



THE BEACON

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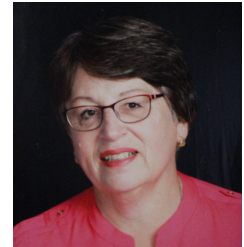
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United
Women
in Faith



President's Message

Ecclesiastes 3 vs 1-8 "There is a time for everything
and a season for every activity under heaven."

Proverbs 3 vs 4,5 "With all of your heart you must trust the Lord.
Always let him lead you, and He will clear the road for you to follow."

Dear United Women in Faith,

Today I wonder what our church and United Women in Faith will look like in the future. We are moving forward with many changes in our organization, just as change has taken place in the past. As of this week our church districts changed and have been given new names. So I consider the verse from Ecclesiastes 3, "There is a time to plant, and a time to uproot." Our seeds were planted over 150 years ago when the first women established a movement for mission work and we are still following in their footsteps today. Our goals are the same, (we are keeping some of the old), but many are implemented differently. At times we must uproot the old ways and establish better ways so our roots will allow us to produce those awesome blooms we are capable of. We must be patient during these changes, it all takes time and slowly our new vision will be established so our goals may be achieved.

"There is a time to tear down and a time to rebuild." We are rebuilding now, with new district boundaries, larger districts and we are asking women of all Christian faiths to join us. The more women we have, the greater the impact our mission work will have on others. At times change is necessary so that we don't become out of step with the world around us. We need to BE BOLD, BE CREATIVE, AND EMBRACE THE CHANGES!

"There is a time to search and a time to give up." Look for new ways, and opportunities to meet and fundraise. Computers have changed the way we live and how we live. In our search we can determine how many of our previous (old) ways we need to keep or mend to create new ways. The Bible verses above match with what we are doing in our organization. Stop and think about your unit. Have you paused, moved out, and moved on? Embrace the changes and talk about them. There was "a time to be silent, and a time to speak ." In silence, we listened and learned about our new plan. Now we are letting God lead us in a direction that is still unfolding. We will share in the delight of the changes that renew our organization.

Continued . . .



United Women in Faith Purpose

The organized unit
of United Women
in Faith 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.

Some of our new pathways may be risky, but with prayer and embracement these will become comfortable paths once again. Each new adventure will give us new opportunities, meeting new women and resetting in larger groups. We know that timing makes a difference and that is why we take time to plan. So, as we wait for the right time, God plans with us. In fact, he knows the perfect time for us to see our final plan. So, we wait in patience as the changes take place in our District. But while we wait for his timing, nothing will compare with its abiding impact on us."

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under Heaven."
"Trust in the Lord and Let Him lead you, and He will clear the road for you to follow."
Be Blessed as we wait for the changes to come.

Marcia Adamczyk

President of the current North Coast District UWF

adamczykmarcia@yahoo.com

Vice President Note

"O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good."

- Psalm 107

Dear United Sisters in Faith,

Customarily, the November article from the vice president would include details regarding events for the upcoming year. Due to UWIF district mergers, a calendar of events has been delayed until early 2024. The East Ohio Conference leadership team has shared with Marcia that it plans to have information regarding how we will proceed and reorganize by the end of January. To date, the North Coast District is planning to have a spring meeting. The date and location will forthcoming.

With all of the changes swirling about, we still have so much for which we are thankful. To that point, I would like to pose a question. When did Thanksgiving become a secondary holiday? Immediately after Halloween, stores decorate for Christmas, toys are on the shelves, radio stations are playing Christmas music 24 hours a day, and we are inundated with Christmas commercials. Thanksgiving is a wonderful holiday and it deserves its own moment in the sun. It is a time for families to gather together around the table feasting on dishes that have been part of the family holiday meal for generations. In many families, after the Thanksgiving blessing, each person states something for which they are thankful. It is also a time to remember departed family members and share memories of the joy they brought to our lives.

The younger generation is creating a new tradition which is Friendsgiving. It started with college students who were not able to go home for Thanksgiving so they got together, the host cooked the turkey and everyone else brought something for the pot luck. It is so important for us to take time to thank God for all of our blessings. We should let Halloween have the month of October, celebrate Thanksgiving in November and rejoice in the birth of our Lord in December.

Wishing you and your family a blessed Thanksgiving. Blessings,

Barbara Murphy, Vice President



Financial gifts
change lives.

We support
programs in the
U.S. & around the
world that
improve life for
women, children,
and youth
and their
communities.

As trusted
steward of
generous
donations, we
give to partner
church,
ecumenical and
grassroots
projects through a
granting process
overseen by a
member-chosen,
25 member Board
of Directors
composed of
United Women in
Faith members.

Treasurer's Report

Hello Ladies!

It was great seeing so many of you at the Fall District meeting! We collected \$348 for the offering and it has been sent to the AU Dormitory Dedication Trip per Bishop Tracey Malone. If you weren't at the meeting but would like to contribute, follow the link: <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZE9C/campaign?C-14F99>.

Before we know it, the holidays will be upon us! I received an email asking Districts to be generous in their World Thank Offerings. Please write in World Thank Offering under designated gifts and the amount on the remittance form. Additionally, giving has been low for 2023. Please be sure to send your pledges to me by the first week in December. I'll need to process your payments and forward them on to the conference by the end of the year.

The following is a summary of unit giving through October 31, 2023:

Pledge to Mission	\$9,656.00
Special Mission Recognition	\$320.00
Gift to Mission	\$185.00
Gift in Memory	\$135.00
World Thank Offering	\$491.15
Call to Prayer & Self Denial	\$400.00
<u>UMW Legacy Fund</u>	<u>\$75.00</u>
Total	\$11,187.15

As a reminder, 5 Star Giving Units must give the following amounts to the respective areas of giving:

\$ 5	Pledge to Mission
\$ 40	Special Mission Recognition
\$ 5	Gift to Mission
\$ 5	Gift in Memory
\$ 5	World Thank Offering

In order to earn the Rainbow Award, your unit's current year pledge to mission must exceed the previous year's pledge by \$5. If you're not sure where your unit stands, feel free to contact me so we can get you on track to earn both awards!



Blessings,
Kim Pelsoczi, NCD Treasurer
ncd.uwf.treasurer@gmail.com
152 E Oakmont Way
Northfield Center, OH 44067



**We are organized
for growth.**

**We connect
women through:**

- The local group
- The district organization
- The conference organization
- The jurisdiction organization
- All-access membership
- The national office



Secretary

Ladies, it was great seeing many of you at the Fall District Meeting in September! I personally found Bishop Tracy Malone's message to be inspiring and reinvigorating, leaving me with renewed energy and focus.

As many of you may know, my term as Secretary is coming to an end and I will be passing on the responsibilities of this role to Carolyn Wilson-Loveless. I hope that I have served you well. I know that you will be in good hands with Carolyn as she also does a great job as the Secretary of my Unit, Aldersgate UWF.

Currently, we are compiling the Unit Officer List and I need your help. Please make sure that your Unit Officer Form is completed and submitted to Carolyn Wilson-Loveless at cloveless@aumcworship.org by January 15th. Also, if there are any changes that occur during the year, please pass them along to Carolyn as they happen. We want to ensure that the District has the correct contacts for your Unit which will allow the District to distribute information appropriately. I also ask that you verify the accuracy of the information being submitted as well as making it legible. A copy of the form is included with this Beacon for your use.

Please be aware of the forms each Unit must complete and submit to the District each year. Mission Today and Unit Officer due by January 15.

Form

Unit Officer Form
 Census Form (can be done online)
 Mission Today Unit Goal Form
 Reading Completion List Form

Unit Role Responsibility

Secretary, Carolyn Loveless
 Membership, April Hawkins
 Membership, April Hawkins
 Program Resources, Debbie Jones

The completion of these forms will help the District to recognize the Unit's accomplishments in the Spring. Please let Carolyn know if you have any questions on how to find or complete the forms.



Blessings,
 Dana
 Danad921@yahoo.com
 216-513-0624



Education
can transform
women.

Educated
women can
transform the
world.

We offer
educational
experiences
designed to
inspire spiritual
growth, personal
development and
community
nurture to enable
powerful
collective change.

They include:

Mission u

The Reading
Program

Workshops &
Webinars

National Events
including
Assembly

Spiritual Growth

Dear Sisters in Christ,

In times of conflict in the world, we often struggle with "what can we do?" What should we pray for? How should we pray? On Oct 24 I attended a Peace Service at the Middleburg Heights Community UCC church. The rabbi talked with us afterwards. She said, "All we can do is Pray, Pray in Community." This was one of the readings:

"Blessing in a Time of Violence" by Jan Richardson (United Methodist Pastor)

Which is to say
this blessing
is always.

Which is to say
there is no place
this blessing
does not long
to cry out
in lament,
to weep its words
in sorrow,
to scream its lines
in sacred rage.

Which is to say
there is no day
this blessing ceases
to whisper
into the ear
of the dying,
the despairing,
the terrified.

Which is to say
there is no moment
this blessing refuses
to sing itself
into the heart
of the hated
and the hateful,
the victim
and the victimizer,
with every last
ounce of hope
it has.

Which is to say
there is none
that can stop it,
none that can
halt its course,
none that can
still its cadence,
none that will
delay its rising,
none that can keep it
from springing forth
from the mouths of us
who hope,
from the hands of us
who act,
from the heart of us
who love,
from the feet of us
who will not cease
our stubborn, aching
marching, marching

until this blessing has spoken
its final word,
until this blessing
has breathed
its benediction
in every place,
in every tongue:

Peace.

Peace.

Peace.

Please lift up Prayers of Peace for the people of Israel and Gaza and Ukraine.

Peace,
Claire Jencson, Spiritual Growth



Our current
justice
campaigns
are

Just Energy 4 All

Ending Mass
Incarceration

Criminalization
of Communities
of Color

Climate Justice

Racial Justice



Program Resources

"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name."

-Psalm 103:1

As we enter into this busy holiday season , let us remember to take pause to appreciate all that United Women in Faith has to offer in regards to resources and ways to connect with others. While many of us prefer to meet in person, UWIF has seen the need for development of a significant online presence in order to keep pace with the world and to attract new members to the organization.

One of the ways that you too can become involved online is to join UWIF. You can express your desire for materials in your area of interest. Just go to UWIF.org, scroll down to the bottom of the page and you can sign up. You will receive CONNECT which is the monthly newsletter from UWIF. Here, in addition to other news, you will read that all of your favorite UWIF resources are now available through UWIF Digital. The Digital Bundle is now available and includes the new Program Resource book, "Food, Faith and Fellowship", the Daily Prayer Guide and an Adult Curriculum for Mission U. You may also purchase each of these individually. Go to the Shop/Download section at the bottom of the online page.

One of the new offerings is the UWIF Digital Blog. Here you can connect with members across the country, learn about Thank Offering and what your giving supports, discuss Just Energy for All and learn about one girls journey from refugee camp to world class college. Read the story " A Legacy of Love began with a Mug". One woman's journey from being new in town to a rich history with UWIF and The 1869 Society. Once again, scroll to the bottom of the online page and click Blog.

Response magazine is the official magazine of UWIF. Here you will read and be inspired by stories of women impacting their communities and beyond. In the Nov/Dec '23 issue of Response magazine, you will find the 2024 Reading Program Catalog. Many interesting books are available for your winter reading. Books from 2018 to 2024 can be included in the 2024 reading program. Please remember that you need to be completing your reading for 2023. I would like to have report forms in by December 31 if possible. Thank you so much for your participation and your love of learning.

Blessings,

Debbie Jones

Program Resource Coordinator





United Women in Faith

**We serve.
We advocate.
We make a
difference.**

We support:
U.S. projects &
nearly 90 national
mission institutions
around the U.S.

International
partners focusing on
impacting poverty
through enhancing
capacities of local
women leaders in
their communities.

Advocacy - we
identify a specific
focus every 4 years
for our advocacy in
addition to ongoing
work for gender &
racial justice with
special attention to
needs of women,
children & youth.

Deaconess/Home
Missioner, an order
in UMC for laity who
feel a lifetime call to
vocations and
ministries of love,
justice, & service.

Social Action

ENDING CORPORAL PUNISHMENT IN SCHOOLS

As a child growing up in Cleveland in the 1970's "paddling" or "swatting" was a common form of school discipline. I spent the year 2002-2003 in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District as a Substitute Teacher, as I was considering a career change from banking to education. By that time corporal punishment was banned in Cleveland schools and I assumed in Ohio as well. Unfortunately I found the behavioral problems in the schools quite disturbing which is why I returned to a career in banking versus pursuing a career in education. However, I did not feel corporal punishment would help improve the behavior problems I saw in schools.

Corporal Punishment is defined as a deliberate act which causes a student to feel physical pain for the purposes of discipline and includes striking, spanking, paddling, requiring a student to assume a painful physical position, as well as the use of chemical sprays or electric shock weapons (stun guns) on a student's body. Corporal punishment is still permitted in 23 states. In a society where our students are increasingly angry, violent, suffering from mental illnesses, or having learning and developmental disabilities, many of our young people rebel against, disrespect and defy any and all authority figures. I do not understand how corporal punishment would help improve these situations! Also, the US is still plagued with racism, class prejudices, and homophobia. We stigmatize and misunderstand mental illness and learning disabilities. All our negative biases result in Black students being 2.3 times more likely than White students to receive corporal punishment. Native American and Alaskan Native students receive corporal punishment twice their enrollment rates. This is all statistical information from the US Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights. It appears Corporal Punishment feeds into School Push-Out and the School to Prison Pipeline.

A more comprehensive method is needed to address school discipline problems. Discipline should not only be punitive, but corrective and rehabilitative too. There must be increased partnerships between the schools, homes, communities, and the churches to successfully address school discipline issues.

In the meantime, United Women in Faith is calling for federal action in ending corporal punishment in schools. UWF joins the Nollie Jenkins Family Center, the Dignity in Schools Campaign, and the Mississippi Coalition to End Corporal Punishment to urge the passage of the Protecting of Children in School Act. This is a federal bill that would ban corporal punishment in all schools that receive federal funding. UWF urges all its members to contact their federal representatives and urge them to support this act. Simply go to the United Women in Faith website: Menu: Serve: Advocate: Ending Mass Incarceration where you will find a form letter under Corporal Punishment. Please send your letter to your representative.

Thank you for your action, ladies!

Tina Johnson
Social Action Coordinator



United Women in Faith

We equip women for leadership.

*In our sisterhood,
we lift
each other up.*

We equip women and girls around the world to be leaders — in their communities, their agencies, their governments, and their churches.

We are committed to ensure these opportunities reach women of all races and ethnicities, across every language and economic group.

Membership Care/Nurture

Dear UWF Sisters,

November? Where did the year go? It seems like we were just planning vacations and trying to keep cool from the heat. And now we are only weeks from the holidays.

With gatherings and events to come in the next few weeks I would encourage all of you to invite one friend to a UWF meeting or activity. All women regardless of membership in a United Methodist Church can belong to United Women in Faith. They can even be an officer!!

Encourage them to join UWF! You can speak about the awesome books you have read through the reading program and some of the events you have attended like Mission u. Reference the website which offers many resources for all ages and highlights the mission work near and far. Mention Westside Community House and the support we provide there all year long and how they may be able to help. Don't forget about those spectacular District meeting either!

Changes are coming to the Districts but our love in action remains the same. Let's get more people to help spread the love!

Have a wonderful holiday season and I look forward to the year ahead!!

April Hawkins
Membership Care/Nurture
aprilhawkins2001@yahoo.com





United Women
in Faith
supports
international
partners in 34
countries that are
enhancing the
capacities of local
& regional leaders
and supporting
economic
development
programs for
women & youth.
We provide
academic
scholarships and
support Regional
Missionaries to
empower women
& youth to find
local solutions and
make measurable
change in their
communities.

Nominations Committee

Dear North Coast District UWF,

In our August issue of the Beacon I started the Nominations Committee article with a quote as follows:

"Instead of worrying about the future, I will focus on God."

To follow up on that quote I will state that God always answers and supplies our needs always on time in accordance with his schedule. At the time of the last Beacon we still needed a new secretary and also a new chairperson the nominations Committee. I am happy to announce that both of these positions have been filled. As of January 2024 our secretary will be Carolyn M. Wilson-Loveless from Aldersgate UMC, and our new chairperson for Nominations will be Linda Earl from Wilson UMC. Last of all I want you to know that it has been my pleasure to serve on the District UWF (UMW) with all of you.

Your full team starting January 1, 2024 are as follows:

President	Marcia Adamczyk
Vice President	Barbara Murphy
Secretary	Carolyn M. Wilson-Loveless
Treasurer	Kim Pelsoczi
Membership	April Hawkins
Spiritual Growth	Claire Smith-Jencsen
Social Action	Tina Johnson
Program Resources/Education	Debbie Jones
Beacon Newsletter Editor	Diane McGregor
Nominations Chairperson	Linda Earl
Nominations Committee	

Reba Denmark
Willie Mae Ewings-Travis
Anne Billington
Betty Mead

Vivian Harris
Chair of the Nominations Committee
(216) 932-5380
vhogwash@aol.com



Love. Grow. Serve.



Behold,
I am
doing
a new
thing;
now
it
springs
forth,
do
you
not
perceive
it?
I will
make
a way
in
the
wilderness
and
rivers
in
the
desert.

- Isaiah 43:19

From the Editor . . .

It's so hard to believe this is our last Beacon issue for 2023. What a full year it has been. This issue includes articles related to the change in our district groupings. Change is never easy and I have often believed that the only thing constant is change. The coming year will be a year with great potential for UWF, no matter what district we are part of. As Harriet Tubman said, *'Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world.'*

Kim shares that giving has been low this year. Please note the deadline of the first week of December for submitting any pledges not yet received so that Kim may send funds to the conference before the end of the year.

Dana has provided the 2024 officer's list to be completed and returned to our incoming secretary, Carolyn Loveless by January 15, 2024

The Mission Today form is to be completed and returned to April Hawkins also by January 15. May be mailed or emailed.

Claire provides a wonderful poem for us to contemplate with the world in an upheaval. Debbie shares ways UWF is providing connection through online opportunities. Tina gives us some insight into corporal punishment and shares a way we can each become involved in ending corporal punishment in schools. April challenges us all to reach out to a friend and invite them to a circle. Where there are women gathered, there is the power of bold. The slate of officers for 2024 has been presented by Vivian, with each position being filled.

Thank you to Dana and Vivian for their years of service to the NCD Board. Their terms are completing next month. We appreciate all they have done and wish them the best going forward. We welcome Carolyn Loveless and Linda Earl in their new positions and look forward to working with them.

United Women in Faith makes a difference in our world. I have always been proud to be a member of UMW or UWF with our mission for women and children around the globe.

Diane McGregor, Beacon Editor
mcgregds@gmail.com
cell: 440-263-9550

"We believe love in action can change the world"

- United Women in Faith

**North Coast District United Women in Faith
2024 Individual Church Officers**

Church Name _____

Position	Name	Address, City & Zip	Phone	Email Address
President				
Vice-President				
Secretary				
Treasurer				
Program Resources				
Nominations				
Spiritual Growth				
Social Action				
Education & Interpretation				
Membership				
Please complete this form and forward to Carolyn Loveless, NCD Secretary via email at cloveless@aumc.org (preferred) or mail to Carolyn at 2024 Hanover Street, East Cleveland, Ohio 44112 by December 31, 2023.				

North Coast District United Women in Faith

2024 Mission Today Unit Goals

Section A: Complete at least 4 of the following:

- ☐ 1. Use the Prayer Guide at each meeting to pray for the mission workers & projects
- ☐ 2. Make and meet the unit's Pledge to Mission
- ☐ 3. Add at least one member to the Unit's roll
- ☐ 4. Have at least 2 members subscribe to the Response Magazine
- ☐ 5. Use at least 2 programs from the UWF Program Book each year
- ☐ 6. Conduct at least one mission study each year from the current or Previous year Mission u Study.
- ☐ 7. Implement the Charter for Racial Justice policies in at least one way during the year.

Suggestions: Plan a joint meeting with a unit of a different racial/ethnic background and use the programs from the UWF Program Book or Faith Talks Programs for discussion. Develop bi-racial or multi-racial cultural Koinonia (Christian Fellowship) Programs. Hold a joint Vacation Bible School and/or pulpit exchanges. Share joint worship services on special occasions. Encourage a church to sponsor a refugee family. Other explain _____

Section B: Complete at least 4 of the following:

- ☐ 8. Have at least one member (other than conference or district officer) attend Mission U
- ☐ 9. Have at least one member (other than conference or district officer) attend District Annual Meeting or Conference Annual Celebration.
- ☐ 10. Have at least one member join the UWF Action Network. Address is:
- ☐ 11. Participate in the Campaign for Children #3223 (Campaign for Children UMW Phase III) in at least one way.

Suggestions: Help sponsor a church or community program related to the needs of children or youth. Sponsor a Children's Sabbath, promoted by the Children's defense Fund by using the National Observance of Children's Sabbath Handbook. Get involved in mentoring, tutoring, Big Sister Program, or Ohio Read. Write, or email or call your Congressional representative and/or others in government regarding children's issues. Visit local Schools or attend a school board meeting.

Other: Explain _____

- ☐ 12. Be a 5 Star Unit by contributing to all 5 channels of Mission giving (Pledge, Special Mission Recognition, Gift to Mission, Gift in Memory, and World Thank Offering).
- ☐ 13. Include a Response moment at every meeting.
- ☐ 14. Have at least 2 members complete a Reading Program plan and give a mini report on book.
- ☐ 15. Invite a District or conference officer (other than a unit member) to a unit meeting each year.
- ☐ 16. Pledge to care for God's creation and become a "Green" UWF unit. See uwfaith.org website.
- ☐ 17. Conduct a Mini Spiritual Growth Retreat or have at least 2 members attend a district or Conference Retreat.

ALL UNITS ARE TO COMPLETE THIS FORM. Check the items completed and send to your District Education and Interpretation Mission Co-ordinator by JANUARY 15TH each year.

Unit Name _____ Date _____

Completed By _____ Phone # _____

Revised by Marcia Adamczyk District President on 10-1-2022 due to changes.