

# The Informer



## United Women in Faith

South West District United Women in Faith

Fall 2022

### President's Ponderings

As I pondered what I wanted to share for this article, I was reminded of our purpose. I have thought back on 2022 on how I lived this purpose.

As a citizen in the United States, I have no restrictions on my ability to know God and to experience freedom. However not all women have this luxury even in the United States. Therefore, the United Women in Faith remind of injustices happening around us so we can learn to develop creative and supportive fellowship. This might be a smile in the store or assistance with electronic media.



We have been encouraged by our national leaders to be vocal. United Women in Faith has been a way for me to

have conversation with women who I do not go to church with. Women outside my social circle. I have learned we have a great deal in common and if we come together in the Lord's name great things will happen. The Sybil Smith Family Village in Mobile embodies the purpose and mission of the United Women in Faith by helping women, children and youth find their way toward a better life.

So for 2023, we must continue to grow as women and support the mission with our time and our money. Our pledge for 2022 is going to be short which will affect our ability to make a change. As you, a local unit or circle of women are planning for 2023, let's get creative in fund raising. Also look at the women you see at each meeting and pray for them to answer the call to lead or serve on a committee. Reach out to the young members of the church with a card mailed with a personal invitation to participate. We must be creative and supportive, listening to suggestions and giving new ideas a try.

#### South West District Mission Team

**President**  
Michele Smith

**Vice President**

**Secretary**  
Marcie McNeal

**Treasurer**  
Sally Pehler

**Communications**  
Susan McRae

#### Mission Coordinators

##### Education and Interpretation

##### Membership Nurture & Outreach

Stephanie Bromley

**Social Action**  
Ginger Sorenson

**Spiritual Growth**  
Anne Capps

**Registrar**  
Mary Presley

**Historian**  
Shirley Bryan

**Parliamentarian**  
Debbie Bell

##### Committee on Nominations

Carolyn Brown

Sallie Brown

Judy Burnham

Mary Gipson

Geneva Hogan

Esme Quijada

# The Informer

*Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you"*  
- John 20:21

Lets close out 2022 with this scripture in our minds and on our hearts,

Michele Smith  
President, 2021-22  
South West District United Women in Faith

## Secretary's Scribbles

### Wrapping it Up

We're nearing the end of the year, and this may mean the end of your term as Secretary. Regardless of whether you are returning or not, you did it!

Hopefully you learned a lot throughout your position as UMW Secretary. Now you get to pass on the knowledge or plan for the next year. This is a good time to gather up your meeting notes for the year and discuss with your President anything she may want filed or archived. Use this time to prepare a basic 'Flow Chart' for the incoming Secretary - or for yourself as a helpful tool for another term.



Thank you for your part in supporting as a leader in United Women in Faith. Your time, minutes, and organization are greatly appreciated. You are now worthy of a much-deserved holiday break!

Marcie McNeal  
Secretary, 2021-22  
South West District United Women in Faith  
mcnealms@gmail.com  
251-509-6062

### **SOUTH WEST DISTRICT**

### **Alabama-West Florida**

### **Conference**

### **UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH**

### **Units and Presidents**

#### **Christ UWF**

Debbie Bell

#### **Dauphin Way UWF**

Jamie Blake

#### **Grand Bay UWF**

Elsie Patrick

#### **Grove Hill UWF**

Mary English

#### **Kingswood UWF**

Suzanne Meadows

#### **New Hope UWF**

Karen Arnold

#### **Pine Hill UWF**

Tutti Johnson

#### **Spring Hill UWF**

Janice Small

#### **St. John UWF**

Katy Wrona

#### **St Mark UWF**

Jeanette Skinner

#### **St. Mary UWF**

Suzette Williams

#### **Theodore UMC**

Ginger Sorenson

#### **Theodore First UWF**

Evelyn Stallworth

#### **Thomasville UWF**

Shirley Hodges

#### **Toulminville-Warren Street UWF**

Geneva Hogan

#### **Wesley Chapel UWF**

# The Informer

## Treasurer's Tidbits

I know you all are thinking about the wonder and busy-ness of the fourth quarter of the year! We enjoy fall temperatures (mostly), Thanksgiving, Christmas and winding down our UWF meetings and fundraisers.

### **PLEASE NOTE THAT I HAVE AN ADDRESS CHANGE:**

**Sally Pehler**

**PO BOX 1435**

**Point Clear, AL 36564**

spehler@comcast.net 251490-4717

I have received several checks at our previous address. The new owners of our house are lovely and will hold our mail, sometimes for several weeks before calling me; so if I do not deposit your check quickly, that is the reason why.

*Please know that when you read this article, you will probably only have around two weeks to get your final money and reports turned in.*

With the end of the year quickly approaching, it is time to dig deep in our units so that we can end the year strong. At the present moment, we have 53% of our goal - \$13,245.60 of our \$24,575.00 goal thanks to only 8 of 18 units that have given this year. We have 10 units that have not given this year. If you know someone at these churches, please let Michele or me know if there is anything that we can do for them to help.

Dauphin Way Grove Hill New Hope Pine Grove Springhill Avenue

St John St Mark St Mary's Theodore 1<sup>st</sup> Wesley Chapel

We have a month to meet our \$24,575 goal and we have a little less than \$11,000 to go. Please discuss with your units their plans for reaching the goals of the 5 Channels of Mission Giving. We have four (4) churches that have met these goals. If you want to know what areas are needed for you to meet these goals, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Lastly, please get your names/money to me for special recognition pins. They have been shipping quickly, but I know that the end of year rush will slow them down. Let's have a fourth quarter push and finish strong.

Sally Pehler

Treasurer, 2021-22

South West District United Methodist Women



## The Five Channels of Mission Giving

-1-

**Pledge to Mission**

-2-

**Special Mission Recognition**

-3-

**Gift to Mission**

-4-

**Gift in Memory**

-5-

**World Thank Offering**

# The Informer

## 2023-24 Officers Elected & Installed

The following Officers were elected and installed for the 2023-24 biennium

- **President - Michele Smith**
- **Secretary - Marcie McNeal**
- **Mission Coordinator for Social Action - Ginger Sorenson** (in absentia)
- **Communications Coordinator - Susan McRae**

Currently in our district we also have openings for **Vice President** as well as **Mission Coordinator for Education and Interpretation, and 2 positions on the Nominating Committee**. A Talent Bank form is available at <https://www.awf-umw.org/forms>

## Education and Interpretation

**Mission Giving** : This report highlights your mission dollars at work in Ukraine. United Women in Faith continues to assist our partners in Ukraine with emergency food, hygiene items, blankets, psychological support, facilitation of self-help groups, and more. The October 25th Voices From The Field was the latest update from Women's Peace Dialogue Platform members as they continue to work tirelessly and report from Ukraine and other neighboring countries.

What began as an effort by United Methodist Women in 2015 to bring Ukrainian and Russian women together to talk peace, has evolved into a permanent regional forum called the Women's Peace Dialogue Platform. The members spoke about the situation, support, and actions of this unique forum at our Voices on Ukraine event in March 2022.

These courageous women spoke again on how your Mission Giving helps the people of Ukraine persevere under continuous bombardment and shelling.

You may listen to the recorded event at <https://uwfaith.org/resources/podcasts/>, to learn first-hand information about what is happening on the ground, how the Women's Peace Dialogue Platform members are helping in a real war situation, and why women's inclusion in all peace processes is more critical than ever.



## Our Purpose

**United Women in Faith 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 the concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.**

# The Informer

Your Reading Program and Mission Today Unit reports are due to your unit president by November 15 to include on the unit president's consolidated report.

The 2023 Reading Program Catalogue is available at <https://www.umwmissionresources.org/downloads/>. All program books from the 2018-2023 lists will be eligible for 2023 if you haven't previously reported them.

Please contact me for clarification or assistance with reports.

Joyce Genz  
Education and Interpretation  
AWF-UMW Conference Coordinator, 2021-22

## Membership Nurture and Outreach

Have you ever kept a prayer journal? It's a wonderful way to express yourself graphically rather than mentally. Write your prayer requests and date them; then days, weeks or months later go back and reread them. See how many requests have been answered and how they were answered. Though it may be a challenge to sustain this daily practice, it is so therapeutic! Just *try it!*

Creating is another method of self-expression - a poem, a painting, handwork, a floral arrangement, or even a delightful and delicious food item - all representations of creativity contribute to contemplation.

Participation in Christian women's retreats - like the recent Spiritual Enrichment gathering at Blue Lake or those involving local churchwomen - opens the door to changes in heart and mind by exposing vulnerabilities to others who are seeking a closer relationship with Jesus.

In Ezekiel 36:26, God says, "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you." That, too, is what United Women in Faith is trying to exude. As Christian women, we all believe in the power of our Lord, in self-expression and in revealing our strengths and weaknesses to help others. But how far and wide do we really "Do It"?

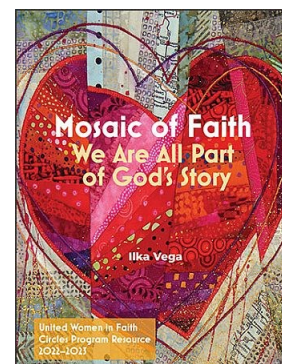


Get the  
**2022-23**

### Program Resource

at

[https://www.umwmissionresources.org/shopping\\_product\\_detail.asp?pid=53528](https://www.umwmissionresources.org/shopping_product_detail.asp?pid=53528)

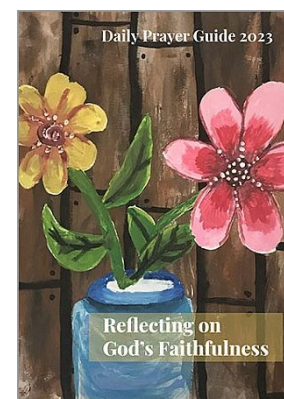


Get the

### 2023 Prayer Guide

at

[https://www.umwmissionresources.org/shopping\\_product\\_detail.asp?pid=53535](https://www.umwmissionresources.org/shopping_product_detail.asp?pid=53535)





# The Informer

As Membership Nurture and Outreach Mission Coordinator for our District, I witness and am constantly amazed at the wonderful results that are manifested by the activities of the District and the units, and I am motivated to help spread that enthusiasm further. Reaching out to those in need, nurturing others and ourselves in a variety of ways are goals that we all need to work towards. Let's go forth with a newly expressive heart and renew our spirits! And let's go **BOLDLY!**

*Stephanie Bromley*  
Membership Nurture and Outreach Coordinator 2022-23  
South West District United Women in Faith

## Social Action

### From UMC.org Paragraph 124 of the Discipline

A reminder of what we stand for as a church.

As servants of Christ we are sent into the world to engage in the struggle of justice and reconciliation. We seek the love of God for men, women and children of all ethnic, racial, cultural, and national backgrounds and to demonstrate the healing power of the Gospel with those who suffer.

### From Uwfaith.org

We are driven by God's love and united in **sisterhood**, we work to improve the lives of women, children and youth. Every day we show up. We take action.

As stated by our discipline we work to improve the lives of children of all ethnic, racial, cultural, and national backgrounds.

*Ginger Sorenson*  
Social Action Coordinator, 2022  
South West District United Women of Faith



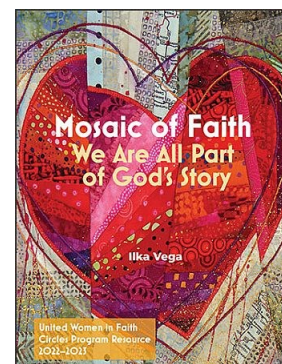
## Spiritual Enrichment

We had a lovely Spiritual Enrichment Retreat for the South West District, on October 29, 2022, at Pine Hill United Methodist Church with 23 members present. I want to thank each person who made the trip to Pine Hill.

Get the  
**2022-23**  
**Program Resource**

at

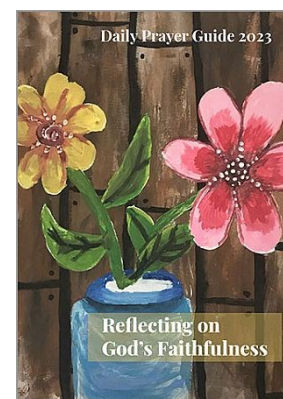
[https://  
www.umwmissionresources.org/  
shopping\\_product\\_detail.asp?  
pid=53528](https://www.umwmissionresources.org/shopping_product_detail.asp?pid=53528)



Get the  
**2023 Prayer Guide**

at

[https://  
www.umwmissionresources.org/  
shopping\\_product\\_detail.asp?  
pid=53535](https://www.umwmissionresources.org/shopping_product_detail.asp?pid=53535)



# The Informer


After an opening devotional and prayer by Pastor Randall Jackson of the Pine Hill UMC Charge, we followed up with our business meeting, installation of Officers, and an extremely important and informative presentation by our guest speaker.

Mrs. Renae Carpenter of Camille Place in Monroe County, shared shocking and unimaginable facts about human trafficking in our state and even within our area. Although this may normally fall under Social Action, I felt it was important to keep these victims and social workers in our prayers continually.



God gives us each a special gift. Through Him we can move mountains! Let us not forget that human trafficking of all kinds is still a multibillion-dollar industry in the US and worldwide. And our thoughts and prayers to fight against this evil will never be unheard by our Savior.

Our scripture for the retreat was John 20:21. *Again he said, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you."* Let us continue to lean on our faith and

 through each other to see where and how God will lead us. The beautiful thing about being a member of United Women in Faith is that our sisterhood is strong, but our faith is stronger! I pray you never feel like you are facing any battle alone. We are all here for you and we are always in prayer for each one of you, your local units, and our district. We are in this together as they say, and I can't wait to see where God leads this organization next.

We ended the day with a wonderful time of fellowship over a "simply salad" lunch, with different types of salads, and desserts which were all simply scrumptious, thanks to the ladies of the Pine Hill Charge UWFaith!

I hope to see more of you at next year's South West District Spiritual Enrichment event!

Anne Capps  
Spiritual Enrichment Coordinator, 2022-23  
South West District United Women in Faith

faith

action

sisterhood

Subscribe to *response* Magazine  
in digital or print format at  
[https://  
www.umwmissionresources.org/  
shopping\\_product\\_detail.asp?  
pid=53525](https://www.umwmissionresources.org/shopping_product_detail.asp?pid=53525)



To download information about  
the Reading Program use  
[https://  
www.umwmissionresources.org/  
downloads/  
ReadingProgramCatalog2021.pdf](https://www.umwmissionresources.org/downloads/ReadingProgramCatalog2021.pdf)



# The Informer

## SOUTH WEST DISTRICT UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH ALABAMA-WEST FLORIDA CONFERENCE 2022 DISTRICT AND CONFERENCE CALENDAR

JAN 15	AWF-UW Faith Conference Executive Mission Team Meeting XTeam Officers & District Presidents	Virtual
JAN 29	Mobile District Mission Team Meeting	Citronelle UMC
FEB 19	AWF-UMW Conference Annual Day	Marianna First UMC
MAR 19	District Annual Day	Grove Hill UMC
MAY 20-22	ASSEMBLY 2022 Turn it UP!	Orlando Convention Center
JUNE 11	District Mission Team Meeting (2022 Budget Meeting)	St. John UMC
JULY 16	AWF-UMW Conference Executive Mission Team Meeting	Enterprise FUMC
JULY 23-24	Cooperative Mission u	Aldersgate UMC
AUG 27	District Mission Study	Theodore UMC
OCT 7-8	AWF-UMW Spiritual Enrichment Retreat	Blue Lake Assembly Grounds
OCT 29	District Spiritual Enrichment Day	Pine Hill UMC
NOV 5	Training for District Presidents and Treasurers	via ZOOM
NOV 16	District Mission Team Meeting	via ZOOM



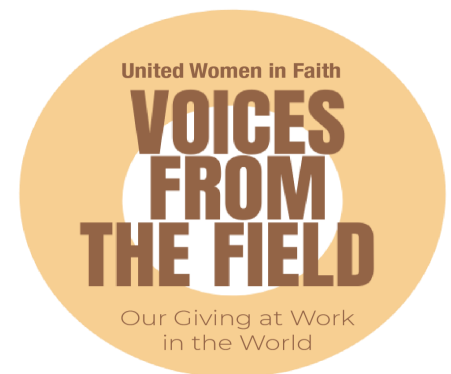
United  
Women  
in Faith

Podcasts are an excellent source of informative, thoughtful interactions that are easy listening and have added benefits. Get podcasts at -

<https://uwfaith.org/resources/podcasts/>



Hear some of *response* Magazine's best stories at *Responsively Yours*



Where do our mission dollars go? Find out at *Voices from the Field*.