

2025 Hocking River District

United Women in Faith

Fall Meeting

"Sleep Under a Safe Sky"

Saturday, September 27, 2025

10:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Location: **Canaanville United Methodist Church,**

15650 McAfee Rd., Athens, OH 45701

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



Program provided by the Athens County Sponsor Circle. A volunteer, charitable organization that assists refugees in relocating to Athens County, Ohio.

**** Bring a Thank you card that we may pass along to sponsors of refugees. More donation information on page 2 of the newsletter.**

After the program, we will have a meeting, including annual reports, officer recognition, mission giving, and communion.

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, September 21.

A note from your President.....

In 1869 the United Methodist Women was founded. It has a rich social history for social justice and supporting the needs of women and children.

Today we are called United Women in Faith and still are emphasizing mission work for our communities near and far.

Our mission purpose is:

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 ministries of the church.

Please join us at the Hocking River District Meeting this fall as we fellowship with others and learn about mission work near and far. Together, we can make a difference. Hope to see as many as possible on September 27th.

— Lynne Stewart, President,
Hocking River District 2025

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MULTICULTURAL MINISTRIES

Bishop Hee-Soo Jung, resident bishop of the Ohio Episcopal Area consisting of the East Ohio and West Ohio Conferences of The United Methodist Church invites you to utilize the resources on this page (website below) and to read A Faithful Response to Immigration from the Immigration Task Group.

Go to: www.eocumc.com/immigration

Click on **Donate to Immigration Ministries of Ohio Fund 9997**

By providing free or low-cost legal aid services, advocacy, and other support to migrants, we answer God's call to welcome the stranger. Clients would include migrants who have fled persecution in their home countries or survived human trafficking, domestic violence, child abuse or other violent crimes.

Devotion

“Jesus was the living proclamation of the Lord’s favor. As his disciples we are called to live lives proclaiming the Lord’s favor as well. As United Methodists, we are called to have open hearts, open minds and open doors. Wherever we are, whatever we are doing and with whomever we are interacting, we must remember that we are each to the other the image of God. As disciples of Christ seeking to live lives of service and sacrifice, let us prayerfully consider offering hands of hope that create homes away from home to immigrants seeking new life, new acceptance and a new place in God’s all-inclusive community.”

Prayer

Heavenly Father, “Open our hearts and minds to your presence. Send the Holy Spirit to touch us and teach us to more fully embrace the call Christ has on our lives. As we remember others who travel paths unknown to us, who speak other languages, and are in our land, fill us with your compassion. Enable us to see your face in the face of the stranger, and enable them to see your face and love in our faces.”

(Quotes are from the study of *Immigration and the Bible* by Joan M. Maruskin.)

Message from your Mission Coordinator

It was a joy to serve as your District Mission Coordinator. Providing devotions, conducting the Memorial Service and working with the officers has been very rewarding. The team works so well together, and it is easy to see God’s hand in the event planning. I know whoever steps us to fill this position will be blessed by being part of this group. I consider all of the officers as friends now. Blessings to the new Mission Coordinator.

In Christian Love,

Bev Bronkar



Secretary's Report, Barb Wolfe

The following page (**Page 5**) is the Hocking River District United Women in Faith Leadership Report. The secretary or president of your unit needs to complete this chart and return to me. It's important that you get this report back to me by **September 27**. You can bring it to the meeting at Canaanville UMC, send it to me in the mail: **Barb Wolfe 8995 Jasper Dr., Hopewell, OH 43746**. You can scan it, retype it or just email me with all the information: wolfe_bk@yahoo.com.

The West Ohio Conference needs to know who our leaders are! Please contact me if you have any questions. If you sent the report in 2024, and your leadership has not changed, I need to know that too!



On **Page 6**, you will see the minutes from the United Women in Faith Fall Meeting on September 28, 2024, held at Christ United Methodist Church in Marietta. These minutes need to be approved at this year's Fall meeting at Canaanville UMC on September 27.



Hocking River District United Women in Faith

2025 Local Unit Leadership Report

Please complete and return by September 27, 2025 to: Barb Wolfe 8995 Jasper Dr., Hopewell, OH 43746, OR scan and email to wolfe_bk@yahoo.com, OR bring to the Fall meeting on September 27.

Name of Local UWF unit church _____

Name	Office/Position	Phone	Email

You may attach an additional sheet of paper if you would like to list all your members (names and emails, if possible). The chart above is for **officers/leaders** only of your unit.

Minutes from annual Fall Meeting

United Women in Faith

Hocking River District

September 28, 2024

Christ United Methodist Church, Marietta

Registration and continental breakfast: 9:00 – 9:45, there were 32 members registered.

- Lynne Stewart welcomed everyone at 10:00 am. to the meeting and read the UWF purpose.
- Beth Morgan, representing the host church, Christ United UWF welcomed everyone.
- Bev Bronkar, Mission Coordinator, gave devotions and introduced our speaker.

Program: Nicole Coil, Prosecuting Attorney, Washington county and Megan Roach and sister, Abby Craft, representing Angel's Harbor, a male and female facilities for drug and alcohol addiction.

Music provided by Charlie Wilcoxon.

Business Meeting:

- Kathy Elasky gave a Nominations report and installed the officers. New officer: Carmen Baker.
- Beth Morgan gave the Treasurer's report. The 2025 Budget was approved (Janice moved and Carlene Triplett seconded).
- Barb Wolfe presented the Fall 2023 minutes and asked for approval. (Kathy Elasky moved and Janice Deal seconded). Minutes approved.
- Barb Wolfe also reminded members to submit their Leadership report ASAP.
- Barb Wolfe also announced the book sale going on downstairs.
- Janice Deal gave a Legacy Report and announced the Day of Giving on March 23, 2025.
- Janice Deal also explained the 2025 Standing Rules. Since the Rules came from committee, a motion to approve is not necessary, only an approval vote. Standing Rules were approved.
- Lynne Stewart led the Mission giving offering moment. The total offering will be split between the local church and our pledge.

Communion: Pastor Rick Shumer provided communion to attendees.

- Lynne Stewart gave final remarks and thanked everyone for coming.
- Bev Bronkar gave the closing prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 12:02 pm.

Treasurer's Report

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.

*You will be blessed in every way, and you will be able to keep on being generous.
Then many people will thank God when we deliver your gift. 2 Corinthians 9:11 CEV*

How to become a "5 Star Giving" unit for Hocking River District:

- 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 LOGO pin, and the amounts range from \$40 - \$2000.
- 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.

I must receive all money by **November 15, 2025**, to finish my report and turn it in, and that allows the conference to finish their year end reports on time.

To date I have received \$4049; that is only 22.5% of our 2025 pledge of \$18,000.

It is now also time for your UWF Unit to prayerfully consider your pledge to Hocking River District for 2026. We are bringing back the pledge cards and pledge service! Since we have not used the pledge cards for a few years, we will have them at the September 2025 meeting for you and your units to take and discuss in 2026 and then we will have a formal pledge service at the 2026 Fall Meeting.

I look forward to seeing everyone on September 27th! During the meeting we will be collecting 2 donations: 1) the offering cups on the tables will go to the World Thank Offering; and 2) the plate/basket will be passed and money collected will go ½ towards our district Pledge, and ½ to the Canaanville UMC Good Sam Fund.

Carmen Baker, Treasurer
939 Lindbergh Ave.
Zanesville, OH 43701
740-624-5597

**Hocking River District United Women in Faith
Budget**

A&MD Fund

1. Pledge for 2026 - \$18,000

TRAVEL	750.00
POSTAGE	60.00
NEWSLETTER	0
SUPPLIES	30.00
**LITERATURE Miscellaneous Handbooks	0
***RESOURCE BUNDLE MISSION (1)	50.00
***READING PROGRAM	0
**SPECIAL DAY (Spring/Leadership Development)	300.00
**ANNUAL MEETING (Fall)	310.00
**LEADERSHIP TRAINING	0
FINANCIAL REVIEW	100.00
DISTRICT OFFICER RECOGNITION	100.00
DEPENDENT CARE	0
**MISCELLANEOUS	100.00
TOTAL	1800.00

**Set by the Conference

***Literature changed at Conference Finance Meeting/information received by Email
7/11/2021

Voted on and approved at the officer's meeting 7/19/2025



It's Not Too Late!

A Report from Nominations

If you have ever considered being a district officer, now is the time. We are still in need of someone to serve on the **Nominations Committee** and someone to be the **Missions Coordinator, which includes what used to be Spiritual Growth**. The officers usually meet three times a year mainly to plan the spring and fall meetings.

Many of the current officers have held more than one position because we enjoy working with each other so much. If you feel the call, or if you have any questions, please contact Kathy Elasky. It would be nice to have these two positions filled before the fall meeting so we can install you.

Kathy can be reached by phone/text at 740-541-1363 or email kathyelasky@yahoo.com. If you know someone you think might be interested, please let Kathy know about that as well.



We will help you every step of the way!

2026 Standing Rules of the Hocking River District, United Women in Faith

The Mission Team reviewed the current Standing Rules and made changes because of changes made at the conference level that affect the districts. Because Conference is no longer paying registration and mileage for district officers to attend Mission u, we removed this from the Standing Rules. National has designed a new Special Mission Recognition

pin, and the name was changed in the Standing Rules to reflect the new name. The Mission Team voted to accept these changes and to make them effective in January.

Copies of the 2026 Standing Rules will be available at the Fall Annual Meeting. If you have any questions, please contact Janice Deal (740-891-2657 or jdeal@ideal-services.com).

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

United Women in Faith
2025 Hocking River District
Mission Team/Officers

Name	Position	E-mail address
Lynne Stewart	President	lns2663@aol.com
Carmen Baker	Treasurer	carmbake@hotmail.com
Barb Wolfe	Secretary	wolfe_bk@yahoo.com
Open	Mission Coordinator/Spiritual Growth	
Kathy Elasky	Nominations chairperson	kathyelasky@yahoo.com
Open	Nominations member	
Janice	West Ohio Conference Legacy Liaison and Hocking River District Consultant	jdeal@ideal-services.com



West Ohio United Women in Faith Annual Celebration

October 11, 2025 | 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

“Lift Every Voice: Dialogue Across Differences”

Cost: \$20 per person

West Ohio Conference Center | 32 Wesley Blvd. | Worthington, OH 43805

REGISTRATION IS AVAILABLE FROM AUGUST 11 TO SEPTEMBER 26.

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

Register soon at westohiouwf.org

Assembly 2026May 15-17.....Indianapolis, Indiana

Assembly is a 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!**

Registration starts September 1. The early registration fee is \$365 from September 1 through November 30.

West Ohio Conference has a block of rooms available at the Indianapolis Marriott Downtown. Rooms are double occupancy at a cost of \$194 per room/per night. Deadline to book a room is December 1. To reserve rooms, use the link <https://book.passkey.com/go/UWF2026WestOhio>. This will take you directly to the West Ohio Block of rooms. You can make your reservation on line or call 317-262-8191 and state you are with West Ohio.

Information about registration and housing is available at westohiouwf.org/assembly-2026. Flyers will also be available at the Fall Annual Meeting.



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2026 Mission u

Mission u is significant in the growth of women's mission organizations and in our own faith journeys. Through worship, in-depth study, music, prayer, sharing and exploring, we invite you to grow with us.

- IN-PERSON SESSION: June 12-14, 2026
- Bergamo Center for Lifelong Learning,* Dayton, OH
- Adult Curriculum: “Experiencing Emmanuel”
- Sponsored by West Ohio Women in Faith and West Ohio Conference
- Virtual Sessions via ZOOM (in July)
- Scholarships available, see www.westohiouwf.org for registration and fee information.

After the meeting, enjoy lunch at one of the many Athen’s restaurants, several of which are right along East State Street, not far from the church. **We highly recommend Lulu’s Casa El Camino Mexican Restaurant, 1017 E. State St.**



Hope to see you in Athens at Canaanville United Methodist Church
on September 27!

