



# Horizons

HORIZONS

SPRING 2017

NORTH ALABAMA CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

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## REFRESH & RETREAT 2017 A SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT EVENT

### Let's Talk

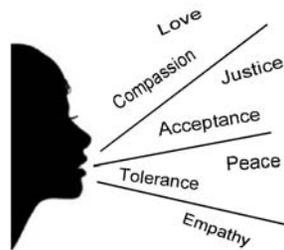
Saturday, April 8, 2017

8:45 am—3:30 pm

Registration at 8 am

### Special Guest

**Representative Laura Hall**  
Alabama House of Representatives  
District 19



### Let's Talk

Maybe it is because it is an election year, but it seems to me that people seem to be more divided and less able to discuss differences. We are divided by race, religion, politics, conservative or liberal, climate change and the list goes on. While that has always been the case, it seems that it has become more difficult to discuss issues, understand others points of view and reach common ground. As Christian women, we are fortunate because God has given us instructions on how to do just that through the life and death of His Son, Jesus Christ. We are told over and over to love each other, to help those who cannot help themselves, to humble ourselves and to try to live as Jesus lived.

As United Methodist Women, we are already a community, committed to our faith and making a difference in the world. Maybe that difference starts with a conversation. Mark your calendars, come to Refresh and Retreat in April and "Let's Talk"  
- Ruth Brooks, Vice President

*"In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all! . . . Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. "*  
*Colossians 3: 11 & 14 NRSV*

## A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT



Scripture: 1 Corinthians 9:24 – “Run in such a way as to get the prize.”

My favorite time of the day is early morning. I enjoy just sitting quietly with a hot cup of tea doing my daily meditations. I watch the squirrels, chipmunks and birds scurry about with a spirit of expectancy in search of the prize, their food. When you wake up in the morning God sends you a special delivery of joy. It's like it comes knocking at the door of your heart every day. The way to answer the door is to choose an attitude of faith and expectancy by declaring that today is going to be a good day. The challenge for United Methodist Women is how we can use available resources to make it a good day not just for ourselves; but for women, youth and children at home and around the world. Through mission we share our lives and gifts with others so that all may be whole persons through Jesus Christ.

Finish Strong. Oftentimes, when we have a dream in our heart, we start off strong. We head down the path toward a goal and we're so excited. But along the way we may hit some roadblocks and encounter some adversity. Many times, people will just give up and take the easy way out. But we have to remember, it's not how we start that counts, it's how we finish. Anybody can be fired up at the beginning, but I'm encouraging you to stick with it until the end!

Have the determination to go all the way through. Don't stop at the halfway mark just because the times are tough. Don't quit because you don't see anything happening. The Scripture tells us “not to walk by sight, but walk by faith.”

If there is a dream in your heart, keep pursuing it. Run your race to win the prize. Don't settle until you see the fullness of what God has placed in your heart. As you stand strong in your faith, I believe God will pour his favor and blessings upon you and you will see the victory he has in store for you.

United Methodist Women believe in making their dreams into reality. We are a wonderfully diverse group of women who know God, who are supportive of others, who believe in mission, and who bring out the best attributes in each other. Our foremothers ran the race to win the prize and so shall we.

I count it an honor to serve as your president. I ask for your support of the upcoming Spiritual Enrichment Program on April 8, 2017. Together we face many challenges as we continue to tell the story of our Legacy and answer God's call to serve in faith, hope and love. Let's get started answering God's call.

You are the wind beneath my wings.

Olene H. McGowen  
President



# Refresh & Retreat Leaders



Our special guest for Refresh & Retreat, **Representative Laura Hall**, has served in the Alabama House of Representatives since 1993. She is the first African-American woman to represent District 19 capturing 86% of the votes. She currently serves on the General Fund Committee and Committee on Health.

She received her BA degree in biology from Morris College in South Carolina and her MA degree in Science Education from the University of Ohio. She taught school for over 40 years and in her words, “taught every kind of science to high school students”.

She has effectively served the community and the people of Alabama in countless ways through teaching and serving on various committees.



**Music Leader:  
Rev. Steve West**

Steve currently serves as pastor at Arab UMC and describes himself as a “husband, father, minister, musician, and writer.” He has served as lead pastor of Arab First

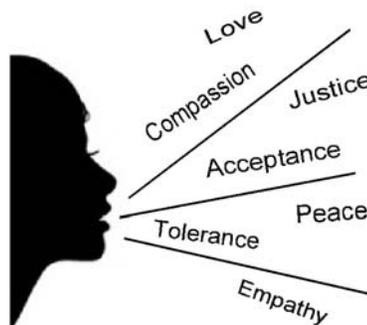
UMC since the summer of 2014. He is no stranger to the area, since he grew up in Huntsville, graduating from Grissom High School in 1983. Steve has lived and served churches in nearby places such as Gadsden, Fyffe, Scottsboro, Birmingham, and Huntsville. He attended Birmingham-Southern College, where he studied music and sociology, and Emory University’s school of theology, where he met and married best friend Sandy from south Louisiana.



**Pianist:  
Barry Norris**

Barry is a favorite of the North Alabama Conference United Methodist Women’s events. Barry is the organist at Eastlake UMC, and is passionate about leading in worship by making music with people and pipes – the choir and the organ. He loves using the

various musical functions of the church to draw people..



## Let's Talk

Once again, at this year’s Refresh & Retreat we will have an opportunity for Hands On Mission. On the next page, you will find a poster to display in areas of your church for everyone to become involved. Bring your NEW items to Refresh & Retreat so they can be distributed to Tennessee Valley Services (Huntsville) and The WellHouse (Leeds).



**UNITED METHODIST WOMEN  
NORTH ALABAMA CONFERENCE**

# HANDS-ON MISSION PROJECT

**IN MISSION WITH:**

## **WELLHOUSE**

**WOMEN'S UNDERWEAR, BRAS, SOCKS\***

**AGES 18-25+**

**SIZES FROM SMALL TO XXL**

**SUGGESTION FOR BRAS IS TO PURCHASE A BRA THE SAME  
SIZE AS YOU WEAR.**

New Items  
only please

## **TENNESSEE VALLEY FAMILY SERVICES**

**WOMEN'S UNDERWEAR, BRAS, SOCKS\***

**MEN'S BRIEFS, UNDERSHIRTS, SOCKS\***

**AGES 14-21**

**SIZES FROM SMALL TO XXL**

**SUGGESTION FOR BRAS IS TO PURCHASE A BRA THE SAME  
SIZE AS YOU WEAR.**

New Items  
only please

**PLEASE BRING ITEMS TO CONFERENCE  
HANDS-ON MISSION EVENT APRIL 8, 2017  
Sumatanga, Gallant, AL.**



*Tennessee Valley  
Family Services*

## **TENNESSEE VALLEY FAMILY SERVICES**

**Working to help homeless,  
at risk, abused, and human  
trafficked youth**

**PHONE 256-426-0770**

P.O. Box 7156

Huntsville, AL



## **WELLHOUSE**

*A Place of Grace*

**For Trafficking Victims**

**The WellHouse is a rescue and  
recovery organization for  
women who are victims of  
sexual exploitation and  
trafficking**

**PHONE 800-991-9937**

Hours 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

Monday – Friday

[info@the-wellhouse.org](mailto:info@the-wellhouse.org)

Office Location

The WellHouse

8121 Parkway Drive

Leeds, AL 35094

## From Your Conference Secretary

Wow!! What a wonderful opportunity with which I have been blessed. God has put me on a journey where I have the privilege of meeting and working with brilliant and magnificent ladies from all over North Alabama, and the Southeast.

Hello, my name is Linda Claunch, and I have the honor of serving as your North Alabama UMW Conference Secretary. I look forward to meeting you at some of the Conference events throughout the year. This is going to be a fantabulous year in our North Alabama UMW Conference, and I am delighted to be a part of it.

My contact information is Linda Claunch, 118 Whitt Haven Dr., Toney, AL 35773; telephone (256) 828-2778; e-mail [lcjclaunch@att.net](mailto:lcjclaunch@att.net). I am here to serve. If you have questions or concerns, please contact me. God Bless you in this New Year!

Linda Claunch  
Secretary

## GREETINGS TO ALL SECRETARIES OF PROGRAM RESOURCES

Holidays are over and it is time to get to work encouraging all of our women to be a part of the Reading Program. My name is Kay West and I am the new Conference Secretary of Program Resources. I am looking forward to having a wonderful two years and working with each one of you in the Districts. I will be encouraging all women in the North Alabama Conference to become a part of the Reading Program. The 2017 Reading Program books are available and I will have these available at the Conference event on April 8, 2017. Please mail all of your 2016 Reading Program individual reports to me so that I can have certificates for all that have participated.

I ask that all of you remember whether returning as Secretary of Program Resources or just beginning your term that "When you make God the center of your life, you will find true fulfillment. You can never lose Him; He will always be with you".

Kay West  
Secretary of Program Resources



Welcome 2017! A whole new year to do good in and spread the Good News to all! "You Are Somebody" is our new **Special Emphasis Giving** theme for the next two years. Empowerment, confirmation, appreciation, these are all great reasons to remind a special person that they did something great, that you know they can do it, that they are important. Tell them, "You Are Somebody."

P.S. Look for the special fun and incentives we will have at Refresh & Retreat!

You Are Somebody,  
Tracy Conner, Chairperson



Have you made a pledge to the Legacy Fund? The Legacy Fund was created in 2014 as an Endowment Fund to fund the operating expenses of UMW into the future.

In honor of our 150th Birthday in 2019 we are in a 5 year active fund raising drive for it. The North Alabama Conference is asking each member to pledge \$18.69 each year through that time. Have you sent yours in yet? Only 200 of us have. Those of us who have, did you remember to send it in 2016? It is only \$1.51 per month. Can you do without 1 coke or 1 candy bar a month for mission? That's all it is for you and I, but it is life for those we are in mission with.

You can find a pledge card in your Prayer Calendar and in "response" magazines. you can give online, [www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/legacyfund](http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/legacyfund), by phone 800-278-7771 or a check mailed to UMW Treasurer, Suite 1468, 475 Riverside Dr. New York, NY 10115-9900 (put legacy fund in memo line).

Another way to give in the future is to add the UMW Legacy Fund in your will or as a beneficiary of your life insurance.

There is another opportunity to give coming up in October at our annual meeting. We will be having a silent auction. Donations of items to be auctioned are needed. Please bring your handiwork whether it be crochet, painting, needlepoint, woodwork, sewing, baking, whatever you create. For those like me who are not "crafty" purchased items will be accepted too. Start now and bring more than one!

Jaccque Clay  
Chair, Legacy Fund

#### **A Note from your Mission Coordinator for Education & Interpretation:**

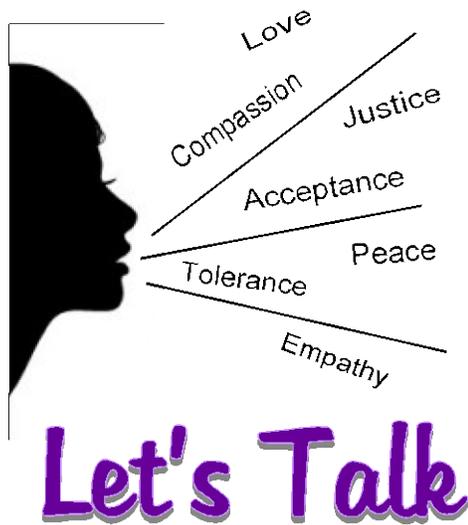
Start the year out right by working toward being a Mission Today Unit, the criteria can be found on our website [www.nacumw.org](http://www.nacumw.org), as well as recording forms for your unit. And let's not forget about our Mission u studies! Excellence in Study forms can also be found on the website. Invite a sister church or unit to join you for your study. Let's spread the Word.

In His Service,  
Tracy Conner

We are so thankful for the increased patronage of our beloved Sumatanga Conference & Retreat Center. With this new activity, we need to be respectful of the Camp staff and all they do to make our stay enjoyable.

For all future Camp stays, rooms **are not ready until 4 pm on the day of arrival**. If you arrive prior to 4 pm, enjoy the rocking chairs in the Fireplace Room, or take a stroll to the lake in the beautiful sunshine. Please do not ask to enter your room before 4 pm.

Also, if there are any complaints about your accommodations, please address those to Ruth Brooks, Vice President, and she will relay those to the Camp staff. It will be much easier to address any issues if they arise.



NORTH ALABAMA CONFERENCE UNITED  
METHODIST WOMEN

# Refresh & Retreat

## A Spiritual Enrichment Event

**April 8, 2017**

Sumatanga Camp and Conference Center  
Joe Green Auditorium

**8:00-8:45 a.m.** - Registration,  
Book Room, Refreshments  
**8:45 a.m.** - Gathering Music  
**9:00 a.m.** - Session begins  
**3:30 p.m.** - Session ends

Pre-Registration:

Adult (includes lunch)     **\$12.00**  
Child (ages 5-10 lunch)   **\$ 4.50**  
(under 4-free)

On-site registration: \$15.00

**Registration Deadline**  
**March 24, 2017**

**Please mail the registration  
form to:**

**Teresa Aldrich**  
**103 Spring Street**  
**Springville, AL 35146**  
**teresacaldrich@gmail.com**

ADULT

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City & Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
District \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

CHILD

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Age \_\_\_\_\_ M \_\_\_\_\_ F \_\_\_\_\_  
Allergies \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Register and pay online at:  
<https://na-reg.brapp.com/RefreshRetreat71>

Overnight accommodations for Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup>,  
can be arranged. Please contact Teresa  
Aldrich for additional information.

# Health Form

## Authorization for Emergency Medical Treatment Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_ DOB \_\_\_\_\_

Physician's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Health Insurance Company \_\_\_\_\_ Policy # \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies to medications \_\_\_\_\_

Current medications \_\_\_\_\_

In the event of emergency, contact:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Relation \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Relation \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

In the event emergency medical aid/treatment is required due to illness or injury during my stay at a UMW event, I authorize the NAC UMW to:

1. Secure and retain medical treatment and transportation if needed.
2. Release my health information to the authorized individual or agency involved in the medical emergency treatment.
3. I hold harmless the North Alabama Conference United Methodist Women, the North Alabama Conference, the United Methodist Church and/or the owners of the facility for which the event is taking place for any act or failure to act during a medical emergency.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Consent Signature \_\_\_\_\_

### Consent Plan

This authorization includes x-ray, surgery, hospitalization, medication and any treatment procedure deemed "life saving" by the physician. This provision will only be invoked if the person(s) above is unable to be reached. I hold harmless the North Alabama Conference United Methodist Women, the North Alabama Conference, the United Methodist Church and/or the owners of the facility for which the event is taking place for any act or failure to act during a medical emergency.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Consent Signature \_\_\_\_\_

### Non-Consent Plan

I DO NOT give my consent for emergency medical treatment/aid in the cases of illness or injury. In the event emergency treatment/aid is required, I wish the following procedures to take place:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I hold harmless the North Alabama Conference United Methodist Women, the North Alabama Conference, the United Methodist Church and/or the owners of the facility for which the event is taking place for any act or failure to act during a medical emergency.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Consent Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Witness Signature \_\_\_\_\_

## Refresh & Retreat Offering



The offering taken during Refresh & Retreat has been designated for The Lovelady Center in Birmingham, to sponsor birthday parties for the children who reside at the Center. What child doesn't love a birthday party? Birthday parties make you feel special, and let you know others care. Imagine being a child and never having a birthday party. That's why we want to help. It's small step to helping these children know they are loved and worthy.

If you aren't familiar with The Lovelady Center, you can read her book (on the reading list) "Mrs. Brenda & The Loveladies". Brenda Lovelady Spahn built a successful business, and she seemed to have it all – a big house, fancy cars, fur coats, and expensive jewelry. But after a brush with the law and the loss of her business, she found a new calling and discovered riches of the spirit – a faith in things that never depreciate, rust or collapse. Her new calling was the rehabilitating of women who had been labeled "cannot be rehabilitated." They were former inmates of the Julia Tutwiler Prison for Women in Wetumpka, Alabama. They were junkies, grifters, armed robbers, prostitutes, drunks, dealers, and murderers. But most of all, they were women without hope.

This rehabilitation began the day Brenda brought seven of these women into her home, or her "whole-way house" as she called it. The Lovelady Center in Birmingham emerged from the "whole-way house" concept of Brenda Spahn. Today it is the largest and most successful nonprofit transitional center for women in the country. It provides services for 450 women and children every day, and provides substance abuse counseling, drug rehabilitation, meals, childcare, career counseling, job training, job placement and continued education courses to women working to establish successful lives outside of prison.

*Therefore  
encourage one  
another and build  
one another up...*

*1 Thessalonians 5:11*

Are you an encourager? It is extra important for women in the church to make a special effort to encourage each other. Women tend to be a bit more self-conscious and desire that little bit of confirmation that they are needed. We want to know "Am I doing a good job? Am I being a good wife? A good mother? Teacher? Christian?"

It's safe to say that we could all use encouragement and we could all do a little more to encourage the women, both older and younger, in our lives. Think about a time someone encouraged you and it really made a difference. Remember how that felt. Be praying about how you can be a more encouraging person. Be on the lookout for opportunities of encouragement today.

Reach out to other women around you and encourage them in their walk. Life is hard and we can get beaten down but we can help out by lifting each other up.

## NORTH ALABAMA CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2017

### President:

Olene McGowen 256-837-8436  
4003 War Eagle Lane, Huntsville, AL 35816  
olenemcgowen@hotmail.com

### Secretary:

Linda Claunch 256-828-2778  
118 Whitt Haven Drive, Toney, AL 35773  
lcjclaunch@bellsouth.net Cell: 256-797-7862

### Vice President:

Ruth Brooks 205-672-2296  
PO Box 400, Harpersville, AL 35078  
ruthsbrooks@bellsouth.net cell 205-533-2296

### Treasurer:

Myrna Wood 205-790-2886  
1215 Woodbine Ave., Calera, Alabama 35040  
woodmyrna@yahoo.com

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### Mission Coordinators:

#### Spiritual Growth

Shae Lindsey  
255 Tannehill Blvd. Killen, AL 35645  
salindsey8@yahoo.com cell: 256-483-0840

#### Social Action:

Lesla London 205-760-9768  
5270 Paramount Dr., Irondale, AL 35210  
camlesa@yahoo.com

#### Education and Interpretation:

Tracy Conner 205-661-6229  
6229 Alabama Dr., Trussville, AL 35173  
tdgconner@aol.com

#### Membership Nurture and Outreach:

Faye Snellings 256-760-9920  
307 Highbury Dr., Florence, AL 35633  
rfayesnell@bellsouth.net Cell: 770-289-8228

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#### Secretary of Program Resources:

Kay West 256-509-9575  
231 Ready Section Rd., Hazel Green, AL 35750  
kaygeoffwest@bellsouth.net

#### Charter for Racial Justice Committee

Denise DeRamus 256-835-1298  
232 Church St., Hobson City, AL 36201  
hchaderamus@aol.com Cell 256-310-2235

#### Communications Coordinator:

Debra Payne 205-335-7309  
2172 Hwy. 26, Alabaster, AL 35007  
Payne\_debra@yahoo.com

#### Doris Hale Lee

3512 25<sup>th</sup> Street N., Birmingham, AL 35207  
haledoris@yahoo.com Cell 205-563-6015

#### Dean, Mission U

Rev. Dr. Adlene Kufarimai 256-404-9995  
725 Highland Avenue  
Anniston, AL 36207  
akufarimai@umcna.org

#### Evelyn Timmons

256-287-0722  
13690 Hwy. 91, Hanceville, AL 35077  
egtimmmons@hotmail.com Cell 256-3292858

#### Assistant Dean, Mission U

Judy Engelhart 256-282-0896  
P. O. Box 2936, Anniston, AL. 36202  
jbe45@att.net.

#### Chairperson, Committee on Nominations

Hilda Moody 256-492-6719  
902 Miller Avenue, Gadsden, AL 35903  
hburnsmoody@bellsouth.net Cell 256-390-7675

#### Bishop, Birmingham Episcopal Area:

Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett 205-226-7992  
898 Arkadelphia Rd., Birmingham, AL 35204  
dpadgett@umcna.org

#### Committee on Nominations

Gwendolyn Purifoy (2017) 256-287-0607  
13261 AL Hwy 91, Hanceville, AL 35077  
geepee47@gmail.com

#### Registrar:

Teresa Aldrich 205 863-8083  
103 Spring Street, Springville, AL 34146  
teresacaldrich@gmail.com

#### Barbara Danley (2018)

256-383-7221  
801 Eastman Av., Tuscumbia, AL 35674  
Jdanley68@comcast.net

#### Parliamentarian:

Genie Thompson 256-239-6739  
648 Carter Street, Munford, AL 36268  
fritz4at@att.net

#### Karen Fite (2019)

256-482-8080  
1277 Gandys Cove Rd., Falkville, AL 35622  
LnKfite@centurytel.net

#### Historian:

Susan Minton 256-290-0658  
2091 Jane Lane, Southside, AL 35907  
jmsminton@chartet.net

#### Elsie Brown (2020)

256-895-0982  
3213 Constellation Dr SW, Huntsville, AL 35802  
Huntsville, AL 35802  
ebrown9642@aol.com Cell 256-656-1343

#### Director, SEJ

Carol Toney 256-772-3704  
269 6th Street, Madison, AL 35756  
caroltoney@bellsouth.net



The Children's Mission team have been working and waiting, in great anticipation, 2017's Mission Camp and One Day Event.

This year we will go to the Red Bird, Alaska and Oklahoma Missionary Conferences, and help our campers, our future, learn about what the United Methodist do to make connections to help people around the world.

I urge you to support a camper through your prayers and your gifts. Make a pledge with your unit to send a kid to camp. And you know, if you can't find a kid to send, we can find one for you. Thank you for your past, present and future support towards this wonderful ministry.

In His Service,  
Tracy Conner

**SAVE THE  
DATE!  
March 23**

**3<sup>RD</sup> Annual  
UNITED  
METHODIST  
WOMEN  
DAY OF GIVING**



Each Day of Giving  
gift will be matched  
dollar for dollar!

Join United Methodist Women around the country on **March 23** for the **3rd Annual Day of Giving** to The Legacy Fund, part of our five-year 150th anniversary celebration!

### It's easy to give!

- Online at: [www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/legacyfund](http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/legacyfund)
- By phone: 1-800-278-7771 (8 am—6 pm EST, Monday—Friday)
- Text: 41444 and enter Legacy150 in message area
- By check to: Office of the Treasurer, United Methodist Women, 475 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10115. (Write "The Legacy Fund" in the memo section)

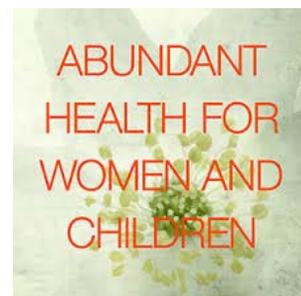


United Methodist Women  
 North Alabama Conference  
 Attn: Debra Benson  
 2172 Highway 26  
 Alabaster, AL 35007

NON PROFIT  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
 PAID  
 PERMIT NO.  
 BIRMINGHAM, AL

## 2017 Call to Prayer & Self-Denial

During the month of February each year, United Methodist Women around the world are called to a special program of A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial. During this time, members and friends reflect on the gospel of Christ, pray together, and make an offering to mission with women, children, and youth in response to God's love and grace.



<b>2017 NACUMW Calendar</b>	
<b>Refresh &amp; Retreat</b>	<b>April 8</b>
<b>United Methodist Women's Day Held in your local church*</b>	<b>April</b>
<b>Annual Conference— Von Braun Civic Center, Huntsville</b>	<b>June 4-6</b>
<b>Children's One Day Mission Event</b>	<b>July 25</b>
<b>Mission u</b>	<b>July 27-29</b>
<b>Children's Mission Camp</b>	<b>July 27-30</b>
<b>Leadership Training</b>	<b>October 6</b>
<b>Annual Meeting</b>	<b>October 7</b>
*All programs at Sumatanga unless noted.	

The Call to Prayer & Self-Denial is a program with a goal. In 2017, the offering received from the observance will support national and international programs for maternal and child health. If you have not held your Call to Prayer, please do so. This year's program is an eye-opener and brings to light those things we take for granted.

**100% of the offering will go directly to partners engaged in programs and advocacy to empower women.**

Find the 2017 Call to Prayer & Self-Denial Program in the United Methodist Women's Program Book. For additional resources, and how to plan an observance, go to:  
[www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/donate/call-to-prayer](http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/donate/call-to-prayer)