

Olentangy River District United Women in Faith

2024 Leadership Team

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Vacant

Nominations Committee Member

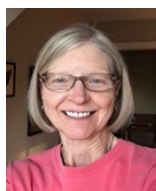
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NOTICE

Effective June 1, 2025, Olentangy River District United Women in Faith will no longer publish a print newsletter (your last one will be Summer 2025). Additionally, you will receive your final eNewsletter from us in May. Our District will still have a newsletter; however, you will need to access it monthly at the following: <https://www.westohiouwf.org/olentangy-river>. If you do not have access to a computer or printer, please ask a member of unit or your church office to print one for you. Should you have questions as we embrace this cost saving measure, please contact me with questions. My contact information is in the side bar.

---Shirley Funt, Communications

President's Message



Happy New Year to all of you! I am looking out my window as I write this, and snowflakes are flurrying by! The view is beautiful; a typical picturesque winter day in January. I enjoy the weather this time of year—when I go outside, it feels crisp and cold, and the air smells clean. I love it for a few weeks—until I don't, and I'm longing for the warmer temperatures of Spring! My husband and I comment frequently that we are glad to experience a change in seasons. I guess it's a good thing we live in Ohio!

I look forward to each January for another reason: a new year, a new beginning, the opportunity to start fresh and try something different—much like the first few weeks of a new school year. As a former teacher, I think I mentioned how much I enjoyed everything about school in the fall!

2025 brings many new things to Olentangy River District as well. We will continue to encourage you to embrace and be mindful of our Social Action Priorities through 2028: Climate Justice and Ending Mass Incarceration and Criminalization of Communities of Color. The West Ohio Conference UWF will focus more intentionally on Racial Justice by promoting and creating environments where we all, as God's children, can build and strengthen deeper relationships with one another. We will follow the example of Jesus Christ as we work together to help better the lives of women, children and youth. Our Spring Meeting will be held at Lewis Center UMC on Saturday, April 26th. The program will center around Racial Justice, and it will be a learning, enlightening, and hands-on experience! When you leave the Meeting that day, you will be energized, spiritually uplifted, and more deeply connected with your ORD UWF sisters—I guarantee it!



United
Women
in Faith

Your leadership team has several ideas and plans "in the works", so nothing can be revealed just yet. Stay tuned!

Something else is new in WOC UWF, and that is the revamped, revised website! Our new webmaster, Rev. Angie Cox, pastor at Livingston Ave. UMC has reconstructed the conference website, and it looks fabulous! It is very easy to navigate; there are drop-down buttons for different categories, and each district has its own page. Check out the new website at westhioouwf.org. Please keep in mind that Angie "rolled it out" on January 1st, so the districts are just now adding pertinent information such as the list of officers, a calendar of upcoming events, and newsletters. Yes, this is where you will find the ORD monthly newsletters! Be alert for more information on that! Angie has also revised the WOC newsletter, appropriately titled, "Inspire", and you will find all sorts of interesting, important articles and updates there. If you do not receive the WOC newsletters, please contact me, any of the district officers, or your Shepherdess. We will pass along your email address to Angie.

As you can see, so much is new in our district, and I'm sure there are new happenings in your lives as well. One thing remains the same though—your ORD officers are always available to help you and your units in whatever way we can. All you have to do is reach out! SO—Go ORD in 2025!!!

---Pam Boh, President

Pledge



In our last newsletter, I reported that we had paid 51% of our pledge to the Conference with 3 weeks to go in our giving season. I want to thank everyone and every unit who, through their generosity, helped us make 80% of our pledge. Thank you all! I think that is great for the first year of our District. Now we begin again for 2025 and the bar is set. Can we break our record from last year? I think we can!

How do we do it and where does the money go? I'd be happy to come and talk to your unit and do my very best to answer those questions and any others you might have. Let's stay connected!

God Bless you for all you are doing for women, children and youth here and everywhere on behalf of United Women in Faith and may Grace abound for all our work ahead!

Peace and Joy now and always,
Kim Hoessly, Treasurer

E&I/Social Action



Aren't you just so proud be a part of UWF?

Not surprisingly, Our Priority on Racial Justice has been extended to 2028!!! It speaks well to our efforts put "LOVE IN ACTION." This issue remains a societal problem. However, United Women in Faith, Your Unit, You, cement our commitment to "walk the walk, not just talk the talk."

Prayerfully, the RACIAL JUSTICE TRIUMPHS will provide us with more opportunities to make a difference. We are working on offering challenges that relate more to Olentangy River District. Do you have any ideas? Let us know !

The new name of our Newsletter, "OLENTANGY Buzz" reminded me of a lesser known fact that I learned and have shared over time to inspire and motivate participation. Did you know those darling little Bumblebees flitting all over our pages shouldn't be able to fly? Aerodynamically speaking, their bodies are too fat and their wings are too short. But, they don't know that! So, they just fly any way!!!

Let's endeavor to make 2025 a banner year

---Jeri F. Roseboro, E/I Social Action

2025 Directory



We have been busy working on the 2025 Directory, but we can't do it without you. Many thanks to those local units which have already sent me their list of officers and their contact information. Unfortunately, most of you haven't. You should have received at least one reminder from your Shepherdess. If we don't receive your information, we won't be able to put you in the Directory. The form is included in this newsletter. You can ignore the December 31st deadline, but we do need it ASAP as we will be publishing the final edition mid-February. If you have the capability, you can scan it into an email to me or you can always mail it to me. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Peg Addington, Secretary



OLENTANGY RIVER DISTRICT, UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH: Treasurer's Mission Giving Report

Year End/December 31, 2024

Period: December

Pledge: \$60,000 Paid: \$48,166.43 Difference: \$11,833.57 80% of pledge

Undesignated Giving	December	January-November	Year to date
Pledge to Mission*	6371.03	33336.74	39707.77
Mission Recognition	0.00	1085.00	1085.00
Gift to Mission	300.00	763.00	1063.00
Gift in Memory	431.00	1108.00	1539.00
World Thank Offering**	535.03	3995.32	4530.35
Unused Budget	352.86	0.00	352.86
Total Undesignated Giving	7989.92	40288.06	48277.98

Designated Giving	December	January-November	Year to date
Prayer and Self Denial	203.50	1737.90	1941.40
Legacy	0.00	1825.00	1825.00
Brighter Future for Children	0.00	25.00	25.00
Red Bird Mission	0.00	50.00	50.00
Grove City UMC Free Store	0.00	65.00	65.00
	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Designated Giving	203.50	3702.90	3906.40

*includes offering from Fall Mtg

**includes table offering from Fall Mtg

***includes card money and Gift to Mission for Lizzy Alatorres



SAVE THE DATE

West Ohio Conference United Women in Faith MISSION u 2025

Hello. Kim Hoessly, Assistant Dean, and I are excited about our MISSION u 2025 program being planned, and we'd like to share the following information with you:

Once again, Mission u 2025 will be held in two sessions – In-Person and Virtual Sessions:

In-Person: at **BERGAMO CENTER, 4400 Shakertown Road, Dayton, OH 45430**

(the Bergamo Center is accessible with living quarters, cafeteria, classrooms all on one floor; however, this year two classes will be held in the lower level)

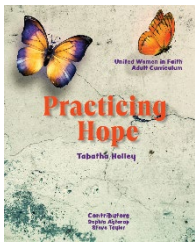
Date: **June 27, 2025**, Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. – **June 29, 2025**, Ending at 12:30 p.m.

Our Theme: “Practicing Hope Together”

This theme will explore the hope that emerged within a small community of followers after the resurrection of Jesus that changed the world. Out of so much confusion and fear following the crucifixion of Jesus, grew a “Resurrection People” steeped in hope who began living out their faith in powerful ways.

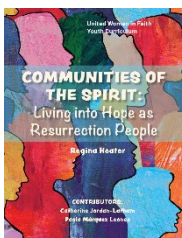
Registration fees: \$250/person/Single; \$200/person/Double; \$80/person/Commuter; \$15/Youth

Registration Opens April 1, 2025 (maximum attendees: 140)



Adult curriculum – “Practicing Hope” by Tabatha Holley

Practicing Hope is a biblical curriculum that invites us to explore hope as a daily practice. Its purpose is to allow all of our communities to cultivate hope that is honest about our current conditions (refugia), hope that is restorative when everything feels urgent (rest), and hope that is possible even when we transgress (repair).



Youth — *Communities of the Spirit: Living into Hope as Resurrection People* by Regina Heater

Communities of the Spirit invites youth to consider what they need in a community to help them be committed to actions that transform the world into the kin-dom they anticipate. Youth will explore the inexplicable hope we find in early post-resurrection Christian communities. Heater asks how we can create such “Communities of the Spirit” today by examining common themes found in the post-resurrection stories: bravery, miracles, rituals, time and diversity, the fruit of the Spirit, and adversity and perseverance.



Children — *Hope as a Resurrection People* by Joni Cisowski

Hope as a Resurrection People intends to help children build trust in Jesus to bring comfort and support as they find courageous hope in the face of uncertainty. Through each session, children will develop their understanding of hope by reflecting on important people, communities, places, activities, personal goals, and desires for the future. Then, they will look for ways to build communal hope to be the change our world needs today.

Virtual Sessions: Via Zoom: \$25/person (same curriculum described above)

Wednesdays, 7/9, 7/16, 7/23, 7/30 (7-9 p.m.)

Thursdays, 7/10, 7/17, 7/24, 7/31 (10 a.m. – 12:00 noon)

More info to follow, including a flyer for promotion of Mission u 2025 with registration info. Feel free to contact me at cjohnson3253@yahoo.com or 614-565-4121 for more info. Carolyn Johnson, Dean

Program Resources



There are three United Women in Faith resources which would be so very helpful for local UWF organizations to receive and use.

First is the “Response Magazine”, the official magazine of UWF. This resource offers in each issue at least one program, ideas of mission projects by local organizations around the United States, information from National officers, information about mission sites our pledge monies make possible, and ideas to implement in your local organizations. It is printed bimonthly and is available in print and/or digitally.

Second is the UWF 2025 Program book, entitled “Carrying Our Faith Forward”. The programs explore intergenerational conversations about what it looks like to carry our faith forward in an expanding or new context. The programs include video clips of UWF members of differing ages and from different parts of the world as they explore what they value and uplift as United Women in Faith. Water is also used as we consider where we are reflective of our faith, when our faith is stagnant, how our faith can be a storm or challenging, and times when hospitality can be used as an expression of our faith. In addition, each month there is an online Gathering where you can experience the program for the next month. Wow, what a resource!!

Third is our UWF Prayer Guide, which is a daily devotional resource with scripture, information about mission sites, and requests to pray for the mission sites and scholarship recipients. The guide can be purchased as a book, or you can follow it on Facebook at facebook.com/dailyprayerguide.

It's a new year, so if you have not used any of these three resources, choose one to try for 2025. If you are using one, choose another to try. Halleluiah if you have all three!!

---Linda Miller, Program Resources



Spiritual Growth



I'm your new Spiritual Growth leader on the Olentangy River District Leadership Team and I'm looking forward to working with each unit in the district.

We've gone from United Methodist Women transforming ourselves into United Women in Faith. We are starting a new chapter a new beginning and not just in our name. Olentangy River District is now a combination of Capital Area North and South. As a new district we need to keep communication lines open between the district leadership and each unit. For us to help you and me to help you in your Spiritual Growth we need to know who you are. So the Unit Officer Form and the Unit Survey provided by National is very important. I urge you to fill out these forms as soon as you can. Help us help you!

In keeping with our transformation I want you to think about a butterfly and the amazing transformation it makes. Butterflies are born as caterpillars, they cocoon themselves, and emerge transformed with beautiful wings and all the colors of the rainbow.. We can actually see the process happening, and be inspired by it.



Did you know that butterflies have been on earth since what scientists call the “age of flowering plants,” dating back 135 million years to the Cretaceous period, which means they're as old as some dinosaurs.

Think of the old UMW being caterpillars and now we have come out of our cocoon and need to start anew by working and sharing together, reaching out for new members and trying new ways of doing things. We need to do the hard work on ourselves, knowing we too can grow and transform. I Samuel 10:6 says; *“At that time the Spirit of the LORD will come powerfully upon you, and you will prophesy with them. You will be changed into a different person.”*

John Wesley firmly believed that once you experienced that sense of a new beginning that the natural thing to do was to find some way to live your beliefs in such a way that others would see Christ working in you and through you. Simply put John Wesley believes that “inner transformation leads to an outward focus”.



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United Methodist Women
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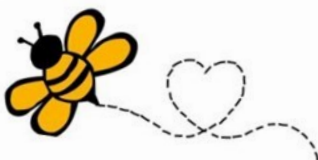
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John Wesley was quoted saying that; *“I continue to dream and pray about a revival of holiness in our day that moves forth in mission and creates authentic community in which each person can be unleashed through the empowerment of the Spirit to fulfill God’s creational intentions.”*

As I read those words and think about their meaning it says to me that this spiritual journey is a journey of inner transformation.

So we need to transform, change become new so we can grow and spread God’s love and light to everyone. I’m ready to help make that transformation/change happen.

---Penny Scott, Spiritual Growth



Save the Date!!!

April 4 & 5	WOC Spiritual Retreat @ Proctor Ctr, London OH
April 26	Spring Meeting @ Lewis Center UMC
June 27 - 29	Mission u In-person @ Bergamo Ctr, Beavercreek, OH
July 9 - 30 7-9 pm OR July 10 - 31 10 am to noon	Mission u Virtual
Sep 20	Annual Meeting @ Trinity Grove City UMC
Oct 11	WOC Annual Meeting @ TBD
Ongoing	WOC Book Club Meetings - see https://www.westohiouwf.org/