

# The Flame

Florence District  
PO Box 408  
Florence, SC 29503

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Florence, SC



## THE FLAME DEC 2020

# Merry Christmas

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The Purpose: The organized unit of United Methodist Women 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 concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

# My Farewell Message As Your President

Azilee DeeDee Dickey

To the Awesome ladies of the Florence District I want to say "Thank You" for your trust over these last four years. I am elated to have been given the opportunity to serve as your District President. Thank you for the Confidence and Support that I received on every level from each President, Executive Team and church. For such a time as this, God allowed me to meet so many wonderful ladies who represent the Florence District-the Best District in South Carolina!!!

Covid-19 entered our midst but God remained in control as United Methodist Women across this District continued to fulfill our Mission. Our Day a Part was cancelled in March and we had to learn to regroup and participate in a new for some "Virtual World" of teleconferences, Zoom meetings, face time, etc. We survived through the grace of God and it has made us better servants of the Most High.

Thank you to the units who hosted clothing, back to school drives and food drives during the pandemic. Those who reached out to others and shared as good

stewards spreading the message of the Good News by the way you conducted yourselves serving and loving neighbors as God has called us to do.

I am proud that Florence District who attended the Virtual Mission u in July and those who supported the Killingsworth Golf



Tournament Fundraiser Sept. 14 by providing donations and prizes for the participants. We also supported the Killingsworth Gala Nov. 12 by our donations and our online/and in person presence.

Ladies we also attended the South Carolina Conference Virtual Annual Meeting on October 21 sponsored by Greenwood UMW under the direction of our conference Vice President, our own Janice Eaddy. Special thanks to the officers who attended Virtual Conference Officers Training on

November 14 at Chapin UMC. This Pandemic did not shut us down, it made us look toward the hills where our help comes from and remain in faith believing that God is still in control and allows things to happen but never wishes anything but good for His people.

Ladies we still have some vacant positions that need to be filled. We accept with gratitude and appreciation our incoming President Mrs. Pernerva Washington Thomas.

She is no stranger to the Florence District or the South Carolina Conference where she serves/served in various capacities.

Ladies please give her your total support. God blesses those to whom much is given when it is shared with others. Let us embrace her with our love and support. I will transition to the role of Spiritual Growth Coordinator and look forward to working with each of you. Thanks be to God for each of you!.

In His Service and Yours,

*Azilee*

## Introducing Pernerva Washington-Thomas Florence District President



Born and raised in Williamsburg County. Thomas attended the public schools of Williamsburg County. Graduating from Saint Mark High School. Her post-secondary education led her to South Carolina State University where she received a Bachelor's Degree in Family and Consumer Science. She furthered her studies at Brockport University, Brockport, N.Y. She obtained certification in Child Development, obtained a Commercial Driver's License, serves as Emergency First Responder and CPR.

She is married to Retired Reverend John P. Thomas, they have eight adorable adult children and fourteen precious grandchildren and two great grands. Her parents died in 1958 and 1959 when she was a young child. She is the seventh child of seven siblings.

Thomas and her husband have served the Florence District, Hartsville District and served the Harleyville Parish, in the Walterboro District, Harleyville, South Carolina.

The Thomas's has returned to their home in Williamsburg County located in the Florence District.

She has served as President, Vice President, and other positions in the spouses club.

She serves in the local churches in several capacity to include Certified Lay Speaker, Church School Teacher, Choir, Leads Devotions, assist with Youth and Children

Ministries, and on the District level she serves with the United Methodist Women Local level, Vice President for the Walterboro District, Laity Instructor, also on the Safety and Disaster Relief committee. She currently serves on the Florence District Choir. She also is a member of the Senior Choir and Chair-person of Outreach Mission at her home church.

She has been employed for Thirty Seven years with Waccamaw EOC. Inc. Head Start Program, as a Volunteer, Parent, Home Visitor /Teacher, Bus Driver, and Currently a Family Service Worker.

- She is a member of Asbury United Methodist Church, Andrews, S. C. (Rev. Hazel Epps, Pastor).
- She is a Certified Lay Servant for the Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.
- She is a Certified Laity Instructor for the Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.
- She is a Past President of Delta Tau Zeta Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.
- She is a member of Kappa Omicron Nu-National Honor Society.
- Eleventh District Order of the Eastern Star (*Ester Chapter Number 289 Past Matron*)
- She is the Grand Associate Deputy of Cluster Four OES of the Eleventh District PHA
- South – East Chapter of Gospel Music Workshop Mass Choir

*Continues on page 4*

# Notes from Spiritual Growth for the 2021 Year

I realize I am stepping into some really great shoes following on the coat-tail of Rev. Dr. Evelyn Fulmore, our former Spiritual Growth Coordinator. Thanks be to God for her dedicated years of service.

Just a note that all training will be done Virtually in 2021 for the South Carolina Conference UMW. I ask us to continue to participate in the Prayer Ministries of your respective churches, utilize the Program Book and Prayer Calendar and prepare in the coming months to hold the Annual Call to Prayer and Self Denial Program between January to March. Plan now for ways to share your Mission with others by word, actions and prayers.

In His Service and Yours ,

*Azilee DeeDee Dickey*

## President Introduction Continues

from page 2

- Academy Certified Volunteer Firefighter for over 33 years until current. (*Williamsburg County Fire Department Station # 12 (Bloomingdale)*).
- Thomas is currently a Head Start Association for over 37 years.
- She is a member of the National Negro Women. Council of Williamsburg County
- She is a member of the NAACP.
- She is a South Carolina Notary Public.

She strives for the best for her family. She believes that everyone has ideas and interests to share with others. She makes every effort to be a good friend and seeks peaceful solutions to conflicts no matter the circumstance. She has many GOD GIVEN gifts that she's so thankful to God for choosing her to use to only give him Praises, Honor and Glory for; she lives by the following everyday:

*\* Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; 6. In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths. Proverbs 3:5-6.*

*\* "If I can help somebody along the way, then my living will not be in vain."*

She's a Wife, a Mother, a Grandmother, a Sister, a Friend and accepts the Lord Jesus Christ as her Personal Savior.

With God's help, Thomas said she is ready to serve the women of the Florence District as their president.



United  
Methodist  
Women  
FAITH · HOPE · LOVE IN ACTION

South Carolina Conference

## South Carolina UMW Presidential Scholarship

South Carolina United Methodist Women offers a scholarship to future leaders of United Methodist Women. As a supportive community, our desire is to financially assist young women with their higher education needs.

Application  
deadline  
**March 1**

Application packet available on the UMW page of [www.umcsc.org](http://www.umcsc.org)

# Florence District United Methodist Women 2021 Calendar of Events

## JANUARY

- Jan. 11..... FD Team Meeting. .... Virtual
- Jan. 23..... Officers' Training ..... Virtual

## FEBRUARY

*Special Emphasis Month - Wallace Family Life Center*

- Feb. 3, 9, 18, 27..... Legislative Advocacy Days ..... Virtual

## MARCH

- Mar. 13..... Day Apart ..... Virtual

## APRIL

*Special Emphasis Month - Bethlehem Community Ctr Columbia*

- April 10 ..... FD Team Meeting. .... Virtual
- April 24..... Spiritual Growth Retreat ..... Lake Junaluska

## MAY

- May 15..... Come Together Be Together ..... Virtual

## JUNE

- June 6-9..... SC UMC Annual Conference ..... Florence

## JULY

- July 10..... FD Team Meeting ..... Virtual
- July (See UMW State Calendar)..... Mission u ..... SMU/Virtual

## AUGUST

Rest and Relaxation

## SEPTEMBER

*Special Emphasis Month - Killingsworth - Columbia*

- Sept 11..... FD Team Meeting.. .... Virtual
- Sept 25..... FD Annual Meeting ..... Virtual

## OCTOBER

*Special Emphasis Month - Bethlehem Community Ctr Spartanburg*

- Oct 23-24..... Annual Meeting. .... Hartsville/Virtual

## NOVEMBER

- Nov 6..... District Officers' Training. .... Florence/Virtual
- Nov TBA. .... FD Team Meeting.. .... Virtual

DECEMBER *Merry Christmas*

## South Carolina Conference United Methodist Women 2021 Dates to Remember

**February** – Wallace Family Life Center, Special Emphasis Month

**February 3** – Social Action Workshop #1/10am – Virtual

**February 9** – Social Action Workshop #2/7pm - Virtual

**February 18** – Social Action Workshop #3/2pm - Virtual

**February 27** – Social Action Workshop #4/10am - Virtual

**March 1** – Presidential Scholarship Applications due

**March 23** – Legacy Fund Day of Giving, 152 years young

**April** – Columbia Bethlehem Community Center, Special Emphasis month

**April 4** – **Easter** – He is Risen!

**April 24** - Spiritual Growth Event/10 am/Rock Hill District UMW host - Virtual

**May 15** – Come Together Be Together/10 am/Anderson District UMW host - Virtual

**June 6-9** -SC UMC Annual Conference

**July 22-24** Mission u, Spartanburg Methodist College

Or

**July 24** – Mission u/10 am + 1 pm - Virtual

**July 31** – Mission u/10 am + 1 pm - Virtual

**August 7** – Mission u/10 am + 1 pm - Virtual

**September** – Killingsworth Special Emphasis Month

**October** – Bethlehem Center -Spartanburg, Special Emphasis Month

**October 23**– SCCUMW 49th Annual Meeting/10 am + 1 pm/Hartsville District UMW host - Virtual

**November 6** – District Officers Training/ 10 am /Florence District UMW host – Virtual

**December 25** – Baby Jesus is born.



## Florence District 2021 Executive Team

**President:** PERNERVA WASHINGTON-THOMAS

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**Email:** pernervathomas1951@gmail.com

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**Address:** 117 Lloyd Street, Kingstree, SC 29556

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**Social Action:** EDITH JAMES

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**Chair CON:** AMELIA FULTON

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**CON:** LUTIE BROWN

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**CON:** MILDRED CUNNINGHAM

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**Phone:** 843.382.8154

# Allowing God to Use Us

Greetings,

My name is Ethel F. Holmes. I am the Membership Nurture and Outreach representative for the Florence District Mission Team. I attend Mt. Zion United Methodist Church, a member of the Mt. Zion United Methodist Women in Kingstree, South Carolina, the president is Mrs. Angela Fulton.

The year of 2020 has been a difficult year for all of us. We have been hit with a virus that has changed our lives in many ways. But remember God is still in charge.

We can not sit on the sidelines. We must get involved with the activities sponsored by the United Methodist Women. Below are some of the activities we did at Mt Zion while staying safe and practicing social distancing.

- The United Methodist Women assisted in Operation Christmas Child Project. Shoe



boxes were packed with items and transported to 412 children for Christmas.

- World Thanks service was observed on November 15, 2020 by conference call.

- Breast Cancer Awareness Sunday was recognized by honoring, uplifting and celebrating three survivors. Pink carnations were presented to Mrs. Hattie Fulton, Mrs. Hattie Pendergrass, and Mrs. Ethel F.

HOLMES. To God be the Glory.

Here at Mt. Zion United Methodist church, the United Methodist Women are continuing to fulfill the Purpose, serving women, children and youth.

I want to hear from you. Tell us how your Unit is fulfilling the mission of the United Methodist Women. How are you allowing God to use you?

Be safe and be bless!

*Ethel F. Holmes*

Membership Nurture and Outreach

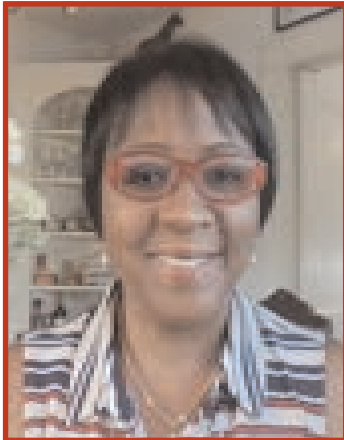


Dont  
**LEAVE** this earth  
 letting everyone  
**USE** you  
**BUT** God.





## A NOTE FROM OUR EDUCATION & INTERPRETATION COORDINATOR



**Katherine  
Sabb-Graham**

Hello! My name is Katherine Sabb-Graham, Florence District Education and Interpretation Coordinator. It is with pleasure and an honor that I greet you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! Although, I am new to this position, I have served as a local UMW President, St. Michael UMC, Kingtree, for many years and have been prayerfully and financially committed to our women's mission with

women, children and youth. In researching my duties and responsibilities, I find that there's a lot to learn and more to do in fulfilling our mission, but with God's help we can. I would like to give thanks to the Killingworth team for a beautiful Home for the Holidays Celebration via Zoom. I would also like to thank Eunice White, E&I, for the excellent training during our 48th Virtual South Carolina Conference Annual Meeting. I learned a lot! Last but not least, thank you Azilee Dickey for your years of dedication for the District as President and a special welcome to our new President, Pernerva W. Thomas.

With Blessings, Be Safe.

*Katherine*

## Give Generously, We Are Depending On You

Deuteronomy 15:10 says *Give generously to him and do so without a grudging heart; then because of this the Lord your God will bless you in all your work and in everything you put your hand to.*

**Quarterly Reports dates for 2021 will be as followed:**

**March  
5th 2021**

**June  
5th 2021**

**September  
5th 2021**

**December  
5th 2021**

*Pearl Brown. District Treasurer*

# Legislative Advocacy Days 2021

## “Jesus, Justice and Action”

“This is what the LORD Almighty said: Administer true justice; show mercy and compassion to one another” Psalm 106:3

**Our FREE Virtual Legislative Advocacy Days will be held on various days in February, 2021 and available via Zoom!**

Our 90-Minute Workshops will feature knowledgeable Speakers on a variety of topics that address our South Carolina United Methodist Women’s focus for this very important year. The Covid Period has changed the ways that we live, worship, and connect with others. Unfortunately, the Pandemic has also multiplied the many challenges faced by our most vulnerable brethren. The Workshops have been planned to provide for an introduction, a 60-Minute Presentation by an expert, followed by a Q&A session to address participant questions. The UMW Tech Team also plans to record the four Workshops for future use and will manage the computer aspects of this delivery.

The Workshops are scheduled as follows:

- Wednesday, Feb 3<sup>rd</sup> from 10am – 11:30am Juvenile Justice Reform
- Tuesday, Feb 9<sup>th</sup> from 7pm – 8:30pm Elder Abuse or Opioid Epidemic
- Thursday, Feb 18<sup>th</sup> from 2pm – 3:30pm Opioid Epidemic or Elder Abuse
- Saturday, Feb 27<sup>th</sup> from 10am- 11:30am Christians and Justice

Our SCCUMW District Social Action Coordinators have chosen Mass Incarceration/Criminal Justice Reform, Quality Education, Environmental Justice, and Expanded Physical and Mental Health Services Access as our primary legislative issues for 2021. United Methodist Women are 8,000+ strong in South Carolina. We can make a legislative difference for our most vulnerable citizens. We all have personal perspectives and experiences that guide us as we approach social issues in a range of legitimate ways. But, as God’s children who are charged to love one another, we are singular in seeking JUSTICE. To do so, we must educate ourselves, critically listen and learn, then take appropriate action. As Christians, We believe that ‘Faith Without Works is Dead (James 2:14-17)’, and We are Alive in Christ!

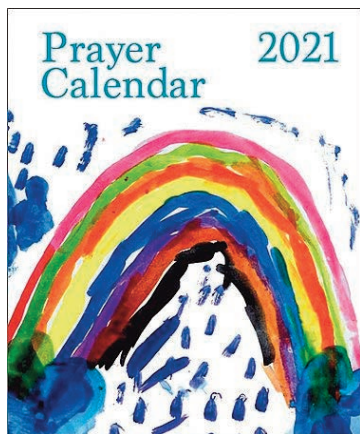
To register online, please go to [bit.ly/UMWadvocacy2020](https://bit.ly/UMWadvocacy2020)

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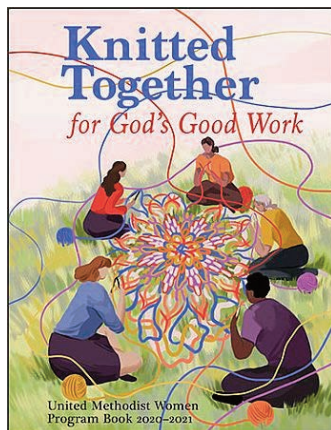
Alternative Paper Registration should be mailed to Registrar Rebecca Eleazer,  
5116 Burke Avenue, Columbia, SC 29203 Phone: (803)754-0942

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 District: \_\_\_\_\_ Church: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

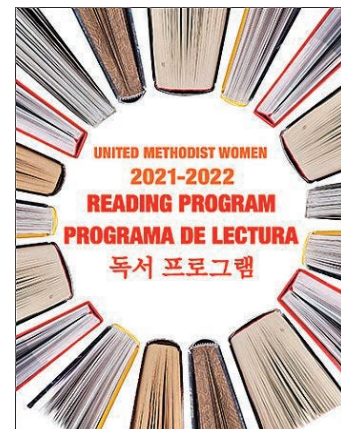
# Contact Stephanie for your Program Resources Needs



Prayer Calendar \$14



Program Book \$10



\$0

Stephanie Bolden is currently serving as the Secretary of Program Resources. She is available to assist you and your Unit with all of your programming needs.

Resources can also be purchased directly from Amazon.

## 2021 United Methodist Women Reading Program

Download a copy of the 2021 Reading Program Catalog from the United Methodist Women site.

[www.unitedmethodistwomen.org](http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org)

READ & TRACK YOUR PROGRESS

For More Information contact:

**Stephanie Bolden**

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843.610.7394

[stephaniebolden1958@gmail.com](mailto:stephaniebolden1958@gmail.com)



## Thank You For Serving...

United Methodist Women equips women and girls around the world to be leaders in communities, agencies, governments, and churches.

United Methodist Women provides and supports leadership development of its members to give women of all racial, ethnic, language and economic groups the opportunity to realize their full potential and to participate in the life of the church and society.

## We Need You.

*The Florence Executive team need:*

- Secretary
- Communication Chair



*For more information contact*

*Amelia Fulton at 843-382- 7005 (H) or 843-534-8550 (C)*

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**Virtual Officers' Training • January 23, 2021**

**General and Training Session@10:00 a.m.**

**Please plan to join the ZOOM no later than 9:50 a.m.**

***The ZOOM link will be sent out the week of the meeting.***

Email [wchandlerflowers@gmail.com](mailto:wchandlerflowers@gmail.com)  
or text 843.855.8581 to receive the link.

# SURVEY REPORTING TIME!

It is time to submit the 2021 SURVEY (formerly called Census) for your Unit. Locate the Survey link at the United Methodist Women website [www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/census2020](http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/census2020).

**Deadline February 1st, 2021.**

Complete the form and enter the information into the Survey. If you have problems call the Interim Secretary:  
Wanda Chandler-Flowers 843.855.8581

Church Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Unit Name (not circle) \_\_\_\_\_ (usually *church name* UMW)

District: \_\_\_\_\_ Conference: South Carolina Jurisdiction: South Eastern Jurisdiction (SEJ)

Church Address \_\_\_\_\_

Unit Type \_\_\_\_\_ (usually *Local* or *Cluster/Charge*) Primary Language \_\_\_\_\_ (probably English)

Unit President's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Unit President's Email \_\_\_\_\_

Number of **NEW** members added in 2020 (ONLY new members) \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Members **LOST** in 2020 (by death or moving, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

**Total number** of UMW members as of 12/31/2020 (include all circles) \_\_\_\_\_

Reported by: Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ (if you want UMW emails)

Position \_\_\_\_\_ (office held in UMW or "Member")

Average Age of Unit Members *Select One* 35-55 56-69 70+

16. Are you an active unit? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you considering becoming inactive? \_\_\_\_\_ If Yes, are there any members in your unit that would like to remain members? Please list names. Please share your reasons for becoming inactive:

17. Thriving Units: Please select what category your local unit would most identify:

Impact  Influence  Inspire  Local Service Projects

18. Which of the following Mission u studies did your local church/unit use in 2020? Please check all that apply:  Finding Peace in an Anxious World  UMW 150th Supplement  A Youth Study: Managing Anxiety  A Children's Study: Managing Our Emotions  None of the Above

19. Did your unit/circle attend Mission u virtually this year?

20. Is your unit involved in any international mission activities?

# Survey (Census) Information Continues

21. If you selected “yes” above, check all that apply: Church General Board of Global Ministries  
General Board of Church and Society United Methodist Committee on Relief Annual Conference

22. Is your unit involved in any international mission activities that were not listed above? If so, please list them here.

23. What are your sources to learn more information about United Methodist Women International mission work? check all that apply: Response Magazine United Methodist Women website United Methodist Women Prayer Calendar United Methodist Women newsletter-United Methodist Women Leadership Development Days

24. If you use other sources to learn more about United Methodist Women International mission work, please list them here.

25. Would you like to receive regular updates about United Methodist Women international mission work? [Type here] Resource Development New resources and materials are launching at the end of 2020 and 2021.

26. Have all of your unit/circle members signed up in the myUMW database to receive individual membership resources? GIVING Previous Surveys have identified that many UMW members and non-UMW women identified Targeted Giving as the primary way they would like to give, please answer the following questions:

27. Is your unit or circle interested in targeted giving campaigns?

On May 5th, 2020, we launched a targeted giving campaign called GIVING TUESDAY NOW, which supported the National Mission Institutions helping vulnerable youth and adults meet the needs during this pandemic. 28. Did your unit or circle members participate? [Type here]

29. In the past year, has your unit engaged in programs related to racial justice?

30. Is your unit: Please select response:  A mix of women of color and white women  Exclusively white women  Primarily white women, with some women of color  Exclusively women of color  Primarily women of color, with some white women

31. Which social justice priority campaign did your unit work on in 2020? check all that apply:  End Maternal mortality (Maternal Health Priority)  Living Wage for All (Economic Inequality Priority)  End the School to Prison Pipeline (Criminalization of Communities of Color Priority)  Reduce Carbon Emissions (Climate Justice Priory) None

32. Please Check all Campaigns that you would like to receive more information about:  Climate Justice Just Energy for All  Racial Justice Interrupt the School-to-Prison Pipeline  Not Interested [Type here]

## Survey (Census) Information Continues

33. During the Pandemic How have you stayed connected?  1:1 phone call  Having conference calls as a unit  Virtual meetings (Zoom, GoToMeeting etc.)  Meeting in person  Cancelled in person and online meetings until the pandemic is over

34. When you have completed the form, review your information for accuracy and check for completion of all required questions. You must click Submit to send your information to the National Office.

35. If your data has been submitted successfully, a "Thank You" page will pop up. If you do not see a thank you page, go back to the form and check all required questions.

Please take the time to complete the Survey (Census).

Our membership numbers didn't represent us properly last year.

[www.unitedmethodist.org/census2020](http://www.unitedmethodist.org/census2020)

The Florence  
Executive Team

*Welcomes*

**Edith James**

as the

**Social Action**

Chair

For unto us  
a child  
is born,  
to us  
a son is given  
Isaiah 9:6



# Announcements



<p><b>VIRTUAL LOCAL OFFICERS TRAINING JAN. 23, 2021</b></p>	<p><b>FEBRUARY</b> <i>Special Emphasis Month</i> <b>Wallace Family Life Center</b></p>	<p><b>CENSUS</b> <i>Prepare your unit Membership Census Data</i> <b>Don't Delay. Do it TODAY</b></p>
<p><b>YES!</b> I WANT TO SERVE. I want to Join the Others. I want to be the secretary or communication chair</p>	<p><i>God is Able TO DO EXCEEDING abundantly ABOVE ALL WE CAN Ask or Think</i></p>	<p><b>VIRTUAL DAY APART</b> <b>MARCH 13, 2020</b> MARK YOUR CALENDARS ZOOM LINK TO COME</p>
<p><b>MARCH 1ST SC UMW PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION DEADLINE</b></p>		<p><b>APRIL</b> <i>Special Emphasis Month</i> <i>Bethlehem</i> <i>Community Center</i> <i>Columbia</i></p>



Let others know what the United Methodist Women are doing in your church. Send announcements to [wchandlerflowers@gmail.com](mailto:wchandlerflowers@gmail.com). They may be featured in an upcoming issue of The Flame. Space Permitting.