

Southeast District

CIRCUIT WRITER

**JULY
2024**

COMING EVENTS

SAVE THE DATE!

AUGUST 17, 2024

8:30 am – 5:00 pm

MISSION u

155 S SECTION ST

FAIRHOPE, AL 36532

SAVE THE DATE!

OCTOBER 25 & 26, 2024

SPIRITUAL

ENRICHMENT

RETREAT

BLUE LAKE CAMP

ANDALUSIA, AL



**Deb Ketzal
President**

Right after Easter, my husband and I took a short trip to Tennessee. I had to go and change out the flowers at my parent’s gravestone as well as to have time to visit with family and friends in West Tennessee. As I was looking around the cemetery, I was drawn to look at the gravestone of my uncle, my dad’s twin that died at birth. The stone was looking very old and dirty and almost where you could not read it. Now granted the stone is almost 100 years old, but the stone needed some cleaning up and attention given to it.

I hired a man who does restoration for gravestones to come and clean up the stone. He drove some 40 miles, brought his equipment to clean the infant stone, and did the work that was needed to restore the stone. The picture of the stone before and after does not do it justice. The stone looks brand new it is so shiny and clean.

In just a few months, our United Women in Faith current Southeast District will be a part of two new districts that align with our Alabama West Florida Conference. Many of our church units will become a part of the Panhandle District (Florida churches units) and our Alabama church units will become a part of our now Southeast District (AWF Conference District alignment). Though we are an organization that has endured mergers, COVID, and disaffiliations, we will be fresh and new. We have done the work to listen and hear what you might need to have and enjoy for years to come for UWFaith. We will have a new team of officers from each new district, willing to help make this transition as comfortable as possible and to help educate and encourage us to be the best two districts of our conference.

What can you do to help make this transition possible? Be welcoming and get to know the new district team of officers. They will be nominated, elected, and installed this fall to begin their terms of office. Invite your district officers to your unit or circle meetings, host a district meeting of some kind. Give suggestions about ways to help our new districts educate and encourage our UWFaith purpose and goals. Be a helper, be patient, and keep up about what is happening through district newsletters, emails, and the conference website. Things will be different but a blessing if we give it a chance.

It has been my pleasure to serve with you the past two years as your District President. Prayers with us all to continue to grow and become fuller in mission through the expansion and merger of our two new districts of AWF Conference UWFaith. Know I will be walking with you.

Blessings,

Deb Ketzal

Southeast District President

United Women in Faith

Alabama West Florida Conference UWFaith

Deb Ketzal, District President, Southeast District

United Women in Faith

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*From the Secretary's Pen
Elizabeth Bell*

Since this is an even numbered year, a new District Secretary will be elected for our new Panhandle District sometime this fall. She will serve for 2025-26. I served as District President from 1977-1980 and have served as District Secretary from 2022-2024, so that makes seven years as a district officer. I will not be able to serve another two-year term at district level, so someone else needs to be thinking about serving as secretary. I realize that it would be nice for the new secretary to be located near the new Panhandle District President, but that is something the Nominating Committee will have to address in their meetings.

The main requirements for District Secretary are the following:

1. Using Microsoft Word to create our annual handbook and type minutes
2. Using email to create a group of District Officers and local secretaries
3. Creating a Handbook annually (*I will share what I have created so you won't start from scratch*)
4. Sending the new Handbook to the Conference Secretary for proofing before sending to local secretaries
5. Emailing the Handbook to Local Secretaries after its approval by Conference Secretary
6. Taking minutes at district meetings, typing them, and sending to other officers to proof before sending to local units
7. Contacting local secretaries via email for updated lists of officers each year
8. *And anything else needed by the District President*
9. ***I will be available to help if I am needed!!!***

My 50+ years in United Methodist Women/UW Faith have been a wonderful time in my life. I've made friends in the Marianna/Panama City/Southeast Districts and all over the Alabama West Florida Conference. I've been to so many inspiring workshops, served as local officers, served as district officers, and learned so much!

I pray that someone out there will consider serving as district secretary of the new Panhandle District. It will be a blessing to you, and you will bless others.

Grace and peace,

Elizabeth Bell

ebell410@comcast.net



*Tidbits from the Treasurer
Bonnie Brant*

Hello United Women in Faith!

It is easy to send in Mission and Conference donations. Simply mail your check, with a remittance form, in time to reach me by the end of November.

1. If you need Mission Cards, include at least **\$5.00 per card** on your Remittance form, and I will ship them to you.
2. If you need Gift in Memory Cards, just text, call, or e-mail me.
3. If you need remittance forms, please let me know.
4. Please continue to make checks to "UMW."

2024 UWF Giving through May in our District		
*Pledge to Mission	6284.00	5-star requirement
*SMR Pins	\$80.00	5-star requirement
*Gift to Mission Cards	\$195.00	5-star requirement
*Gift in Memory	\$55.00	5-star requirement
*World Thank	\$777.00	5-star requirement
Total Pledge Giving	\$7,391.00	
Prayer and Self Denial	\$601.00	
Conference	\$895.00	

This is an excellent start! Bravo to all of you who are supporting UWF's important mission work.

Bonnie Brant

316 Blue Sage Road, Panama City Beach, FL 32413

Text or call: 478-262-5600

E-mail: bonniebrant@live.com



*Communications Coordinator
Kathy Hardy*

Moss Hill Day – A Day Apart

Each spring we remember those we have lost from the previous year that were part of the Women in Faith. This year our event was on April 13, 2024, at the historic United Methodist Church in Vernon, Florida. There were approximately 28 women that attended for the Alabama-West Florida district. The Service of Remembrance was led by Kathy McQuagge, Margie Vassie, and Debra Ketzal. While the names of those were read, a candle was lit, and a bell rang.

After the ceremony was concluded, lunch was served of all the delicious foods that had been provided and were enjoyed by the gracious ladies of the United Women in Faith.



Ladies in the church



Deanie DeFelix & Deb Ketzal

United Women in Faith (UWF) Memorial Day at Gulf Shores Care Center

Amy and Mike St. John, PSJ FUMC UWF members, and friends and staff all had a great time sharing food and memories with residents at Gulf Shores Care Center on Memorial Day. What bounty! Fried chicken and potato salad, butter beans and ham, cornbread, watermelon, cupcakes, cookies, snacks and drinks, and decorations and individual flags were all provided and enjoyed! Thanks to all who donated goodies and their time to help make residents feel special and loved. This event deliciously exemplifies our 2024 UWF theme of Food, Faith, and Fellowship.

UWF is taking a summer meeting hiatus and won't meet again until August. We do, however, plan to celebrate with residents on the July 4th Holiday so stay tuned. We would love to have you share your love,

food, and fellowship with these wonderful residents. Some even put in special requests already for their favorites - fried chicken (again), red velvet and coconut cake! Contact Amy St. John 360 280-1178 or Carol Smith 850 247-0001 for more information.



***Social Action Coordinator
Mert Stephens***

Have you joined the UWFaith website? Click here to become a member (it's free!) and dive deeper into how we Serve & Advocate: <https://uwfaith.org/get-involved/>

United Women in Faith supports partners providing direct services to women, children, youth and families in neighborhoods around the country. Internationally, we support partners empowering women, children and youth with education and economic development opportunities. We advocate for a more just world to improve life for women, children and youth. We support: U.S. projects and nearly 90 national mission institutions which are community centers, schools, and residential care centers located around the United States. United Women in Faith members serve as volunteers, advocates, and board members.

International Partners that focus on impacting poverty through enhancing the capacities of local women leaders and supporting economic development programs to provide women with the tools required to make positive, measurable change in their communities.

Advocacy—Every four years we identify a specific focus for our advocacy in addition to our ongoing work for gender and racial justice and for oppressed and dispossessed communities, with special attention to the needs of women, children and youth. Our current justice campaigns are and and Criminalization of Communities of Color.

Deaconess/Home Missioners, an order in The United Methodist Church for laity who feel a lifetime call to vocations and ministries of love, justice, and service.

Southeastern Jurisdiction Quadrennial

Congratulations to the new officers and Board of Directors members from the AWF-UWFaith membership: Zan Jones and Katy Wrona were elected to the UWF National Board of Directors, Deb Ketzel was elected to the SEJ Committee on Nominations, and Debbie Bracewell was elected president of SEJ.





SAVE THE DATE

Mission u 2024



United
Women
in Faith

Join us at **Mission u** as we explore what it means to draw closer to God and one another.

Jesus told his followers the kin-dom was among them (Luke 17:21). What does that mean? Who does Jesus say will inherit the kin-dom? How do we transform ourselves and our communities in ways that bring us closer to the kin-dom and the kin-dom closer to us? Dive into these questions and more at Mission u 2024 as we examine Scripture together and join in worship, fellowship, and action.

Mission u 2024 offers three exciting curricula on this theme:
Order your copy here: uwfaithresources.org

Adult — *Welcome Home* by Neomi Fletcher

The adult curriculum uses the image of home to explore how living in close proximity to the kin-dom is like making a home with God. Participants are invited to develop practices for building healthy, welcoming communities as a result of being anchored in the abiding love of God.

Youth — *Cultivating Symbiosis: The Nature of God's Kin-dom* by Nica Sy

In Creation, we see the power of symbiosis, or interdependent relationship. The youth curriculum explores the idea of symbiosis between our relationships with one another and our relationship with God. By drawing closer to one another and our world, we draw closer to the kin-dom.

Children — *Me in the Kin-dom* by Kathy Cook

The children's curriculum uses the Lord's Prayer as a lens to help us see that we are all members of the family of God. Children will begin to understand that the kin-dom is living with Christ and one another on earth as in heaven.

Join us! August 17, 2024 Fairhope UMC, Fairhope, AL

Registration will be posted soon.

Come learn together for the transformation of the world!

Registration Link: <https://www.awf-umw.org/event-details/2024-awf-cooperative-mission-u>

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