



Olentangy River District December 2024-2025 eNewsletter

President's Message

Season's Greetings to all of you!

It's hard to believe that we as a board are "wrapping up loose ends" for this year and planning for 2025! As we always ask ourselves, and each other—where has this year gone? There is truth in the saying, "the older we get, the faster time flies."

By the time you read this newsletter, your district officers will have met to reflect on all that occurred in 2024—bringing to light our weaknesses while acknowledging our strengths. We can certainly celebrate our positive accomplishments, but our goal is to take a closer look at what we feel we need to improve upon and find ways to make those improvements happen. Having a "year under our belts" as the newly formed Olentangy River District will help!

I've mentioned several times that this year has been challenging. It truly has been, and we've learned much along the way. The possibilities for next year are encouraging, and we will continue learning (and sometimes making mistakes) as we go.

Yes, 2024 has been challenging, but it's also been extremely exciting and satisfying. The two former CAN and CAS boards came together smoothly, and we have all respected and valued the experiences each of us brings to the table—along with our mutual love for UWF. It has been a great pleasure of mine to work alongside these dedicated women, and I look forward to continuing these efforts together in 2025!

It's now time for all of us to get busy! The new year will soon be here, and we have a lot to do! Let me ask you as local unit members—do you have your 2025 slate of officers in place? Have you set goals for your board and units beginning in January? Have you given any thought yet to your Spring and Fall Meetings and other events you might host? What new or continued missions will you support? What can you do as units to attract new women? How can your district officers and/or Shepherdesses assist you in the coming year?

Bless you as 2024 comes to a close, and you prepare for a new year. May your strong efforts continue as you work to better the lives of women, children, and youth. As always, please let us know if we can help you get started in the new year. Together—let's make 2025 great for United Women in Faith! always, please let us know if we can help you get started in the new year. Together—let's make 2025 great for United Women in Faith!

Pam Boh, President
ORD UWF

Words From My Mother

After the past three years as Spiritual Grown on the District Board I am going off the Board. So, this is my last article. I have enjoyed finding devotions by looking through my mother's papers and devotionals as well as other books of my own and the internet. Mom wrote many of the devotions herself but also found pieces from magazines, such as IDEAL and SUNSHINE, little pamphlets and even seasonal cards. Some of the cards were from one of my brothers. So once again, I went to my mom's papers/cards and found two different accounts of the Legend of the Holly and then a poem that incorporated these two. They are as follows:

The Shepherd Boy and the Wreath

A poor shepherd boy had no gift to give the Holy Child, so he made a tiny crown of leaves from a holly bush. Compared to the expensive gifts that others had given, the crown seemed of very little value. So the shepherd boy began to cry as he presented it. But when the Babe touched the holly crown with His tiny hand, the leaves suddenly gleamed and the teardrops turned to scarlet berries. So through the centuries, the holly wreath became a traditional Christmas decoration, reminding us of the miracle of Christ's birth.

Holly

There are many legends about this evergreen bush with its shiny leaves and bright berries. Holly has been used as a decoration representing good will and rejoicing throughout the ages.

One legend associates holly with the burning bush Moses encountered in the wilderness. Another tells us that Christ's crown of thorns was woven from holly, and before the crucifixion the plant bore white berries, which later turned to crimson.

Because it stays green all winter, holly is considered a symbol of immortality and is associated with the promise of everlasting life.

The Legend of the Holly

The red holly berry which we now know
Was once just as white as the new-fallen snow
And bloomed on its tree by the old stable there
Where the Christ Child was cradled, so soft and so fair ...
And the villagers came from miles around
To offer their gifts as they knelt to the ground
Except for one child who had only a limb
Of white holly berries that he carried with him
So he offered it humbly to the Infant new-born
Who pricked His small finger upon a sharp thorn
And His blood remained there upon one shiny leaf -
The holly branch bowed while its heart filled with grief
For it saw in a vision in years soon to be
A crown made of thorns from a small holly tree
And so in its sorrow, its grief and its shame
The white holly berries blushed redder than flame
But Mary, the Mother, said, "Do not be sad
You are the innocent, 'Rejoice and be Glad.
For as you weep in pity at what men will do
God sends forgiveness and blessings to you."
And in that short moment, the red berries shone
And so, that's how holly has come to be known
As the symbol of Christmas and Christ's holy birth
And the symbol of cheer to all men on earth.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy, healthy New Year!

Shirley Adams
ORD Spiritual Growth

Message From the Secretary

Much of this will be a repeat from my last article. I am still in need of your officer lists for 2025. So far, I have received three lists. Grove City Trinity gets a gold star for being the first unit to send theirs in, but I have also received lists from Stonybrook and Church of the Good Shepherd. Good work, ladies. I know you have until the end of December to turn them in, but why not consider getting it done before you get too busy with the holidays. [Click this link](#) to download the form or you can contact me.

This information is vital to the running of the organization. Thank you!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Peg Addington
ORD UWF Secretary
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'25 Spiritual Growth Coordinator

I have enjoyed my time on the ORD Leadership Team as your co-chair of Communications. For 2025, I am switching positions to Spiritual Growth. I will be taking over for Shirley Adams as she turns to other duties in her Faith Walk. Spiritual Growth, in our faith journey as an individual and as a unit, is very important. If you need assistance, please do contact me. My contact information will remain the same.

Penny Scott
'24 Co-Communications/'25 Spiritual Growth
ORD UWF



Message from Social Action Coordinator

Greetings Everyone!!!

This is a busy time of year and we hope you will be as excited as we are to get even busier from January right up to the Spring Meeting in April with **Racial Justice Triumphs!**

It is an excellent opportunity to Explore, Experience and put Love into Action! The Form will be sent in early January.

At our Spring Meeting we will CELEBRATE by recognizing ALL participating Units and Individuals. The BEST part is you will never be alone! We have HELPS & HINTS galore along the way. Plus, we want to hear all the fun, fantastic, and fabulous means you have employed to be Triumphant!

What does the Bible say? What does the United Methodist Church say? What do the facts say? What do you say? Thanks to **The United Methodist Church: CHURCH & SOCIETY**, one of the topics in their Card Set on Social Issues relates to our topic, Civil and Human Rights, providing a format for exploration. I will share the rest of the cards at a later date. Each card (29), has a contact for additional information.

I'm excited for us in Olentangy District to so intentionally put **Love into Action**.

Jeri Fraime Roseboro, Social Action
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It's time to report your UWF Activities for 2024. Click on the Form Title; you will be taken to the respective form; save and complete on your computer OR download and print the form for completion; send to the person whose name and address are on the form. Deadline for submission is on the respective form.

- **Mission Today**
- **Reading Program**
- **ORD Leadership Interest**
- **2025 Unit Officers** (There's also a link to this form in the Secretary's Message.)

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