

Hocking River District Spring 2025 Newsletter

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2025 Hocking River District

United Women in Faith

Spring Meeting

“Spring into Action”

Saturday, May 3, 2025

10:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Location: **Coburn United Methodist Church, Wilson Center**

3618 Maple Avenue, Zanesville OH 43701

Registration and Continental Breakfast: 9:30 – 10:00 a.m.



Speaker: LaTrell Davis, Americorp VISTA for Urban Greens (A program of Muskingum County Soil and Water Conservation).



*** Request for donations for Urban Greens: Hand trowels, Small hoes, Garden gloves, Twine, Soil knives, Small bags of soil, Garden scissors, Small trellises for raised garden beds. Bring to the meeting if you are able to donate!*

Registration fee is \$10.00. CALL or EMAIL District Treasurer, Carmen Baker (740-624-5597), carmbake@hotmail.com, if you or your group plan to come. You can pay the morning of the meeting at the registration table. You DO NOT need to mail anything! Just contact Carmen by Sunday, April 20.

United Women in Faith Hocking River President:

Lynne Stewart



Welcome to the Hocking River District United Women in Faith!

My name is Lynne Stewart and I am from Centenary United Methodist Church in Gallia County. I am serving as President of the Hocking River District UWF for 2025. We welcome the local units as we could not have district meetings and do good works as a group without you and the women that are active. We appropriately have our theme "Spring into Action" this year. I look forward to hearing more about "Urban Greens".

"I am the true vine, and my father is the gardener (John 15:1).

In this verse Jesus tells of the necessity of remaining connected to him, stating that no branch can bear fruit on its own, just as believers cannot live a fruitful life without Christ.

As we gather, please consider serving on the board as we are always looking for new board members. Our Purpose is:

"The United Women in Faith shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global mission of the Church."



United
Women
in Faith

United Women in Faith Hocking River Secretary:

Barb Wolfe

Presidents and/or Secretaries,

Please complete and submit the **2024 Mission Today Reporting Form on the following page**. Answer the questions about your unit (group, circles, etc.) using numbers from 2024 only. We need only **ONE** reporting form per church/unit.

Print the form and mail to: Barb Wolfe, 8995 Jasper Dr. Hopewell, OH 43746. OR, you can scan and email it to me at wolfe_bk@yahoo.com. If you need any help getting the form back to me, please reach out and I will help you!

Forms are due by **April 29**. Thank you!

Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. (2 Corinthians 9:7)

United Women in Faith Reading Program News:

Information about the Reading Program is at www.uwfaith.org.

- Click on MENU,
- go to RESOURCES,
- scroll down to READING PROGRAM.
- If you participated in the reading program in **2024**, please fill out the REPORTING FORM and send to Barb Wolfe: 8995 Jasper Dr. Hopewell, OH 43746 or email your list of books that you read (it's ok if you don't have the form) at wolfe_bk@yahoo.com

Forms or lists are **due by April 29**. If you have already turned yours in, thank you!



2024 MISSION TODAY REPORTING FORM

Local Unit/Church _____ Address _____

Name of Person Reporting _____ Phone/email _____

Check those items completed by your organization between **January 1 and December 31, 2024**. Those organizations completing a minimum of eight (8) items, 4 of which are starred items will be recognized as a **Mission Today Organization**. Please add any additional information requested on a separate sheet of paper.

	Yes	No
*1. Fulfilled the organization's Pledge to Mission.	_____	_____
*2. Prayed for persons in mission and projects listed in the <i>Prayer Guide</i> at organization meetings.	_____	_____
*3. Supported two of the following West Ohio Conference National Missions:	_____	_____
a. _____ Gave a monetary or material donation to Community Development for All People, Columbus.		
b. _____ Gave a monetary or material donation to Wesley Community Center, Dayton.		
c. _____ Gave a monetary or material donation to Wesley Education Center, Cincinnati.		
*4. Had at least 1 member of the local organization, other than conference or district officers, attend in-person or virtual Mission u. Number attended _____	_____	_____
5. Had at least 2 members of the organization other than conference or district officers attend the district or conference Annual Meeting.	_____	_____
*6. Used at least 2 programs from the United Women in Faith's <i>Program Book</i> .	_____	_____
7. Learned about or advocated for one of the current justice campaigns.	_____	_____
_____ Just Energy 4 All _____ Ending Mass Incarceration		
*8. Are a five-star organization, contributing through all five channels of Mission Giving.	_____	_____
9. Highlighted an article from <i>response</i> magazine during meetings.	_____	_____
*10. Had at least 2 members subscribe to <i>response</i> magazine.	_____	_____
*11. Recruited at least 2 new members to the organization.	_____	_____
12. Two members of the organization completed Plan 1 of the Reading Program.	_____	_____
13. Invited a district or conference officer, other than a member of the organization, to one of the organization's meetings during the year.	_____	_____
14. Contributed to the Legacy Endowment Fund or Day of Giving.	_____	_____
15. Supported 2 of the following mission projects with a monetary or material donation:	_____	_____
a. _____ UWF-supported national mission outside of Ohio: _____		
b. _____ UWF-supported international mission: _____		
c. _____ Another United Methodist national or international mission: _____		
d. _____ Local mission project: _____		

Please complete and return to Barb Wolfe, 8995 Jasper Dr., Hopewell, OH 43746 OR scan and email to wolfe_bk@yahoo.com.

NEW United Women in Faith Hocking River District Treasurer:

Carmen Baker

Hocking River District's 2025 pledge to the West Ohio UMW/UWF is \$18,000. We need your help to accomplish this! In 2024 our pledge was \$19,000; and with your help we were able to send \$13,575.11, a shortfall of about \$5425. Please prayerfully consider how you and your units can raise money to help support missions.

Your gift to the United Women in Faith is joined with others in the Mission Giving Fund to support global programs and projects on behalf of women, children, and youth. From Climate Justice to women's Leadership Development, United Women in Faith are making a difference where it matters most.

"True devotion, the kind that is pure and faultless before God the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their difficulties and to keep the world from contaminating us." James 1:27 CEB

How to become a "5 Star Giving" unit

- Pledge to Mission – your unit's annual pledge paid in full.
- Special Mission Recognition – honoring someone in your unit, church, or community who has been a faithful servant. Gifts include a pin and certificate and range in amounts from \$40 - \$2000.
 - o The new Special Mission Recognition (SMR) pins are available for order. The new LOGO pins depict our UWF logo and have the same stone options as the cross pins.
- Gift to Mission – a gift honoring birthday, retirement, new baby, congratulations, etc. Gifts may be in any amount of at least \$5.
- Gift in Memory – any amount of at least \$5.
- World Thank Offering – Celebrating God's blessings in your life and the lives of those around you.

To be counted as a Five Star Unit for 2025, I must receive all money by November 15, 2025.

Carmen Baker, Treasurer

939 Lindbergh Ave.

Zanesville, OH 43701

740-624-5597



United Women in Faith Hocking River Mission Coordinator

Bev Bronkar

MEMORIAL SERVICE

We will be memorializing those members who have gone to their heavenly home during this past year up until now. If you have lost members, please contact me (Bev Bronkar) by phone or text me at 740-607-4127. I can be reached by email at bevbobbronk@gmail.com. We want to be sure we don't miss any names.

DEVOTION

Psalm 24:1-9 says, "The earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein. For he hath founded it upon the floods. Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? Or who shall stand in his holy place? He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully. He shall receive the blessing from the Lord, and righteousness from the God of his salvation. This is the generation of them that seek thy face, O Jacob." *(King James Version)*

The earth is the Lord's, and we are seeing him revealing the beauty of spring as the season changes. Spring is a time of renewal not only for nature but for us as followers of Jesus. We receive many blessings every day that we take for granted. Take a minute and count yours. As United Women in Faith let us be the hands and feet of Jesus serving others through our missions.

Heavenly Father, please guide our paths to do your will. Help us take care of the earth by preserving the natural resources you have abundantly provided for us. We continue to thank you each day for all the blessing you give to us. Amen



United Women in Faith Hocking River Liaison, Legacy Endowment Fund:

Janice Deal

The Legacy Fund is a permanently invested endowment that will be an ongoing source of income to provide the assurance that our important work will always continue. Our gifts to the Legacy Fund ensure that the next generation inherits a world rooted in faith, justice, and love.

Examples of how the funds are used include the following:

- Providing healthy snacks to an afterschool program for children living in poverty in rural Kentucky
- Supplying books for an international scholarship recipient in the Philippines
- Purchasing baby chicks to create entrepreneurship opportunities for women and youth in Mozambique

Check out the ways to give at uwfaith.org/give/legacy-fund. United Women in Faith has created helpful financial resources such as planning your will, estate planning guide, and other gift planning resources. These resources are found at uwgift.org.

At the end of January, the amount in the Legacy Endowment Fund was \$47,466,800. The goal for Day of Giving was \$450,000. I will have an update at the Spring Event.

Janice Deal,

Legacy Liaison for West Ohio Conference



United Women in Faith Hocking River District Nominations Chairperson:

Kathy Elasky

Ever wonder how those of us who serve as district officers got to be one? Someone asked us and we said yes. None of us regret that choice. We have a great time together as we serve United Women in Faith on the district level. So, if you are feeling like joining us and you are waiting for someone to ask you, this is me asking you now. Is God putting it on your heart to step up and do more? Please let us know. There is an opening on the nominations committee right now and other positions will be coming. You could even do a year job shadowing. We would love to have you so please, contact Kathy or any other officer. We can all do more together. Kathy Elasky, Chair of the Nominations Committee.

May the light of God's love turn your storms into rainbows.

We are on Facebook!

Search for "Hocking River United Women in Faith" and then LIKE and FOLLOW our page for updates on Hocking River UWF news. Our goal for the page is for each unit to be able to post events they are planning and pictures from your events to share with others in the district. We will also be posting any updates for the Spring Event and pictures afterwards.





Growing Food, Growing Community, Growing with Purpose”

In 2016, Muskingum Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) was awarded a \$50,000 grant through the National Association of Corporate Directors (NACD)’s Urban Agriculture Conservation Grant Initiative, which helped establish the Urban Greens program. Initially, the program began with three community gardens in the Putnam Historic District of Zanesville, Ohio, with the mission of providing fresh produce and gardening opportunities to residents in a designated “food desert.”

As the program has grown, our mission has evolved to focus on “Growing with a Purpose.” This initiative allows us to partner with local food pantries, growing food tailored to their specific needs while also educating the community on sustainable gardening practices and the benefits of growing their own food.

At Urban Greens, we believe in the transformative power of fresh, local food and sustainable practices. Over the past two years, our six community gardens have yielded approximately 32,000 pounds of produce, benefiting families in need through food pantries, hot food services and summer school programs. But our impact goes beyond providing food—we equip individuals and communities with the knowledge and skills to grow their own, conserve the environment, and lead healthier lives.

Through educational programs, conservation workshops, and hands-on community events, Urban Greens is making a lasting difference in the lives of those we serve.

We are implementing a Growing in the Garden Education Series for residents of Maple Terrace (a Zanesville Metropolitan Housing Authority Site) located next to the Maple-Harding Garden where residents can reserve raised garden beds for free to grow their own food. We could use the following items to provide these residents with the tools necessary to grow their own food:

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| hand trowels | soil knives |
| small hoes | small bags of soil |
| garden gloves | garden scissors |
| twine | small trellises for raised garden beds |

Thank you so much for thinking of us!



SAVE THE DATE

West Ohio Conference United Women in Faith MISSION u 2025

We 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.

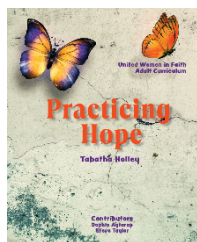
Our Theme: "Practicing Hope Together"

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

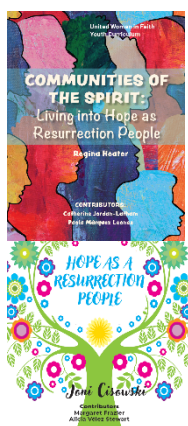
Registration Opens April 1, 2025 (maximum attendees: 140)

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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



Get ready for Assembly 2026, happening May 15–17 in Indianapolis, Indiana. Registration opens September 1, 2025.

What is Assembly? Assembly 2026 is a once-every-four-years gathering of women committed to faith, empowerment, and making a difference. It's a weekend that uplifts your soul, strengthens your faith, and brings you together with an unstoppable sisterhood.

The empowering event includes inspiring speakers, powerful worship services, meaningful workshops, and the opportunity to connect with women from around the world who share your commitment to justice and Soul Care.

It's time to talk, time to dream, and time to build because when women of faith put our love into action, we are unstoppable. Don't miss your chance to grow in faith, find inspiration, and take action.

Visit uwfaith.org/assembly for all things Assembly 2026!

Hocking River District
Mission Team/Officers/Board

Name	Position	E-mail address
Lynne Stewart	President	Lns2663@aol.com
Barb Wolfe	Secretary	Wolfe_bk@yahoo.com
Carmen Baker	Treasurer	carmbake@hotmail.com
Bev Bronkar	Missions Coordinator	bevbobbbronk@gmail.com
Kathy Elasky	Nominations, Chair	kathyelasky@yahoo.com
Janice Deal	Legacy Fund Liaison/Mission Team Consultant	jdeal@ideal-services.com

We hope to see you at the Spring Meeting at Coburn UMC in Zanesville!

Great local places to dine in Zanesville after the meeting:

- Anmar India Restaurant – 32 N. 3rd St.
- Downtown Exchange – 527 Main St.
- Monterey Mexican– 3523 Maple Ave.
- Muddy Miser’s Restaurant – 112 Muskingum Ave.
- Rake’s Place – 2207 Linden Ave.
- Russo’s Kitchen and Bar – 2526 Maple Ave.
- Tlaquepaque Mexican Restaurant – 3090 Maple Ave.
- The 146 – 3575 Maple Ave.
- The Barn – 1947 Linden Ave.
- Tom’s Ice Cream Bowl – 532 McIntire Ave. (everyone’s favorite)
- Plenty of chain restaurants!
- And of course, drive across the Y-bridge!

