

# Great Miami River District



United  
Women  
in Faith

## E-NEWS



## August 2025

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**WORDS FROM YOUR  
DISTRICT PRESIDENT  
"AND STILL  
WE RISE"**

Great Miami River District United Women in Faith is celebrating our Fall Annual Celebration on September 27<sup>th</sup>.

I hope to see at least two women from each unit present for this important and exciting meeting. We will hear from our new District Superintendent Rev. Dr. Suzanne Allen on the theme "And still we rise" with a focus on Isaiah 60:1.

We will start with a continental breakfast and move to the sanctuary for our 10 am program. Please bring your gifts for Wesley Education Center for Children and Families and for Wesley Dayton. The list of items needed is included in this issue of our enews.

I believe you will leave this morning feeling inspired and excited about what we, as United Women in Faith, are doing in mission around the world.

While this event is free, we would ask that you register so that we have a more accurate count for the continental breakfast. A link to register is in this issue of our enews.

Jane Benner, Great Miami River District UWF President

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### **A NOTE FROM THE TREASURER**

Hello Sisters,

It is my pleasure to serve as your district treasurer. I would be honored to visit your unit during a gathering of your choice to get to know you better. For all of the local unit treasurers, I will be planning a training session this fall once I get the training information from the conference. I look forward to meeting you all.

Please continue to send in your pledge to mission and other mission giving as we strive to meet our pledge of \$70,000 to the West Ohio Conference.

Thank you very much.  
Josie Wood, Treasurer GMRD



Guest Speaker  
Rev. Suzanne Allen  
Great Miami River District Superintendent

When: Saturday, September 27, 2025

Where: Church of Our Saviour UMC

8005 Pfeiffer Rd.

Cincinnati, OH 45242.

Time: 9:30 am to Noon

Register [here](#)

Slate of Officers for 2026

2026 Budget



**WESLEY**  
DAYTON  
ACTION • IMPACT • CHANGE

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.

Friends of Wesley Appeal

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## Wesley Education Center for Children & Families



### **Our Mission**

To educate, strengthen, and nurture children in partnership with families.

### **Our Vision**

To ensure children have a solid foundation in math and science and are prepared for Kindergarten.

### **Our Core Values:**

- Creating a loving and safe environment for our children
- Building a foundation for learning
- Strengthening families
- Working collaboratively to enhance our services
- Fostering diversity

Friends of Wesley Appeal

## United Women in Faith Digital

### #UnstoppableUWFaith

United Women in Faith isn't just an organization; we're a powerful movement. We're spiritual, fired up, and never satisfied sitting on the sidelines. We're showing up for one another in bold, life-changing ways.

Check out our **Unstoppable** community and share your story on [United Women in Faith Digital](#).



## WHY YOU SHOULD REGISTER

There has never been a more important time for women of faith to come together, tap into our strength, and unite to change the world. Assembly 2026 is that moment—a once-every-four-years gathering of women committed to faith, empowerment, and making a difference. Picture a weekend that uplifts your soul, strengthens your faith, and brings you together with an unstoppable sisterhood.

At United Women in Faith's 2026 Assembly, you can **DREAM IT! BELIEVE IT! DO IT!**

## PRICE

Assembly is a great value at the early registration fee of \$365.

Few other faith-based conferences offer the following for such a low fee:

**Inspiring Speakers:** Hear from women leaders who will spark your passion and energize your purpose.

**Powerful Worship:** Experience deep reflection, renewal, and connection in faith.

**Workshops:** Gain tools to create meaningful change in your life and your community. **Sisterhood:** Connect with women from around the world who share your commitment to justice and Soul Care..

**Early Registration** fee of \$365 runs from Sept. 1 through Nov. 30, 2025.

**Hotels:** See flyer with Housing information at [westohiouwf.org](http://westohiouwf.org)

**FOR REGISTRATION INFORMATION:**

[uwfaith.org/assembly](http://uwfaith.org/assembly)

**OR** 1) [uwfaith.org](http://uwfaith.org)

2) log in

3) search assembly

**Questions:** Paula Nourse

[kinder6595@hotmail.com](mailto:kinder6595@hotmail.com)

614-326-9062

*Join United Women in Faith leaders and staff Tuesday, September 2, at 8 p.m. ET to celebrate the launch of registration for **Assembly 2026** on United Women in Faith Digital!*

*You'll hear more about what awaits you at Assembly, why you should attend, and how to register and share with others. Let's **Dream it! Believe it! Do it!** together in 2026. Make sure to RSVP to join the launch event live right on United Women in Faith Digital!*

*You can also visit [uwfaith.org/assembly](http://uwfaith.org/assembly) and join the Be Ready list [here](#) to receive the latest updates.*

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## Reading Program with West Ohio

Our collaboration with The West Ohio Conference continues, 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's book selections will be diverse, accessible, and empowering. This community of readers will be a

hub promoting equality, equity, and inclusion and sharing the stories of the world to generate empathy and peace through books. Books will be announced on the 15th of each month, and a time for gathering and sharing will take place around the same time.

Expanding Connections Book Club Information

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### **GMRD OFFICERS NEEDED**

Sisters! We have an opportunity to serve on the District level. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet and work with people across our District. There are only two District wide meetings per year, one in Autumn and one in the Spring. There are only two other meetings with District officers per year that could be accomplished by zoom.

Would you feel more willing if you could share the duties? That is an actual possibility. If you and another Sister would like to share those responsibilities, we could have Co-presidents. These days everyone is participating in many things. We must all be willing to help where we can.

The Secretary position is available. Minutes would need to be taken at all four meetings.

The other responsibility is ensuring a newsletter gets out to the units with news for the quarter. Does this sound like a position you would like to fill?

If you or someone you know are interested in one of these positions please call or text Joyce Ard at 419 504 8798 or email [joyceard47@gmail.com](mailto:joyceard47@gmail.com).

Thanks so much for your consideration Siblings!  
Joyce Ard

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LIFT EVERY VOICE:  
DIALOGUE ACROSS  
DIFFERENCES



WEST OHIO CONFERENCE  
UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH  
ANNUAL CELEBRATION

OCTOBER 11<sup>TH</sup>, 2025

10:00am - 2:00pm

West Ohio Conference Center  
32 Wesley Blvd.  
Worthington, Ohio 43085

PROGRAM: Immigrants' stories and answering the question, How can we be more welcoming?

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

COST: \$20

Lunch catered by Freedom a la  
Cart

Registration: August 11<sup>th</sup> –  
September 26th

To Register go to:

[westohiouwf.org](http://westohiouwf.org)

Questions: contact

Paula Nourse

[Kinder6595@hotmail.com](mailto:Kinder6595@hotmail.com)

614-326-9062



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## WOC UWF OFFICERS NEEDED

January through July is a very busy time for the Committee on Nominations as we search for women willing to serve UWF at the Conference level. A position still open for 2025 is Program Resources Coordinator. This appointed position is an immediate need, so if you are interested or have questions, please contact our Nominations Chair Nancy Argabright without delay.

Open elected positions for 2026 are Secretary, Communications Coordinator, and Nominations Committee Chair. Open appointed positions are combined Education & Interpretation/Membership Nurture & Outreach Coordinator and Nominations Committee members for 2028 and 2029.

Nancy can supply a detailed job description for each of these positions to interested parties. A general description can be found in the UWF Handbook for 2025-2028.

Chair Nancy Argabright – [argabright2@horizonview.net](mailto:argabright2@horizonview.net) – (740) 703-9054

Deb Mercer – [damduke77@gmail.com](mailto:damduke77@gmail.com) – (614) 906-5163

Freddie Easterling – [ruthie21@zoomtown.com](mailto:ruthie21@zoomtown.com) – (513) 364-7243

Mollie Manring – [gmm@roadrunner.com](mailto:gmm@roadrunner.com) – (740) 703-6896

Thank you for your prayerful consideration!

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## **Opening Ourselves to Social Action:** **This Month – Persist**

***“But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, ‘Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us’..... Then Jesus answered her, ‘Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.’”***

Matthew 15:23, 28a

On June 14, 2025, I finally took the plunge and protested! This 1960's woman who had given "lip service" for years, and really believed in many causes like peace, equal justice for all, environmental causes, and more, finally "walked the talk." Our little county had an impressive turnout, 130 folks of all ages, standing on a busy corner near the county seat. My friends and I were really encouraged as we waved our signs and flags, shouted

slogans, and waved at supporters honking as they passed. Of course, there were a few cars that did not agree with us. That seems to be part of any demonstration.

The “Good Trouble” march in Toledo, in honor of John Lewis’ birthday, July 17, seemed to be calling our name again. So off we went, along with hundreds of other marchers, moving down West Sylvania Avenue in support of John Lewis’ memory and activism for equal voting rights. Again, such an encouraging time of bonding with others for a common cause!

In the latest issue of **response magazine** (July/August, 2025, pp. 6-11), there is a wonderful Bible study article, “She Keeps Shouting.” Reading the entire story (Matthew 15:21-28), gives us inspiration and permission to lobby for important causes. A woman wants healing for her daughter, and doesn’t give up, even as she might be shooed away. She pleads her case, and Jesus relents and gives healing because of her persistence and faith.

Tara Barnes, the Bible study writer and UWF Director of Denominational Relations, also reminds us of U. S. Senator Elizabeth Warren’s famous clash with Senate leaders, who silenced and scolded her as she quoted Coretta Scott King and Senator Ted Kennedy’s support of equal voting rights. The discussion was about the possible confirmation of Alabama Senator Jeff Sessions as the U. S. Attorney General. Perhaps you’ve seen the posters, T-shirts, books, and memes, “And Still She Persisted.”

And so, we need to persist, to cause “good trouble,” to support what we believe is our democratic responsibility. I highly recommend protesting (we had folks sitting along the route in support, too), sending postcards and emails, and making phone calls to our senators, representatives—both State and National—the president and governor. You will feel encouraged and involved in a bigger cause. Let us know how it goes!

Becky Ruple, WOH Social Action Coordinator

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## Save The Dates

Watch future newsletters for more info on these events:

September 27- Annual Celebration

October 11 - WOC Annual Celebration

May 15-17 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  
Women  
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](#).

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## WOC UWF Newsletter

Want to know about what our West Ohio Conference UWF is doing? Click [here](#) to read the June edition of Inspirations, our conference newsletter.

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## Join Us in Building a Legacy of Love

I hope this message finds you blessed, thriving, and inspired by the power of our community and sisterhood. Today, I am reaching out to share an update on the Legacy Endowment Fund.

At United Women in Faith, we are dedicated to addressing the needs of vulnerable people, fostering equity, and advancing social good for women, children, and youth here at home and around the world.

Together, we bear witness to the Wesleyan tradition of living an active Christian life, blessing others with our service, and building the kin-dom—**we love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously**. That's what we do as Methodist women: United Women in Faith's mission is to connect and nurture women through Christian spiritual formation, leadership development, creative fellowship, and education.

One of the most impactful ways you can contribute to our mission of putting love in action is to join us by supporting the Legacy Endowment Fund, a permanently invested endowment, that will be an ongoing source of income, providing the assurance that our important work can always continue for generations to come. In 2014, United Women in Faith launched the Legacy Endowment Fund Campaign with a bold goal of raising \$60 million. The Legacy Endowment Fund is **now at \$50.4 million!**

***We are excited and proud that we have come this far together. Without you, none of this would have been possible.***

I believe that your gift is not just of monetary value; it's an investment in the next generation of bold, courageous women who will live their faith by showing up and taking action in service of love, justice, and mercy.

If you are able, please consider giving generously and joining us in building this legacy of love. Giving to the Legacy Endowment Fund will support United Women in Faith in perpetuity. To make your gift today, visit <https://uwfaith.org/legacy>

Thank you for your generosity and for your commitment to putting love first.

In Christ,  
Janice Deal  
Legacy Liaison

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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)

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