



United Women in Faith

East Ohio Conference

KEEPING CURRENT

Volume 42 Issue I

February 10, 2024

East Ohio Conference
UWF Officers

- President—Judy Kidder
- Vice President—Beth Saling
- Secretary—Rhonda Mason-Jones
- Treasurer— Kelly Korb
- Nomination Chair—Susan Huston
- Spiritual Growth—Sandy Merek
- Program Resources—
- Education & Interpretation—Emma Dixon
- Membership Nurture & Outreach—Cheryl Taylor
- Social Action—Carol Nelson Burns
- Historian— Rita Kyser
- Teen/University—Mikaela Ashburn, Olivia Doran
- Communications Coordinator—Elizabeth Feldman

MISSION u

- Dean—Cynthia Rose
- Assis. Deans—Mikaela Ashburn and Olivia Doran
- Registrars—Marcia Gill Bass and Kathy Everson

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Greetings From Your President

Dear Sisters in the Faith!

What a blessing you have all been to me through the past three years serving as your president. I am very grateful for all the support and all the work you do for United Women in Faith! We continue to have work to do...

As we look to the General Conference of the United Methodist Church which will meet this spring, we as United Women in Faith, will have a presence, and a voice, so take an interest in all that will happen at that event. In the long run it will have an effect on us and our work in mission.

We have been challenged by the change in structure physically with the ten districts now four.

Questions asked of me have been mostly about “how do we adjust the structure of our officers?” I believe that perhaps the best thing we can do, for now, is to work together... if there are two people who share an office (that are now in the same District) work as co-officers. My suggestion to one caller was to literally divide the job of president (one can conduct meetings and the other can contact local counterparts, etc.). But the secret will be contact and discussion between the two. I think this could work for all of our offices.

I am not saying this will be easy But I think it is do-able.

Please mark your calendar and plan to attend Mission u at Mt. Union University July 19-21. We meet new and old friends to share meals and learn new ways to share our faith at the same time. The leaders are always excellent and the studies are well planned and organized. It is well worth your time and money!

I would ask you to remember that though some things might be changing We worship the same UNCHANGING God who loves us. That should bring joy to your heart and soul.

I wish you blessings in abundance for 2024!

Judy Kidder, EOC President

Judy lives in East Liverpool in the Central Valley District, and can be reached at judyeri0127@gmail.com.



2024 EOC UWF Calendar

- January 20—EOC UWF Mission Team meeting 9:30 am—Zoom
- March 31—Easter Sunday
- April 7—First Sunday after Easter (Recommended Women’s Sunday)
- April 23-May 3—General Conference of The United Methodist Church, Charlotte, NC
... And Know That I Am God.
- May 30-June 2—North Central UWF Jurisdictional Event—Indianapolis IN— ...Get Together
- June 13-15—EOC Annual Conference—John S. Knight Center, Akron— ...Faith Hope Love
- July 10-13—North Central Jurisdictional Conference, Sioux Falls SD
- July 18—1:00 pm—Executive Team—Includes District Presidents, Conference Nominations Committee, Representative West Side Community House—University of Mt. Union
- July 19-21—Mission u—University of Mt Union in Alliance
- October 26—(4th Weekend)—Annual Celebration

District Spring Meeting Dates

Districts	Date	Location	Time
Central Valley	April 20 (Sat.)	Malvern UMC	9:30 am
Northern Waters	March 16 (Sat.)	Pearl Rd UMC	
South Forest	April 25 (Thurs.)	TBD	5:30 pm
West Plains	April 6 (Sat.)	Lakeside UMC	12:30 pm

United Women in Faith at General Conference—April 23-May 3

At 2019 annual conferences, United Women in Faith members across the country were elected and helped women be elected delegates to General Conference. In 2023, some conferences elected new delegates to help fill vacancies caused by disaffiliations and General Conference’s many-years delay.

Voting as delegates on the many petitions brought to General Conference is an important way United Women in Faith members offer key leadership to the church on behalf of women, children, and youth. But it is not the only way United Women in Faith is present at General Conference.

In 2024, United Women in Faith will be bringing four new pieces of legislation to be included in *The Book of Resolutions of The United Methodist Church* on observing Children’s Sabbath, protecting the girl child, protecting voting rights, and the status of women and realizing full human rights. We’ll also be seeking re-adoption of 11 resolutions set to expire from the same book and seeking annual conference voting rights for retired deaconesses and home missionaries. United Women in Faith also supports regionalization and the work of our fellow boards and agencies in the church.

While the church is gathered together, United Women in Faith will also be consecrating 25 deaconesses and home missionaries on Monday, April 29 and hosting an action for climate justice. We’ll be in the press room sharing news and insight, and serving as volunteers to help take care of people for the two weeks of meetings.

United Women in Faith will also join with the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women to host gatherings for central conference and all women delegates before the conference begins. Each delegate will receive a unique beaded pin made by Native American artists commissioned by United Women in Faith paired with a card reminding them of the hundreds of thousands of our members in prayer for them. Members across the country pray before, during, and after for the delegates and for a church that prioritizes marginalized communities.

Greetings From Membership, Nurture and Outreach

Hello, I am looking forward to learning this position and then becoming a contributing member of the Conference Team.

An Introduction: I taught Sunday School and was in choir for several years. I was church treasurer for Whitehall UMC, and I have attended the UMC of Macedonia for the last 23 years.

I am a Stephen Minister and I attend several current groups; United Women of Faith, Faithful Friends Luncheon, etc. I was Canal District Secretary for five years.

My volunteer activities include “Open M” in Akron, VBS, and knitting prayer shawls and lap blankets for nursing home recipients.

I enjoy being with my daughter and son’s families, two grandchildren, and four grandpups, gardening, cooking, walking, reading, sewing, knitting, crocheting and, in past years, camping.

I am looking forward to meeting new friends and helping to make a success of this position.

Your Membership, Nurture and Outreach Coordinator, Cheryl Taylor

Cheryl lives in Streetsboro in the Northern Waters District and can be reached at cheryltaylor@aol.com.

—(Grant me courage to serve others; for in service there is true life...Caesar Chavis)

Greetings From Your Treasurer

Happy New Year to all of you. I am pleased to see that the ladies of East Ohio Conference are finding ways to meet and support women, children, and youth in various ways. Our conference ended the year with sending \$98,724.57 to National United Women in Faith. This was short of our 2023 pledge, but with all the change that happened in 2023, it was wonderful to see we have so many ladies still supporting missions. We also paid all other expenses this year in full. Our pledge for 2024 was reduced to \$75,000, but I would love to see us exceed this amount.

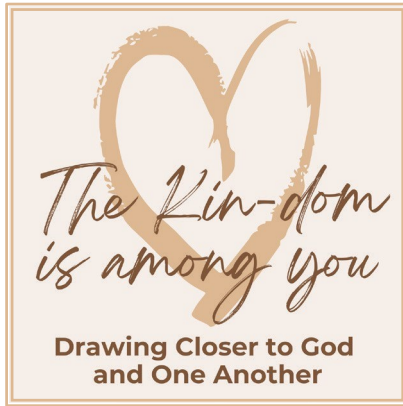
I would like to thank all the District Treasurers for all their hard work last year and look forward to working with those continuing as the treasurers of our four new districts. Once all the treasurers of the four new districts, South Forest, West Plains, Central Valley, and Northern Waters, are in position, we will be holding a Zoom meeting to discuss our year. I know they will be ready to accept the Unit pledges very soon.

I am continuing as the Conference Treasurer this year as we work through going from 10 districts to four districts. Unfortunately, I will also be traveling with my husband this year as he will be installed as Grand Monarch of Grottoes International, a Masonic fraternity. If I am unable to attend a Conference meeting, mileage will be reimbursed after the meeting. I will need to have the name and address of the person requesting mileage reimbursement.

My contact details are Kelly Korb, 210 Blue Spruce Ct. Seville, OH 44273, phone 330-571-5830. I am in the West Plains District. I do work full time, but will return calls as soon as possible. My email address is kkorb210@gmail.com. Blessings, Kelly



United Women in Faith, the largest U.S. denominational women’s mission organization, supports programs to empower women and improve life for women, children, and youth in the United States and internationally since 1869.



Mission u 2024



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Join us at **Mission u** as we explore what it means to draw closer to God and one another.

Jesus told his followers the kin-dom was among them (Luke 17:21). What does that mean? Who does Jesus say will inherit the kin-dom? How do we transform ourselves and our communities in ways that bring us closer to the kin-dom and the kin-dom closer to us? Dive into these questions and more at Mission u 2024 as we examine Scripture together and join in worship, fellowship, and action.

Mission u 2024 offers three exciting curricula on this theme.
Order your copy here: uwfaithresources.org

Adult—*Welcome Home* by Neomi Fletcher

The adult curriculum uses the image of home to explore how living in close proximity to the kin-dom is like making a home with God. Participants are invited to develop practices for building healthy, welcoming communities as a result of being anchored in the abiding love of God.

Youth—*Cultivating Symbiosis: The Nature of God's Kin-dom* by Nica Sy

In Creation, we see the power of symbiosis, or interdependent relationship. The youth curriculum explores the idea of symbiosis between our relationships with one another and our relationship with God. By drawing closer to one another and our world, we draw closer to the kin-dom.

Children—*Me in the Kin-dom* by Kathy Cook

The children's curriculum uses the Lord's Prayer as a lens to help us see that we are all members of the family of God. Children will begin to understand that the kin-dom is living with Christ and one another on earth as in heaven.

Join us!

July 19 – 21, 2024 – University of Mount Union—1972 Clark Ave, Alliance, OH 44601

If you have questions, suggestions or concerns, please contact: Cynthia Rose, Dean, Mission u 2024—Rosecyn52@aol.com. Stay tuned for more information. Cynthia lives in Cleveland Heights, in the Northern Waters District.

Come learn together for the transformation of the world!

Greetings From Spiritual Growth

“**Hope for the Flowers**” by Trina Paulus is the story of a caterpillar named Stripe who watched fellow caterpillars climbing and stepping on and over others with no idea about what was at the top. When he asked others what was at the top, the answer was “No one knows, but it must be awfully good because everybody’s going there.”

Stripe tried for a while and even met a lovely female caterpillar named Yellow and they tried together and gave up together. Stripe tried again, and one day, as Yellow was waiting for Stripe to come back, she discovered a grey caterpillar struggling to get out of a cocoon. She offered to help, but the grey caterpillar said, “No, I have to do this to become a butterfly.” Yellow asked, “What is a butterfly?” It is what you are meant to become. It flies with beautiful wings and joins the earth to heaven. It drinks only nectar from the flowers and

carries the seeds of love from one flower to another. Without butterflies the world would soon have few flowers. Yellow asked, “How does one become a butterfly?” The answer was “You must want to fly so much that you are willing to give up being a caterpillar.”

As a United Woman in Faith, it may be that you are like a caterpillar and must need to do some changing. Giving up the cocoon, what is familiar and comfortable, and becoming all God meant you to be, requires some intentionality on your part. Decide to read, decide to take advantage of training and other special opportunities, and decide to get involved in a ministry or an issue. You, like the butterfly, are meant by God to be something very special with meaningful and significant tasks to do. Speaking, writing, listening, reading, studying, and learning. You will never be the same again.

I am excited to be part of the United Women in Faith. Know that new and awesome things are coming with new districts and new leadership around the conference.

Most recently I was involved as a “Rule of Christ” ministry trainer for the East Ohio Conference, a new program initiated by our Bishop Tracy S. Malone. I am a Stephen Minister and visit people at their request.

In the past, my adventures with UMW include Spiritual Growth coordinator and President of the East Ohio Conference. I was honored to be a delegate at Annual Conference in the past. I participate in Mission u as a facilitator of some classes and as an attendee. I have served at the West Side Community House.

I have to say I love UWF. I started when a UMW member asked me to attend a meeting and ended up on the Nomination Committee many years ago.

We have five children, 11 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. My husband and I enjoy visiting them, as all our family live out of state from Arizona to the Carolinas.

Blessings, Sandy Marek, Spiritual Growth Coordinator

Sandy lives in Berea in the Northern Waters District and can be reached at S.L.marek@att.net.

Our Reading Program

Reading is connecting. The Reading Program is not meant to be completed alone or in a vacuum. You can enrich the experience by doing one or several of these things:

- ◇ Share the program with United Women in Faith members and members of the community.
- ◇ Distribute the Reading Program guide. (You can download from www.uwfaith.org)
- ◇ Connect with local and district groups.
- ◇ Start a book club, download books onto an e-reader to pass around and share, present book reviews at group meetings, or write for your church newsletter.
- ◇ Display a progress chart in your church and post displays to encourage reading.
- ◇ Pray. Books often raise concerns about people, countries, and issues. Bring these concerns to God during your prayer time at home and at group meetings.
- ◇ Advocate for tangible change. Many Reading Program books address issues including climate change, mass incarceration and racism. Organize a task force to address these issues in your community.



WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?

Have you registered for the event of the Quadrennium—the North Central Jurisdiction United Women in Faith Quadrennial Meeting? We are excited to be able to meet in

person and reconnect with sisters we know and meet new ones. So, did you register yet? If not, what are you waiting for?

Some people spend a great deal of time talking themselves out of things. “Maybe, I will. No, I don’t think so.” Some of us let others talk us out of going places and doing things. Do you ever think back and wonder what if I had...? Well, talk yourself and others into attending the Quadrennial meeting May 31-June 2, 2024, in Indianapolis IN. Come by the busloads and the carloads. Think of the wonderful time you will have as you traverse the country and see the many sights and beautiful scenery in our wonderful jurisdiction. Enjoy the features of the Sheraton Hotel, right in the heart of downtown. See the beautiful views from the upper floor as we gather and conduct our business.

You don’t want to miss the plenary sessions, the optional Soul Care Retreat, the worship, breakout sessions around pertinent topics, the workshops, conference displays, and---the list goes on. You also don’t want to miss the special guests that include our General Secretary and CEO, our National President, one of our Deaconesses, our Regional Missionary and so many others. Are you convinced?

What are you waiting for? You can also experience the many things to see and do and the many places to dine in Indy! The team is committed to accommodating your special needs. Need a wheelchair or motorized scooter? You will be able to reserve one on site. Need a special meal? Indicate your preferences when you register. If you are visually or hearing impaired, accommodations will be made available.

Still waiting? Let’s Get Together! Pray, listen, engage, vote. Celebrate! This will be a memorable time of worshiping, learning, sharing, singing, giving, and planning for the next Quadrennium as we will elect officers and directors to lead us in the future. So, register, get on the bus, in the car, on the plane, find a roommate, and prepare for an exceptional experience.

What are you waiting for? Start your engines!

Schedule of Events - Get Together!

Thursday, May 30

- 8:00 am Noon Registration open for Soul Care Retreat
- Noon-9:00 pm **SOUL CARE RETREAT** (Includes Evening Meal)
- Noon-8:00 pm Registration open for **Get Together!**
Prayer Room, Displays open until 10:00 pm

Friday, May 31

- Breakfast on your own
- 8:30 am Prayer Room, Displays Open until 10:00 pm
PRAY I Community Gathering
- 10:00 am **LISTEN I** Racial Justice Film / Discussion Groups
- 12:30 pm Noon Meal on your own
- 2:00 pm **ENGAGE I BREAKOUTS** A) 2:00; B) 3:00
VOTING
- 5:00 pm **** Evening Meal Together ****
- 7:00-8:30 pm **PRAY II** Community Gathering

Saturday, June 1

- Breakfast on your own
- 8:30 am Prayer Room, Displays Open until 7:00 pm
PRAY III Scriptural Foundations
LISTEN II Panel Discussion
- 9:45 am **VOTING**
- 10:00 am **LEARN I** Workshops
- Noon **** Noon Meal Together ****
- 1:45 pm **LEARN II** Workshops
- 3:30 pm **ENGAGE II** Community Gathering
- 5:00 pm Evening Meal on your own
- 7:00 pm **CELEBRATION! FUN NIGHT**

Sunday, June 2

- Breakfast on your own
- 9:00 am **PRAY IV** Community Gathering/Worship
Installation of 2024-2028 Jurisdiction Team
LEARN III International Story
- 11:00 am **SENDING FORTH**



Linda Crowell, Member NCJ
Committee on Nominations

Linda lives in Oakwood Village in the Northern Waters District and can be reached at lfchso@msn.com.

Get Together!

It's time to get excited for our United Women in Faith North Central Jurisdiction Event 2024!

We will gather at the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel, 31 West Ohio Street, in Indianapolis, May 31st - June 2nd, beginning at 8:30 am on **Friday** and ending at approximately noon on **Sunday**. There will be an optional, pre-event Soul Care Retreat on Thursday, May 30th from noon until 9:00 pm.

GET TOGETHER!

What does it mean to answer the call to "love one another"? (John 13:34) Come GET TOGETHER! to

FEEL the joy when faith-filled women unite
DEEPEN our relationship with God

NURTURE our souls through the strength of our sisterhood
EXPLORE the power of love to make a difference

TOGETHER we can do more. **TOGETHER** we can be more.
TOGETHER the power of love in action can change the world.

SCRIPTURE: The following scripture will provide the biblical foundation for our journey together: *John 13:34 (NRSV)*
I give you a new commandment that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.



Keynote Speaker
Deaconess
Garlinda Burton

WHAT'S HAPPENING at GET TOGETHER! 2024?

Pray: Community Gatherings, Worship
Listen: Discussion Groups, Multi-Media Presentations
Learn: Workshops, Conference Displays
Engage: Breakouts, Action Opportunities
Celebrate!: Saturday Night Fun Night!

Optional Soul Care Retreat: Focus on nurturing your mind, body and spirit while deepening your faith through spiritual practice and creating bonds of sisterhood (includes box dinner)



Music Director
Amanda Powell

SPREAD THE WORD! Please go to the United Women in Faith North Central Jurisdiction Event website, <https://www.umwncj.org/> for programming updates and the latest information.

Special guest, Grace Musaka, Regional Missionary, will share a global perspective. Shannon Priddy and Dawn Armstrong will challenge us in "Let's Talk Legacy". Dive deeply into today's relevant issues explored in Workshops. Breakouts will offer opportunities for activities with your sisters, connecting with friends - old and new. We will be electing Directors and Alternates for the National Board of United Women in Faith as well as the 2024-2028 NCJ Leadership Team.

How can we embrace and include everyone in a divided world? How can we confront injustice? How can we grow within ourselves and our faith? The answer is always the same. We can do it TOGETHER.

Come nurture your spirit TOGETHER Come join in worship TOGETHER Come make a difference TOGETHER

REGISTRATION now open!

Early Online Registration closes	November 30, 2023 (Midnight EST)	\$225.00
Online Registration closes	April 30, 2024 (Midnight EDT)	\$265.00
Soul Care Retreat (optional)	Filled until capacity	\$75.00



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Greetings From Nominations

Greetings United Women in Faith! It looks like most of you have settled into your new districts with interim officers and district meetings scheduled for the remainder of 2024. Formal elections of officers for 2025 should be held at fall meetings. Hopefully, you have those meetings planned. With the consolidation, there are ladies who were elected leaders of previous districts and are no longer serving but would like to and still have tenure available. Please contact me if you are interested in joining the Conference Team in 2025 or beyond. Also be open to hearing about the offices available if one of us on the Nominating Committee gives you a call. Like Uncle Sam, we always need a “few good women.” God bless you as we endeavor together to bring in the harvest for Christ.

Susan Huston
Nominations Committee Chair

Susan lives in Massillon in the Central Valley District and can be reached at susanhuston178@yahoo.com and 330-312-2739.

Greetings From Mission Education and Interpretation

Welcome to the new year so full of challenges and HOPE. The challenges are living out the first commandment to love God with heart, soul, mind and strength. This is the first phrase in United Women in Faith’s purpose “to know God and experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ.” As UWF we are encouraged to use the Daily Prayer Guide which has the daily lectionary readings. There are numerous books relating to faith in the Reading Program as listed in the November/December *response*—*Entering the passion of Jesus: A Beginner’s Guide to Holy Week*.

Another tenet of our purpose is to expand concepts of Mission which directly relates to Jesus’s command to love your neighbor—near and far—as yourself. By generously giving to UWF General Mission we make possible loving our neighbor. The January/February *response* issue features how our mission dollars in Nepal help these women in many ways lead better lives.

Some General Mission money is used to support district and conference meetings, Mission u, the reading program, emphasis on the environment and emerging issues. The more we give, the more we can accomplish.

If you are not a member of a local Unit and do not know your district treasurer, you may mail your contributions. Checks can be made out to EOCUMW and mailed to Kelly Korb, our conference UWF treasurer. Her mailing address is 210 Blue Spruce Court, Seville, Ohio 44273.

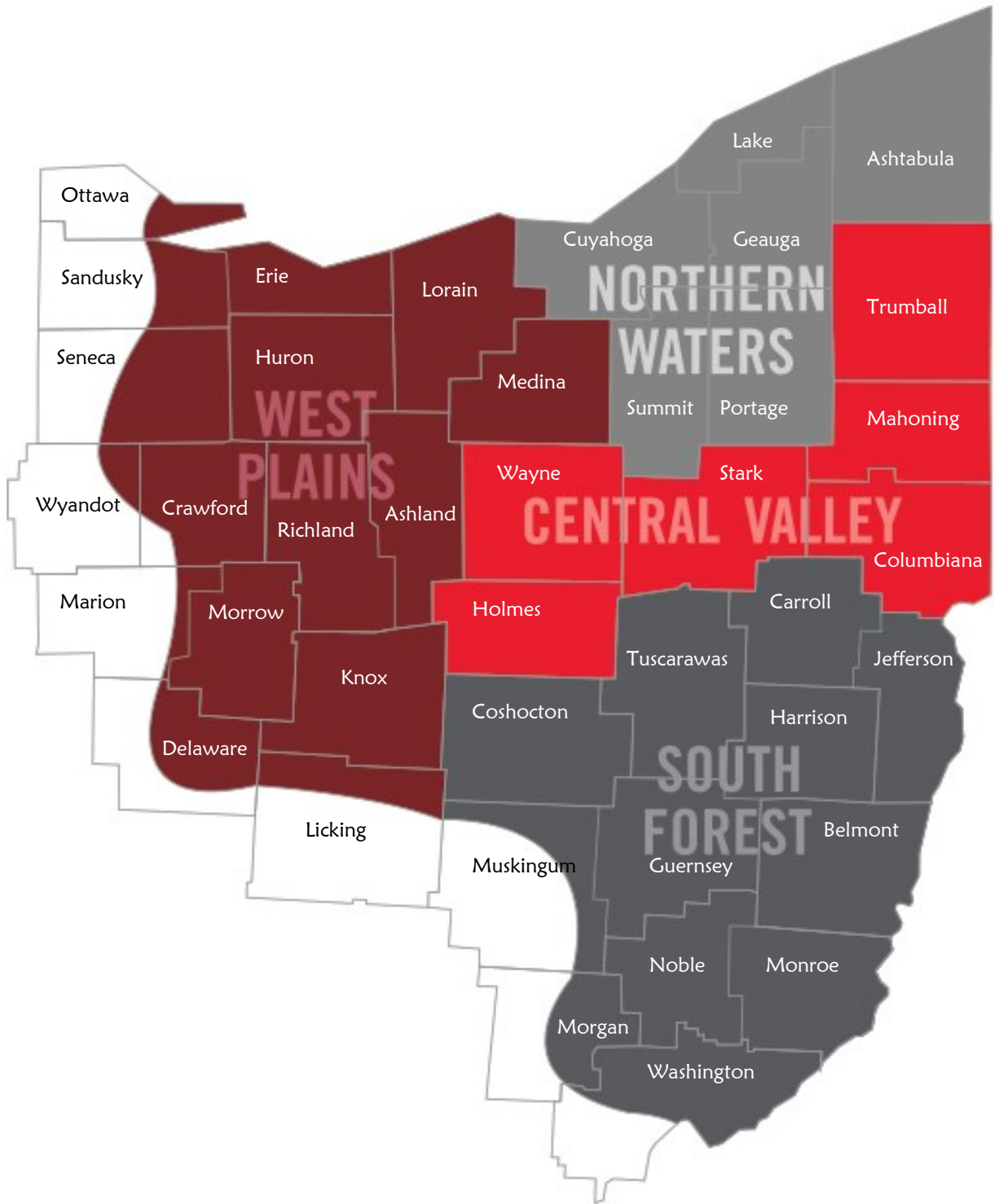
Blessings to you as your involvement in United Women in Faith helps God’s kin-dom come to many.

Emma Dixon, Mission Education and Interpretation Coordinator

Emma lives in Delaware in the West Plains District. She can be reached at deladoc@yahoo.com, 740-369-3521, or 47 Coventry Rd, Delaware, Ohio 43015.

Follow UWF at General Conference—April 23-May 3

- Read response magazine
- Follow the latest news and blogs on the website: <https://uwfaith.org/general-conference/2024/>



New Districts in the East Ohio Conference effective January 1, 2024

East Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church

United Women in Faith

8800 Cleveland Ave NW

North Canton OH 44720

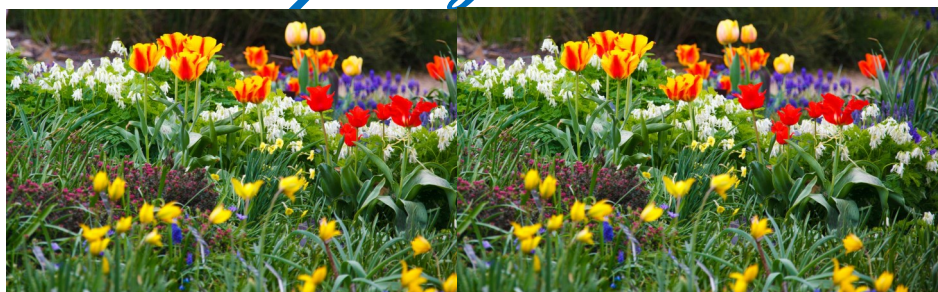
PLEASE PRINT/COPY THIS NEWSLETTER AND GIVE IT TO ALL WHO WISH ONE.
THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO SPREAD THE NEWS!

IF you wish to receive this newsletter by email, send your email address to:

The United Women in Faith Communications Coordinator at

ecuwfnews@gmail.com

Spring 2024



Newsletter of the United Women in Faith
East Ohio Conference, Judy Kidder President
Published twice a year, Spring & Fall
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Copies emailed to local Unit presidents and treasurers, East Ohio Conference UWF District and
Conference Mission Team members.

Questions, comments, additions/deletions to mailing list should be sent to the
UWF Communications Coordinator: ecuwfnews@gmail.com.

Fall newsletter article deadline – August 27, 2024