

Great Miami River District



United
Women
in Faith

E-NEWS

November/December 2024





The Great Miami River District officers wish all of you a Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas! This is the time of the year when we reflect on all the blessings we have received and all the ways that God has provided us opportunities to be a blessing to others. Thanksgiving and Christmas give us the opportunity to spend time with our families and our friends.

Please remember that we can give gifts of mission to honor a loved one for Christmas or we can give a gift to the Legacy Fund, a Response Membership or a donation to Mission u.

Please review the articles in this enews and share them with your unit. I am including the links below for your mission today report and your list of new officers for 2025.

[2025 Officers](#)

[2024 Mission Today form](#)

**Final Push to Meet our
2024 Pledge to Mission of \$75,000!**

The Great Miami River District of United Women in Faith has experienced a great year of coming together as a new district. We set the \$75,000 pledge long before we knew the strengths and challenges of our new district. As Treasurer, I have received generous remittances from many of our units. I am waiting to hear from more of you. I know that many of our units have fundraisers in the fall. If at all possible, please have your final 2024 remittance to me by November 30. I will accept remittances until Saturday, December 7. After that time, your remittances will have to wait until January, 2025 when the new treasurer, Josie Wood, will have her books set up. I must turn all monies in to Marcia Florkey, our Conference Treasurer, by December 10. She then must close out her 2024 books because there will be a new 2025 conference treasurer, Marsha Klingbiel.

The Great Miami River District has done a super job in 2024 of supporting the Friends of Wesley Project. There is much enthusiasm around support of Wesley Dayton's Baby Ready Program and Wesley Education Center, Cincinnati, 2 National Mission Institutions located within our district. Please continue to communicate with as many people as possible about the suggested membership of \$25.00 per unit and \$5.00 membership per person.

WHERE DOES OUR MONEY GO?

As we approach the end of 2024, it's time to decide, at the local level, how to disperse our monies. Our first priority should be United Women in Faith missions & works (Pledge to Mission, World Thank, etc.) Our monies are collected and then added with others at the district & conference levels. Those monies are then used to support National Mission sites and many other programs that enable women, children & youth to live better lives. You can learn more specifics [here](#). Please consider increasing your Pledge to Mission, both individually and from your local unit! Gifts to Mission make it possible for United Women in Faith to carry out its vital work to connect and nurture women through Christian formation, leadership development, creative fellowship and education so that they can inspire, influence and impact local and global communities. If you are considering other local missions, please make sure that they support the UWF mission of helping women, children & youth.

Giving Thanks

To the Great Miami River District UWF:

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to all of you for inviting me to preach during your Fall celebration. It was truly a blessing to be a part of such a meaningful gathering. I am especially grateful for the gift made in my honor and for the honorarium, which was a kind & generous gesture. May God continue to bless the vital work of the GMR District UWF!

*Blessings,
Karen Cook*

Thank you so much for your \$75 donation. We used the fund for Educational materials for the classrooms. These were much needed items. The kids lose the puzzle pieces and we are working with them on numbers and counting.

*Thanks you again,
Ms. Carla
(Carla Butler, Wesley Child Education)*

Wesley Center

I am pleased to report that the Baby Ready Program accompanied mothers through six healthy births in October and already four in November with one major concern:

Your prayers are needed now for mother Meeka and her newborn, La-Hahna. The beautiful baby girl weighed 3lbs 8 oz at birth and has a heart condition. She is currently in the Nic U isolation at Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus. Things are critical and your prayers are needed -- NOW! The birth occurred in Dayton and the baby was care-flighted to Columbus, but while recovering with complications of her own, Meeka has been able to observe the baby via an Angel Eye camera. So, please pray for God's Healing Grace for the whole family. Thank you!

Looking ahead, two events are upcoming for the Baby Ready / Infant Mortality (BRIM) program at Wesley Dayton. A Safety Training on November 21, 2024 with Goodwill and Public Health wherein participating families are rewarded with a car seat and a Pak n' Play. On Friday evening, December 6, from 5:00 to 6:30 PM, there will simultaneously be a Baby's First Birthday - Graduation Party for those completing the BRIM program AND a craft time to make Baby's First Christmas Ornaments.

Help is needed with the craft project. Please check your calendars and contact me about sharing your time, energy and creativity with these new mothers. Call Deb Dunlop on land line, (937) 890-2729 to let me know of your availability.

Jericia Colvin
Program Director- Baby Ready/Infant Mortality Program
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Opening Ourselves to Social Action: The Outsiders
From Becky Ruple, WOC Social Action Mission Coordinator

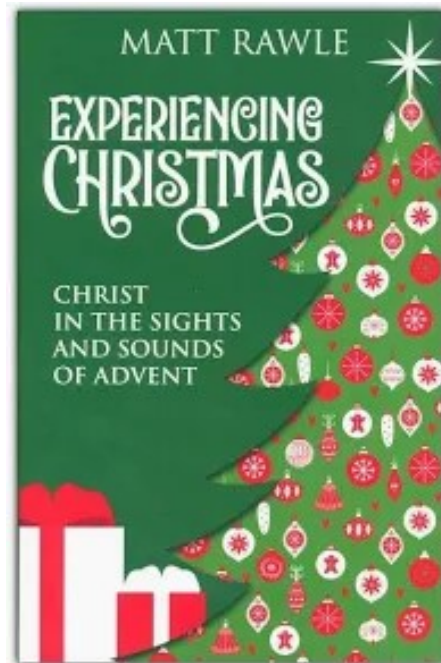
“He (Peter) said to them: ‘You are well aware that it is against our law for a Jew to associate with or visit a Gentile. But God has shown me that I should not call anyone impure or unclean....’ Then Peter began to speak: ‘Now I realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism, but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right.’”
Acts 10:28, 34-35

After recently re-reading the story of Peter’s vision of a large sheet filled with unclean foods – according to Jewish law – it seems to relate to our current divisions: labeling others as outsiders, unacceptable, illegals, Sinners with a capital S. Thousands of years after this text was recorded, we still don’t get it!

How are we to live in a country where we are the greatest, the best, the smartest, the richest, the right political party, etc.? Where God continues to provide opportunities to welcome others to our homes, churches, communities? Does God really mean the undocumented, LGBTQ+, unwed parents, different family structures, folks out of work or homeless?

We remember Jesus said He came that ALL might receive abundant life. And yet we are continuing to separate out those who don’t fit our idea of “acceptable.” As Christians, followers of Christ, disciples of the Way, United Methodists, United Women in Faith, we need to remind ourselves continually that ALL are part of God’s kin-dom. No matter their circumstances, we have the privilege, the joy of sharing God’s love with everyone.

The Reading Program, response magazine, Mission u, local, district, and conference meetings, national webinars all provide us with up-to-date information. We can make informed decisions, get involved, and make a difference! That's Social Action! We support those who are on the front lines at the border, in other countries, in our cities and small communities, but it helps to get involved on a personal level, too. We need "skin in the game!"



EXPERIENCING CHRISTMAS: CHRIST IN THE SIGHTS AND SOUNDS OF ADVENT by Matt Rawle We know this is a busy season so please don't let that keep you from coming as your schedule permits. Each week we will be playing a video that will provide all the material you will need to take part in the session so preparation is minimal. If you would like, there is a text that can be purchased wherever you buy your books. To learn more, click [here](#).

Virtual Advent Study
Sundays, December 1-22
4:00-5:15pm ET

Partnering with the Wesley Foundation

This semester I have had the joy of spending time on the campus of the University of Cincinnati (UC). About once a week I have some signs asking students if they 'need to talk' and another that says, 'We are here to listen.' Often young women stop for a moment to talk about the world, their challenges or just to make a connection with another person. In those moments, I find these young women are desiring connection with another. My Associate Director, Pastor Katie, is doing a similar thing on the campus of Miami University and seeing a similar pattern.

Young women need mentors, listeners and individuals to remind them of their value in this culture. That is one of our focuses at the Wesley Campus Ministries at both universities. These ministries are not self-sufficient. In a recent meeting with the Student Activities office at UC, the staff shared a trend that most students are now working one to two jobs to be able to afford college and sometimes taking longer to graduate because their work schedule does not allow them to attend school full time. This means when we do special retreats, trips or activities the students are not able to afford the full price of these opportunities that build community and draw them closer to God.

Our ministry mission statement is Authentic Community; Faithful Exploration; and Radical Love; these are part of everything we do. We have dinner church with our students every week, offering Bible study and training our student leadership teams. Recently they told us that gathering for social events is an additional need, so we are planning more times to come together in the Spring semester. Some of these are creative things at our house, and some of them are finding things for them off campus.

There are a variety of ways your UWF units can support our ministries. Some of you have brought dinners to our Tuesday gatherings at UC and some of you can also bring dinner to our Miami ministry on Thursday evenings. We are working to launch a mentoring program and need a few more mentors (which can be done on zoom if Clifton traffic or driving to Oxford feels like too much.) Your unit could agree to an annual partnership of financial support. I am always happy to come to speak to your units and share more specifics about our ministry. My email is director@wesleyuc.org and my phone number is 419.308.1222.

We also do three trips a year; a fall retreat which focuses on their spiritual growth, winter service-learning social justice trip to see their need for justice work, and a spring mission trip to experience the value and spiritual need of helping. Our students have expressed how helpful these are to their spiritual growth and connection to the ministry community.

2025 will be our 100th anniversary as a ministry. We are so excited to celebrate the long history of discipling young adults and sending them out into local churches as lay and clergy leaders. In looking toward our next 100 years, we are working to raise \$100,000.00 for an endowment to support our dedicated, enthusiastic staff who go above and beyond in their ministries to our students. Most grants will not support salaries, and individuals often prefer to give to outreach, programs or ministries. This is not possible without talented staff to lead them. I am hopeful that some of the UWF units who have done a good job of planning for the future with your dedication and future planning will assist us in doing the same by giving to our endowment in the next two years.

Native American Heritage Month

Taken from Touchpoints: A Newsletter for United Women in Faith Leaders
November 29, 2024, marks the 160th anniversary of the Sand Creek Massacre, in which a Methodist pastor led the brutal slaughter of village of Cheyenne and Arapahos on Sand Creek in Colorado Territory. United Women in Faith has joined with other United Methodist agencies to help work for repair and repentance for our church's role in the tragedy. Read the article on the group's gathering and plans from United Methodist News, and consider revisiting the previous Reading Program book Massacre at Sand Creek by Gary L. Roberts, and lift up prayers for our indigenous neighbors and the church's work to form right relationships.

2025 UWF RESOURCE BUNDLE

This year's bundle includes the Daily Prayer Guide, Program Resource, adult mission study, and Quadrennial Calendar 2025-2028 (affectionately known as the Quad Calendar).

You have different ways to purchase your bundle: [Print only](#), [digital only](#), or [print and digital](#).

Order before December for the Early Bird Special and receive 20 percent off the retail price. This promotion is available through November or to the first 2,000 orders—so don't wait! Products will ship in December. Individual resources are also available for pre-order.

In Memoriam



Jeanette Zsambok passed away on Oct. 23, 2024. She was a daughter, sister, wife, mother, aunt, grandmother and great grandmother. She loved being a part of the New Carlisle First United Methodist Church and was happy to follow in her mother's footsteps, in being part of the United Methodist Women. She took on many leadership roles, both in own church, in the district and the Conference level. Please keep Jeanette's family and friends in your prayers.

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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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](#).



THE LEGACY ENDOWMENT FUND

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? As we ready for a new year, please make sure to fill out those officer forms (see 1st article) 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 some one 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. This is our last newsletter for 2024. We'll be back in January! Any questions? You can contact me at pamela_L_harris@yahoo.com

Happy Holidays!



Virtual Advent Study
Sundays, December 1-22
4:00-5:15pm ET

Ongoing Events

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

Wednesdays, 3-4 pm ET
Centering Prayer Circle