



United  
Methodist  
Women  
FAITH · HOPE · LOVE IN ACTION

# The Connection

DOTHAN DISTRICT UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Volume 2021 Issue 2

SUMMER 2021

2021

*May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of each other that Jesus Christ had, so that, with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 15:5-6*

Mission u 2021



There's Far More Here  
THAN MEETS THE EYE

## 2021 AWF-UMW Virtual MISSION U

July 22-24

There's far more here than meets the eye... The 2021 Alabama West Florida UMW Mission u will be a virtual event where we will examine anxiety, the culture of violence that impacts children in and out of schools, and how we as God's people can deepen our moral witness and respond faithfully.

We have known and felt what it is like when "things are falling apart on us." We have experienced a great unraveling that has shifted, quite literally, everything.

Could there be, as 2 Corinthians puts it, "far more here than meets the eye"?

Mission u, like many activities in our lives, has moved online. While virtual, we are still creating spaces for spiritual community, lifelong friendships, lessons that change us and our communities, and spiritual practices that arrive when we need them most. In a time when it looks like things are falling apart on us, God's grace is still unfolding and life is being made new. Indeed: There's far more here than meets the eye. Will you join us?

2021

Dothan District  
Mission Team

President

TBD

Vice President

TBD

Secretary

TBD

Treasurer

Carolyn McInnis

Program Resources

TBD

Spiritual Growth

Jane Dyer Brown

Membership Nurture  
& Outreach

TBD

Social Action

TBD

Education &  
Interpretation

TBD

Communications

Carolyn McInnis

Nominations

TBD

At our upcoming Mission u (produced in cooperation with GNTV), we will examine anxiety, the culture of violence that impacts children in and out of schools, and how we as God's people can deepen our moral witness and respond faithfully.

Our 2021 Mission u will offer the following studies (you may take one class Friday and one Saturday)

- **Finding Peace in an Anxious World**, edited by Erin James-Brown; taught by Celeste Eubanks and Debbie Bracewell
- **Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools** by Monique Morris; taught by Zan Jones, Brenda Boman, Clara Ester, Kim Sanders
- **Bearing Witness in the Kingdom: Living into the Church's Moral Witness Through Radical Discipleship** by Darryl W. Stephens; taught by Joyce Genz and Judith Pierre-Okerson

Join us: Online July 22-24, 2021 (must register by July 12). Opening Worship is Thursday, July 22, 6:30-7:30 pm; Studies are July 23 & 24, 8:30 am-5:00 pm, including opening, breaks & plenaries.

Register: <https://www.awf-umw.org/> or mail in form to AWF-UMW Mission u, 3043 Headland Avenue, Dothan, AL 36303. Registration cost is \$10 plus \$15 per class (Study book is included in fee). Total cost for all sessions is \$40. A link will be sent to you after registration is completed to join the online sessions in real time.

2021 Dothan  
District Pledge to  
Mission  
\$12,000.00

## TREASURER

2021 Dothan  
District Pledge to  
Mission Received  
\$5,067 (42%)

Can you believe we are almost half way through 2021? Last May, we were trying to find ways to connect and continue our work as United Methodist Women. This year, we are able to look around and see that not even a pandemic could stop United Methodist Women. We have persevered despite not being able to meet in-person.

The connections we make through this organization are more than just a casual connection. We are bound together through our desire to help women, children, and youth. This desire runs through all of us and makes us refuse to give up. We know that there are still women, children, and youth that need our help, and we are determined to give it.

Although most units have not been meeting in person, that has not stopped your generosity. This year, you have given a total of \$5,067.25 in Five-Star Funds (Pledge to Mission, Gift to Mission, Gift in Memory, Special Mission Recognition pins, and World Thank Offering), \$1,105 for Call to Prayer and Self Denial, and \$984 in other designated gifts. That is a total of \$7, 156.25!

Hopefully, we will soon be able to resume our regular (IN-PERSON) meetings. I have missed my circle and have definitely missed seeing all of you. Our next district meeting is District Spiritual Day on August 14. Right now, it is scheduled to be a Zoom meeting, but I would love to change it to an in-person meeting. If your group is able to host this meeting, please contact Jane Brown or me.

Blessings,

*Carolyn McInnis*

Dothan District Treasurer



## SPIRITUAL GROWTH



### Spiritual Growth: Praying is the Answer

*Likewise the Spirit helps us with our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words.* Romans 8:26

As United Methodists, we know that our prayers are enabled by the Holy Spirit. Prayer is vital to faithful worship, and many ways of praying are found in our Methodist heritage. John Wesley encouraged both formal, written prayers and free, spontaneous prayers.

Prayer is an integral part of worship. It is also an integral part of our daily life and should be a daily focus for all of us. Prayer is unique for each person. You get to choose where and how you pray. Your prayers are about you and your life. They are part of your personal relationship with God.

I enjoy looking at the United Methodist Book of Worship (1992). Taking time to go through it has been a rewarding experience for me. Please put this on your 'to do' list. I think you will find it to be very rewarding.

Most of us use prayer as a way to make decisions. Now, I am trying to make Godly decisions. Here are some things that I consider while praying and trying to make Godly decisions: will this make me a better person, will it hurt someone, and is it a loving action? I form my prayers for myself and others to give to them the mercy, grace and love that flows from God, our father.

Ephesians 6:18 tells us *"and pray in the spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people"*.

More than ever we need prayer for our families, church, communities, state and the nation. Praying for others is a necessary part of our daily actions.

*Jane Dyer Brown*

## May is Mental Health Month

In 1949, May was designated as Mental Health month. The facts about mental health are staggering. Consider the following statistics from the National Council for Mental Wellbeing

- 1 in 5 U.S. adults experience mental issues each year
- 1 in 20 U.S. adults experience serious mental illness each year
- 1 in 6 U.S. youth aged 6-17 experience a mental health disorder each year
- 50% of all lifetime mental illness begins by age 14, and 75% by age 24
- Suicide is the second leading cause of death among people aged 10-34

The reality is, many people try walking through mental health struggles alone, without the support of family, friends, mental health professions, and support groups. No one has to walk through these struggles alone. NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness), Mental Health America, and the National Council for Mental Wellbeing are some places that you can get more information.

What can we as United Methodist Women do to help? We can pray for those that are disenfranchised; we can support the efforts of women, children, and youth who struggle with mental health conditions; we can speak out about mental health; we can support legislative actions which will benefit people who are struggling with mental health issues; and we can treat each other with respect, understanding, and love. Our Mission study, *Finding Peace in an Anxious World*, is an excellent place to start looking for ways you can help.

## REPORTING DUE DATES

Local Officer to District Officer

<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>
Treasurer's Report Unit Treasurer	By November 30 Carolyn McInnis, District Treasurer
*Name of Deceased Members Unit Secretary	By November 30 ** Jane Dyer Brown, Spiritual Growth
*Local New Unit Report Unit Secretary	By November 30 TBD, Membership Nurture & Outreach
*Social Action Report Unit Social Action Coordinator	By November 30 TBD, Social Action
*Reading Program Reports Unit Program Resource	By November 30 TBD, Program Resources
*Mission Study Participants Unit Education & Interpretation	By November 30 TBD, Education & Interpretation
Consolidated President's Report Unit President	By November 30 TBD, President***
New Officer Lists Unit Secretary	By November 30 TBD, District Secretary

**\*Included in the Consolidated President's Report**

**\*\* Please report any December deaths by January 10**

**\*\*\* Please send Consolidated President's Report to Carolyn McInnis**

### 2021 District and Conference UMW Dates

February 20 — Dothan District Annual Day, 9:30, Zoom

March 5-6 — Conference Annual Day, Virtual, Register at [www.awf-umw.org](http://www.awf-umw.org)

April — Mission Study, TBD

July 22-24 — Mission u, Virtual, Register at [www.awf-umw.org](http://www.awf-umw.org)

August 14 — Dothan District Spiritual Day, Zoom

September — Mission Study, TBD

October 8-9 — Conference Spiritual Enrichment Retreat (SER), Blue Lake