commemorating United Methodist Women's 150th anniversary in 2019. It will provide a historical survey of United Methodist Women and its predecessor organizations and amplify the voices that shaped the work through an overarching story of United Methodist Women changing the face of mission.

The repeat study for 2019 is the 2018 Adult Issue Study: What About Our Money? A Faith Response. *What about Our Money? A Faith Response* explores how we understand money within the context of our faith. This discussion and our own awareness of how we relate to money can actually help free us from many of the financial dilemmas we face.

You will not want to miss out on these studies, the focus groups, music, enhanced plenary and worship experiences, district fellowships to meet and greet, mission samplers, children's and youth events, and more. And to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of United Methodist Women. What a better place to celebrate our heritage and future than at Mission u 2019!

So mark your calendars for Mission u 2019. Registration information will be available early next spring. I look forward to seeing you at Florida Southern College next July!

Blessings and love,
Sharyn Ladner, Dean Mission u 2019
sharynladner.umw@gmail.com



Florida Conference United Methodist Women

United Methodist Women of
The United Methodist Church
450 Martin Luther King, Jr. Ave
Lakeland, FL 33801

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Lakeland, FL

Contact: Leah Pittard
United Methodist Women's
Communications Committee
rockpitt2@verizon.net

Fall 2018 *Genesis*



Make It Happen!

FLORIDA CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Calendar of Events

October 6	Conference Leadership Team Meeting	Lakeland
November 3	Conference Annual Meeting	First United Methodist Lakeland
February 16	Leadership Team/ Membership Emphasis	Lakeland
February 23 - 26	Special General Conference Session of Church	St. Louis, MO
March 9	Haitian Convocation	Hallandale Haitian UMC
April 13	Conference Leadership Team Meeting	Lakeland
June 5 - 8	Church Annual Conference	Florida Southern College Lakeland
July 11 – 14	Mission u	Florida Southern College Lakeland