



United  
Methodist  
Women

FAITH · HOPE · LOVE IN ACTION

# Newsletter

Volume 4, Issue 1

January 1, 2018

## Sacred Spaces: Encounters with God and Neighbor

### Learning for Lifetime: Developing Leaders

Feb 12, 2018, 10:30 am  
Fellowship Center

The sacred time for call to prayer and self-denial is a special observance for local units to study and reflect on a specific theme and designate mission funds toward it.

Email lunch reservations by February 7th to  
UMWreservations@firstumc.org

**Note: New reservation address!**

### Inside this issue:

Missions Table	2
Reading Program	2
UMW Book Club	2
Circle News	2

### Special point of interest:

UMW raises funds "for God's mission in the world," continuing our focus on women, children, and youth (*The Book of Discipline*, 1903.5).

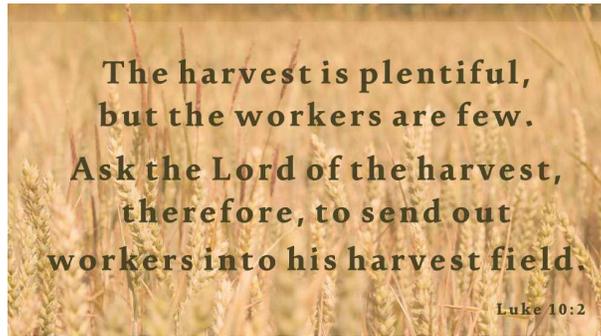
## This Month: The Sacred Space of Call

**Exploring God's Call**  
Jan 8, 2018, 10:30 am  
Fellowship Center

What is God's unique call for you? What in your life gives you vitality, strength, and purpose? Our calls come at different times in our lives and may change as our circumstances evolve.

What gifts do you have? What are your aspirations for life now, where you are at this

moment? Only you can determine what it is for you. Whether the call is



to ministry, service, education, missions, or deeper into faith, the sense of call gives you direction and leads to greater understanding. Grow where God leads

you; listen for his voice. Seek experiences that enrich your spiritual life

and send you farther in the right direction. The dreams inside you will bless others in tangible ways you cannot envision.

"Listen humbly to other people in your life: They not only confirm your gifts. They are the instruments of God to awaken in you possibilities." Dee Ann Turner, Chick-Fil-A.

## Donate by February 8th for the Odds 'n' Ends Sale

**Items and Workers are needed for the Odds 'n' Ends Sale**

**2018 Donation Drop Off Ends Feb 8th.**

To prepare for the best sale ever, sorting and pricing will be done before the sale.

Help in the Mission Depot on Thursday morn-

ings from 8:30 am - 12:00 noon to get items ready for the sale.

This year's sale will be Saturday, March 3rd with evening sale hours on March 2nd. Volunteers are needed Wednesday, February 28 - Saturday, March 3rd to set up for the sale, assist buyers during the sale, and work as cashiers in several sale locations.

A local department store donation of new clothing items will be an additional section for this year's sale.



## Women's Ministries

First United Methodist Church  
72 Lake Morton Dr.  
Lakeland, FL 33801

Phone: 863-686-3163  
Fax: 863-686-8614  
Email: aliceray529@aol.com

## UMW Online

We're on the web!

[www.firstumc.org/adult-education/womens-ministries](http://www.firstumc.org/adult-education/womens-ministries)



**United Methodist Women**

<http://umwonline.org>  
[www.unitedmethodistwomen.org](http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org)

### January Sale at the Missions Table!

Visit the monthly missions sale table from 10 am - 12 pm on January 8th in Fellowship Center. Donations are also welcome.

### Join the UMW Reading Program!

Begin the new year with a resolution to read books chosen by UMW Reading Program Committee at the Women's Division. Expand your horizons in one of 4 different plans. Books are available on the cart at the unit meetings. Turn in 2017 report forms by March 12, 2018 to Judith Rose. The purpose of the program is to encourage United Methodist Women members to:

- Expand understanding of and participation in God's mission.
- Increase sensitivity to all human beings—their needs, interests and concerns.
- Encourage critical thinking about issues facing humanity today.
- Grow in understanding of Scripture as it relates to Christian faith in contemporary life.
- Enhance self-knowledge and act from that knowledge.
- Strengthen involvement in local and global Christian mission.

### January UMW Book Club

Join in the discussion in the Church Parlor Tuesday, January 30th at 1:00 pm. January's book is The Sacred Secular - How God is Using the World to Shape the Church by Dottie Escobedo-Frank and Rob Rynders. It is in the Leadership Development category.

Order the book at <https://tinyurl.com/y7w5bsvl> or the Kindle version at <https://tinyurl.com/ybxs4eth>

## Circle News for January Meetings

**Circle 1** - no January meeting information.

**Circle 3** - no January meeting information.

**Circle 5** meets Jan 16 at 9:45am in the Church Parlor.

**Circle 7** - no meeting in January.

**Circle 10** - no January meeting information.

**Circle 13** - no January meeting information.

**Circle 14** meets Jan 8 at 9:45 am at in Fellowship Center.

**Circle 17** meets Jan 6 at 9:30am in the Church Parlor.

**Circle 18** meets Jan 26 at 9:30 am at Pat Couturier's home and will discuss Chapter 3 of Fresh Expressions.

**WinGS Circle** - no January meeting information.



**Next month's UMW unit meeting: Monday, February 12, 10:30 am in Fellowship Center**

**Email lunch reservations to: [UMWreservations@firstumc.org](mailto:UMWreservations@firstumc.org)**

We welcome contributions of your news, activities, pictures; and articles of interest relating to United Methodist Women. Space permitting, they will be included in future newsletters.

~ Alice Ray Overstreet, Communications Coordinator

Submit items for next newsletter to [aliceray529@aol.com](mailto:aliceray529@aol.com), 863-660-9864 by **January 21, 2018**.