

Great Miami River District



United
Women
in Faith

E-NEWS

January 2025



From our GMR President, Jane Benner

2025 is going to be a great year in the Great Miami River District!!

We have an exciting year planned for 2025. In addition to monthly book club, our Reading Program and the regular use of our Program Resource book, there are many other wonderful resources available.

Notice in this enews we have social action ideas, news from Wesley Dayton and Mission u. There are also many resources available on our West Ohio Conference Website (westohuwf.org) and on (UWFAith.org), our National website.

On April 11th we are having a Mission Trip within our District. We will visit Wesley Education Center in

Cincinnati and then to go to Wesley Dayton. Please plan on attending this exciting day. We will have a registration form in the February enews.

Great Miami River District UWF 2024 Giving Final Report

Greetings to all our generous UWF sisters in the Great Miami River District! Because of your donations, we as a district was able to provide the following support of Women, Children and Youth in 2024 through various avenues:

Pledge to Mission - \$49,110.46

Special Mission Recognition - \$1,280.00

Gift to Mission - \$872.00

Gift in Memory - \$765.00

World Thank Offering - \$6,001.10 for a ***Mission Total of \$58,028.56***

Call to Prayer and Self-Denial - \$4,272.00

Supplementary Gifts - \$3,279.00

Friends of Wesley - \$3,131.00

Wesley Center - \$1,525.00.00

In addition, the following disbursements were made from our Community Cares Fund:

Camperships - \$200

Wesley Dayton - \$3,973

Wesley Cincinnati - \$761

for a total of \$4,934

Your continued support of mission and the many ways we can lift up others in our communities and our world is vital and so appreciated. As your new District Treasurer, please send all future donations to:

Great Miami River District UWF Treasurer

c/o Josie Wood

7089 Township Line Rd, Waynesville, OH 45068

My cell #: 513-255-0217 and email: josie.mary.wood@gmail.com are always available and ready to answer any questions you might have regarding your donations, cards, Special Mission Recognition, etc.

Sincerely,
Josie Wood

News from the West Ohio Conference

President Paula Nourse:

Happy New Year! I am excited to jump right into 2025. We have a great Leadership team ready to share with all of you throughout the districts... The Program Resource 2025 is *Carrying Our Faith Forward* which explores an intergenerational conversation about what it looks like to carry our faith forward in an expanding or new concept. As with the paths of water, our faith stories reflect a push and pull, peaks and waterfalls, and stagnant ponds and storms.

Our Daily Prayer Guide 2025 has the theme Generations of Grace. This resource is your tool for reflection and guidance for the year ahead. I hope you have and use both resources in your units. Your daily routine should include looking at this website, updating your calendar, and attending wonderful webinars such as Faith Talks and Voices From the Field. Tune in to Paula's Chats, which are designed to talk about UWF, answer questions, share ideas, and make new friends. (There is no agenda.) Unit officers, know who your District counterparts are and how to communicate with them. There is never a bad question. I look forward to hearing from you and seeing you at District events

A Call from the Nominations Committee:

In 2025 your WOC United Women in Faith Committee on Nominations will be looking for a *Secretary, a Program Resource Coordinator, a Communications Coordinator,*

and a Nominations Committee Member Class of 2028.
Nancy can supply a job description for each of these positions.

If you are seriously considering serving UWF at the Conference level, please contact a member of our committee:

Chair, Nancy Argabright – argabright2@horizonview.net
Deb Mercer – damduke77@gmail.com
Frellie Easterling – ruthie21@zoomtown.com
Mollie Manring – gmm@roadrunner.com

Thank you for your prayerful consideration!

Chats with Paula — Dates for 2025:

Mark your calendars now! The dates for our quarterly Chats with Paula are February 11 (was previously February 18), April 15, 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 – Make Social Action a New Year's Resolution

"Through the tender mercy of our God, with which the Dayspring from on high has visited us; To give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Luke 1:78-79

New Year's resolutions time again! Where did the year go? Did you complete your to-do list for 2024? I know I didn't! Sometimes busyness got in the way. Sometimes it was just pure laziness!

Zechariah's prophecy about his son, John (the Baptist), after his tongue was loosened, gives us a message for

this year. As United Women of Faith, we are charged to bring light and peace to those who suffer from lack of basic needs, emotional support, and spiritual guidance.

Social Action gives us plenty of ideas to put our passions to work. Last year I encouraged each of us to choose an area that excited us, that spoke to us about serving others, and making a difference structurally in policies or laws, to really make a change that is lasting. Here are some topics presented:

Mental Health
Food Insecurity
Prison Reform
Mother/Child Care
Homeless Care
Racial Justice
Climate Justice
Immigration
Voting Rights
Elections
Caring for the Earth
Housing
School-to-Prison Pipeline

UWF national goals continue to be Climate Justice and the School-to-Prison Pipeline. Or choose another interest you have; and be sure to share it with us! You know your community and the folks who need support. Get your district and units involved and make a difference in 2025! There's so much uncertainty facing us so it's important to be actually accomplishing some mission goals. That will keep us more positive and focused.

Also, remember to check out the 2020-2025 reading lists for help – keep learning about your chosen topic. You will find ideas to guide your work this year. Blessings on the journey!

Becky Ruple, WOH Social Action Coordinator



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 u2025 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, and 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.

Click below to view Adult/Youth/Children curriculum

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

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

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

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 the promotion of
Mission u 2025 with registration info.

Feel free to contact me at cjohnson3253@yahoo.com for
more info.

Carolyn Johnson, Dean

[Visit WOC Website](#)

Joining in Book Discussions in the New Year

We have many opportunities to review and discuss the
books selected for our Reading Program. This year, we
are going to use the resources available to us, including
a new collaboration with The West Ohio Conference.

Emily Jones, UWF's Executive for Racial Justice –
(Ending Mass Incarceration & Criminalization of
Communities of Color and Priority Lead Liaison for
Conference Social Action Coordinators) has invited us to
the Book discussion *We Are Not Here to be Bystanders*:

A Memoir of Love and Resistance by Linda Sarsour on 2/24, 7:00 p.m. You need to register to attend the virtual event.

Introducing 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. In this new partnership, we are inviting our UWF community to join people from all over West Ohio as we Expand our Connection with one another and people we haven't met yet. Each month, our book selections will be diverse, accessible, and empowering. This community of readers will be a hub promoting equality, equity, and inclusion and share the stories of the world to generate empathy and peace through books. Books will be announced the 15th of each month and a time for gathering and sharing will take place around the same time.

The WOC January Inspirations has more info click below

[Visit WOC Website](#)





The Wesley Dayton Baby Ready/Infant Mortality Program started 2024 with about 26 participating families and enrolled 45 more during the year. There were 46 healthy births and one who was not so fortunate. BRIM staff provides individualized assistance for everyone to address the unique situation of each family. Laughter and tears run close together.

Two Baby Showers were held to highlight family readiness, and two First Birthday/ Graduation parties to recognize their accomplishments. In addition to one-on-one meetings, mothers also participated in learning activities such as safe sleep, car seat safety, nutrition, financial literacy, job readiness, birth plan writing, birth basic classes, and peer support groups. Many also brought their whole family to meet Santa at the Baby's First Christmas Party. All expressed their appreciation for the BRIM staff's practical encouragement as well as the many nice gifts, such as, the laundry baskets filled with new baby items, literacy kits, diapers, baby safety gates, and handmade treasures (e.g., prayer shawls, blankets and hats).

We carry 71 families into 2025, with an anticipation of 5 baby deliveries before the end of January. Our 2025 goal is to have 85 total moms actively enrolled and receiving services from our program. In-kind and financial support from community organizations encourages the staff and enables us to provide both tangible and intangible assistance to those we serve. Together we are making a positive difference in West Dayton!

Free feel to contact myself or Deb Dunlop with any

questions.

Deb Dunlop 937-890-2729 or debmunlop@aol.com

Jericia Colvin
Program Director- Baby Ready/Infant Mortality Program
Wesley Dayton
3730 Delphos Ave
Dayton, Ohio 45417
Office (937) 263-3556 x 219
Cell (937) 602-6445
Email: jcolvin@wesleydayton.org



Wesley Dayton serves as a catalyst, convener, and connector in support of the citizens, businesses, and organizations of the Westwood neighborhood and West Dayton to improve and enhance the physical, financial, social, emotional and spiritual well-being of the community.

The mission of Wesley Education Center is: To educate, strengthen and nurture children through our core values of: creating a loving and safe environment for our children, building a foundation for learning, strengthening families, working collaboratively to enhance our services, fostering diversity, and ensuring our children have a solid foundation in math and science and are prepared for kindergarten



Wesley Education Center
for Children & Families



Save The Dates

Watch future newsletters for more info on these events:

April 4 & 5 2025 - WOC Spring Retreat

April 11 2025 - GMRD Mission Institution Visits

June/July 2025 - Mission u

September 27- Annual Celebration

May 2026 - National Assembly in Indianapolis, IN

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](#)



United
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in Faith

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

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

Great Miami River District United Women in Faith | 4487 Slate Ct., Apt. B | Beaver Creek, OH
45430 US

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