

# Great Miami River District



United  
Women  
in Faith

## E-NEWS

### March 2025



#### Welcome!

Here's a quick preview of some of the articles and information you'll find in this edition of our newsletter. We hope that you find it informative and uplifting. If you have a suggestion for an article or would like to submit an article, please email me, Pam Fugett, [pamela\\_L\\_harris@yahoo.com](mailto:pamela_L_harris@yahoo.com). We would love to hear about what your local unit is doing. In this newsletter you'll find information on Day of Giving, Call to Prayer and Self Denial, our April Mission trip, and Mission u. You'll hear from a local unit about a project that's been ongoing for 20 years and from our Conference Social Action coordinator. All of this and more await you - ENJOY!

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## Great Miami River District UWF Feb. Treasurers Report

Greetings Sisters,

Thank you to all the local units who have sent in pledges and other donations to the district. Because of your generosity, we have already received:

\$5,265 towards our \$70,000 Pledge to Mission

\$20 Gifts to Mission

\$70 Gifts in Memory

\$66.18 World Thank Offering

\$405 Call to Prayer and Self Denial

\$300 Camperships/Missionu Youth Scholarships

\$162 Friends of Wesley in Dayton

Please let me know if you have any questions or if you would be interested in allowing me the opportunity to come to one of your unit gatherings to meet your members and answer any questions you have about your gifts / donations to the Great Miami River District.

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Josie Wood - GMRD UWF Treasurer

[josie.mary.wood@gmail.com](mailto:josie.mary.wood@gmail.com)

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## News from the West Ohio Conference

### **CALL TO PRAYER AND SELF-DENIAL Bold Women Transforming Communities**

Isaiah 6:8 Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us? "And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"

United Women in Faith is a hand to hold as we venture into the world, making an impact through our beloved community. For this Call to Prayer Service, we will hold hands with our sisters in Peru, learning about their history and work. This service is an opportunity to continue the energy and growth of women internationally through our Call to Prayer giving.

Find the Call to Prayer and Self-Denial 2025 worship service at [uwfaithresources.org](http://uwfaithresources.org). You will also find it in the UWF Program Resource 2025 book.

~~“On Eagle’s Wings”~~ Sing with me...

*And God will raise you up on Eagle’s Wings, bear you on the breath of dawn, make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of God’s hand.*

Paula Nourse

*Lift Every Voice: Dialogue Across Differences*

April 29th, 2025

A live event is offered from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.;

a separate event featuring the recording will be shown from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Join us for a presentation on Immigration, led by Rev. Madet Merove, who serves as a community leader, pastor within the United Methodist Church, and the CEO of Haitian Community Solidarity & Support. He founded the organization in 2024 to address the needs of the growing Haitian community in the greater Springfield, OH, area. With our commitment and compassion for helping the Haitian community in Springfield and the surrounding areas, we are dedicated to supporting everyone, without discrimination based on race, color, ethnicity, religion, or sexual orientation.

“Lift Every Voice and Sing,” verse 2

*Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod,*

*Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;*

*Yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet*

*Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?*

*We have come over a way that with tears has been watered;*

*We have come, treading our path thru the blood of the slaughtered,*

*Out from the gloomy past, til now we stand at last*

*Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.*

[Link for 4:00 event](#)

[Link for 7:00 event](#)

## **Chats with Paula — Dates for 2025:**

The upcoming Chats with Paula will be **April 15**. The remaining dates are July 29, and September 16, all from 7:00-8:00 p.m. To learn more and find a link to join, visit the ["Chats with Paula" page](#).

## Opening Ourselves to Social Action: This Month – Earth Day: “Our Power, Our Planet”

***“But ask the animals, and they will teach you, or the birds in the sky, and they will tell you; or speak to the earth, and it will teach you, or let the fish in the sea inform you. Which of these does not know that the hand of the LORD has done this? In his hand is the life of every creature and the breath of all mankind.”***

Job 12:7-10

What does **power** mean to you? Does it have religious, political, monetary, career, or materialistic influences? Or maybe some, or all, of the above.

This month we are focusing on the **power needs** of the earth, of our existence, of our future, and *Climate Justice for ALL People*. Pretty important stuff! United Women in Faith continues to emphasize our concerns for the world God has created, and our responsibility to educate, encourage, and lead in efforts to save the planet.

On April 22, 2025, the Earth Day theme is, “Our Power, Our Planet.” The organizers ask us to consider different sources of power besides the easy answer: fossil fuels.

*“The collective power of a billion voices is vast and one billion people speaking out on an issue is hard for governments, institutions, or industry to ignore.”*  
Kathleen Rogers, President, [earthday.org](http://earthday.org)

Even though the United States, as a country, no longer supports the Paris Climate Agreement, we can do our part to provide information about the uses of alternative energy sources whenever possible. We can survey our communities, homes, and churches, looking for better ways to use energy-saving devices.

The most recent U.S. goal for this 55th anniversary year of Earth Day is to triple renewable energy resources by 2030, including solar, wind, geothermal, hydroelectric, and tidal energy.

There seems to be a backlash recently concerning windmills, solar panels, and electric vehicles. And there is so much misinformation available. We need to make sure we look for reliable sources for facts. Tax incentives will probably disappear, so we may have to invest more money ourselves to show our support for saving the planet.

Plan an event for your unit: a Bible study (the above passage is one); energy surveys online to evaluate your homes and churches; find accurate information concerning alternative energy resources for a panel discussion; check for a local speaker who can share tips with the group; many videos are available.

Let us know what you accomplish! We’re excited to hear from you!

Becky Ruple, WOH Social Action Coordinator

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The United Women in Faith 2025 Day of Giving will be happening on Sunday, March 23rd. The annual Day of Giving is the single largest fundraising activity for the Legacy Fund each year. On this day, United Women in Faith members and supporters across the country gather locally and virtually to contribute to and raise funds for the endowment. For more information click [here](#)

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**West Ohio Conference  
United Women in Faith  
MISSION u 2025**

Registration for Mission u is now open! In addition to the adult study, we also have separate studies for Children and Youth. Click [here](#) for access to all flyers and registration



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**Upcoming Book Discussions**

In the January E-news we told you about a new connectional collaboration with The West Ohio Conference, led by Julie Carter, Director of Faith Formation and Lay Ministry. Each month, the Expanding Connections Book Club meets via Zoom to discuss the month's book selection. To check out upcoming books the button below. Each discussion will be announced the 15th of each month and a time for gathering and sharing will take place around the same time.

WOC Book Club

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The April 11th mission trip will be to visit the Wesley Education Center and The Wesley Foundation located on the University of Cincinnati campus. For more detailed information please refer to the E-news sent on March 2nd. The registration form can be found [here](#)

**Wesley Education Center**  
for Children & Families



From Denise Bentley, GMR representative to Wesley Education Center:

"Wesley Education Center is in the process of fundraising to provide some additional enhancements to the childcare center that were not covered in the Capital Campaign.

We would sincerely appreciate it if the ladies of UWF would help to spread the word about our No Show Ball."

What is a "No Show Ball" you ask? A "No Show Ball" is a type of fundraising event, often a dinner, where attendees can support a cause by donating online instead of attending the traditional event. Look for more details in the next E-News

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## **LOCAL UNIT SPOTLIGHT**

Christ Church (Kettering) United Methodist Prayer Shawl Ministry is celebrating a milestone 20 years in ministry. This ministry has blessed many over the years. Starting in March 2005 by Arlene Akerman and Doris Kennicott and 5 other ladies who believed in its mission, the original group grew and increased to a loyal, enthusiastic group.

These dedicated knitters and crocheters have religiously met on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday mornings these past many years. Their fellowship involves an opening Blessing, sharing their joys and concerns, the request of shawls for those in need, the exchange of ideas, sharing of patterns and then closing with a corporate blessing of the completed shawls, lap robes and baby blankets received. A special tag is included which explains the significance of the Prayer Shawl/Lap Robe and offers a prayer for their comfort. Eventually a Wednesday night group was started about 12 years ago led by Elaine King meeting the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> weeks of the month. It is a small but mighty group as well.

The Christ Church United Women in Faith realized the merits of this ministry and has designated it as a Special Interest Group.

They have generously provided the funding for the purchase of our yarn. Over the past 20 years, the ministry members, ministerial staff, members of the congregation as well as word of mouth have contributed to the provision of over **4210** of shawls, lap robes and over **500** baby blankets to those in need. In addition, we have provided shawls and lap robes to Hospice of Dayton, the local hospitals, and Mercy Manor. Baby blankets have gone to new babies in the congregation as well as to Wesley Center of Dayton for their Baby Showers. We also provide a Wedding Shawl to members who are wed in our church. To date our shawls have been delivered to those in need in 48 states, the District of Columbia and 9 foreign countries

We have often heard of the blessing these Prayer Shawls provide. Comments like “This beautiful shawl is a testament to God looking over me”, “It is so warm and cozy”, “I feel all the prayers said for me” “ It has brought me so much comfort when I needed it most.”

These handmade knitted and crocheted Gifts have truly been an offering that has changed lives through the transforming power and love of Christ.



## OUR GMR NEEDS YOU!

It's hard to believe we are already into March. Once again, the Nominating Committee is coming to our UWF body to ask for nominations. Nominations for the President's position is needed.

What does that position entail, you ask?

- She presides over eight district meetings, and a spring and fall event each year.
- She will serve as contact person for each unit president to provide resources and training, if needed.
- She also serves as a member of the conference leadership team.

These are her duties and responsibilities. If you know someone who would like to engage further into our wonderful organization, contact Joyce Ard at [ardjoyce47@gmail.com](mailto:ardjoyce47@gmail.com) or text (419) 504-8798.

If you are looking for a purpose, or a place to plant your seed, consider becoming a member of the District Nominations committee.



We have two open spots coming up for the new year. We would love to see people from all areas of the district. Meetings for the Committee have been on Zoom. There are not more than three or four per year. If you would like to join us, we would love to include you. Again, contact Joyce Ard at [ardjoyce47@gmail.com](mailto:ardjoyce47@gmail.com) or text (419) 504-8798.

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## Save The Dates

**Watch future newsletters for more info on these events:**

September 27- Annual Celebration

May 2026 - National Assembly in Indianapolis, IN

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## Time for Prayer and Conversation

Centering Prayer Circle

Wednesdays @ 3-4pm Eastern Time

This is a drop-in, on-going gathering. We meet virtually over Zoom. Each session will start with Centering Prayer, followed by conversations around spiritual topics using articles, books, and videos as prompts.

[Join Here](#)

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United  
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The National Office has many interesting events and gatherings such as Faith Talks, Voices of the Field, Podcasts and Webinars. Go to the United Women in Faith website to find out more and to subscribe to

their digital communications to stay up on the latest scoop by clicking [here](#).



At the end of September, the Legacy Endowment Fund total was \$41,787,023.00. We anticipate making our goal of \$60M by the end of the quadrennium in 2028. To learn more about this fund and how you can give to keep United Women in Faith strong for the future go [here](#).



Are you sharing the E-news with your unit? Please make sure to fill out those officer forms and make sure that we have an email address IN ADDITION to a mailing address. We will update our mailing list for the E-news based on the information that

you provide. We DO NOT mail paper copies for the newsletter. Please make sure that someone in your unit is designated to receive, read and share the information. It's great if there is more than one person receiving the newsletter. We would love to send it to as many people as we can! Make sure to let 1st time readers know that it may show up in their SPAM or junk email. Any questions? You can contact me at [pamela\\_L\\_harris@yahoo.com](mailto:pamela_L_harris@yahoo.com)

Happy Holidays!



## Ongoing Events

**1st Tuesday of each month** 7:00pm ET  
Just Energy for All Working Group

**Wednesdays, 3-4 pm ET**  
Centering Prayer Circle