

*Saint Mark
United Methodist Women*

Fellowship

Spiritual Growth

Christian Service

Missions



What do United Methodist Women do at Saint Mark?

- Support missions locally and around the world
- Support Saint Mark's ministries and outreach
- Enjoy fellowship and spiritual enrichment at United Methodist Women Link Ups focused on outstanding speakers and programs
- Provide and serve meals to the homeless in Birmingham
- Support our United Methodist Centers for Senior Citizens
- Support our Children's Ministry through service and funding
- Support our Youth Ministry through service and funding
- Outreach to the community through retreats and women's conferences
- Improve and sustain the Saint Mark facilities
- Enjoy fellowship and learn skills through craft workshops
- Raise funds through the annual Holiday Market and Pecan Sale to support global and local missions
- Honor our staff annually with an Appreciation Luncheon
- Honor "mission people" and others annually
- Support and nurture our members in time of need

*These are some examples of the many activities of
Saint Mark United Methodist Women.
Contact a member of the Executive Committee for more details.*

Who are United Methodist Women?

Any woman . . .

Who finds meaning in her church and is drawn to its fellowship,

Whose life is packed full of activity and obligations,

Who struggles with loneliness or a sense of failure,

Who juggles jobs and family, and tries to be faithful to both,

Who wants to combine classroom study with significant fellowship and outreach opportunities,

Who seems overburdened with the traditional woman's role of care-giver,

Who feels she has gifts which are wasted or undeveloped,

Who wants to be accepted for who she is,

Who needs a supportive community to affirm her own sense of purpose and commitment to God.



United Methodist Women -

Past and Present

The United Methodist Women can trace their organization's roots back to 1869 when a group of women at Tremont Methodist Episcopal Church in Boston, Massachusetts, pooled their resources to send two women as missionaries to India. Through the years, the United Methodist Women has gone through many changes, just as the Methodist Church has. Today's organizational structure was established in 1972 and is part of the General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church.

Today, the United Methodist Women has about one million members. Close to \$20 million comes from United Methodist Women annually for programs and projects related to women, children and youth in the United States and in more than one hundred countries around the world! These gifts do not include another \$5 million collected and used by individual units. We have a long history of responding to God's grace by reaching out to persons in need.

We are the Ruths and Naomis of our time, living in a close relationship with one another and ensuring the spiritual growth, love, and nurture of each other along the journey of our lives.

Additionally, we believe that we are all servant leaders, using as our model, the perfect servant leader, Jesus Christ.

We believe our mission is to ...

Work daily to make Jesus smile by

Exhibiting an EGO that

Exalts God Only

Using our Heart, Head, Hands and Habits to **Serve** God,
His church, and all His people

Our 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.

Circles

What is a Circle? The dictionary says it's a group of people assembled about a central point of interest, or bound by a common tie. Within the UMW, Circles are small groups of women who meet on a monthly basis to study, pray, discuss projects for missions, and fellowship. The bonds that form in these small group meetings help support and nurture the women at Saint Mark.

The Serendipity Circle meets the second Monday of each month (except summer months) during the day at the church with special trips and outings.

You do not have to be a member of a circle to be a member of United Methodist Women. We have Link Up meetings throughout the year, plus many other events and activities.

Membership

Membership is open to any woman who indicates her desire to belong and to participate in the global mission of the Church through United Methodist Women.

Pledges and Missions

Making a pledge to the United Methodist Women is voluntary and the amount is whatever an individual wants to pledge.

All pledge money is used for the Missions of the United Methodist Women. Mission giving supports institutions and programs empowering and improving the lives of women, youth and children in the United States and around the world. It provides food, shelter, education, employment, healthcare and human rights advocacy for many living on the margins of society. Mission giving supports United Methodist mission personnel and retired Deaconesses. United Methodist Women's mission giving also funds spiritual growth programs, leadership development events and mission education opportunities for United Methodist Women members.

Saint Mark United Methodist Women also has various fundraising projects throughout the year to help support our missions here and around the world.

**For United Methodist Women, mission is giving,
sharing, caring, preaching, teaching, advocating,
mentoring,**

healing, helping, praying....

This list could go on and on, for the mission is

God's mission –

**in our family, our church, our community,
our country, and our world.**

**Saint Mark
United Methodist Women...**



Linked together by
Faith, Hope, and Love in Action