



UPDATE



President's Corner

Marching Forward

March is that month that keeps us guessing. One day it feels like winter is hanging on out of spite (please NOOOO!) and the next day spring shows up early just to confuse us. You check the weather, dress accordingly . . . and somehow still get it wrong. March doesn't care about our plans.

March pushes us forward whether we feel ready or not. In many ways, that makes it the perfect month for United Women in Faith. But maybe that's why March fits United Women in Faith so well.

Faithful women have never waited for perfect conditions. If our foremothers had waited until the weather was right, the budget balanced, and the plan was crystal clear, nothing would have happened. Instead, they stepped forward with faith, determination, and sometimes with a look that said, "Well, here we go." Like March weather, they were persistent, sometimes unpredictable, and impossible to ignore.

March reminds us that faith isn't about having it all together. It's about doing the work when things are messy, the timing is inconvenient, and the forecast is uncertain. United Women in Faith has always moved forward - feeding the hungry, teaching the young, standing up for justice, and caring for one another - often without knowing exactly how it would all turn out.

We often think of March as a bridge between winter and spring. What we forget is that bridges are not places to linger. They are places to cross. United Women in Faith has never been about staying comfortable on one side of the river.

And yet, God has always met faithful women on the way.

So this March, as we juggle coats, umbrellas, sunglasses, and calendars that fill up far too fast, may we keep marching forward together. May we laugh when plans change, support one another when the work feels heavy, and trust that even small steps make a difference. May we continue marching forward, trusting that God walks with us, and that every faithful step matters.

Let us continue the work with faith, determination, and good humor. . .

. . . and wearing comfortable shoes.

Because God has always done amazing things through women who are willing to move - even when they didn't dress for the weather and showed up anyway.

Steff

UWF President
steffmabe@yahoo.com

UWF Meetings

"St. Mark's United Women in Faith" monthly gatherings take place on the second Tuesday, September through May.

Morning Meetings: 9:30-11:30

Evening Meetings: 7-9

Childcare is provided for morning meetings. Register for childcare using the childcare sign up genius page (found on the [UWF](#) site) by Thursday prior to the meeting.

Need a ride?

Contact Mary Etta at (765)

215-7773 or email

maryetta.yoho@gmail.com

Important Info

Please send content for this newsletter by the 15th of the previous month it will be created. For March Newsletter - February 15

Email any content to:

UWFNewsletter@StMarksCarmel.org



Happy Spring!!!! Well, almost!

UWFaith is anxious for new signs of spring as we join together on Tuesday, March 10, at 9:30 am and 7 pm for fellowship, laughter, devotion and learning. There are some exciting interest groups this month that you won't want to miss. Invite a friend! Guests are always welcome!

If you need a ride, email Mary Etta Yoho at maryetta.yoho@gmail.com. Childcare is available for the morning meeting. Please register by the Thursday prior to the meeting to allow time to obtain staffing at stmarkscarmel.org/signups.

UWFaith is reaching out in love to local food pantries by collecting non-perishable food items and feminine products at each monthly meeting. Look for the collection near the registration table. Visit stmarkscarmel.org/uwf more information.

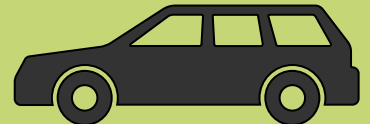
Mark your calendar for the Spring Celebration, "An Upsy Daisy Picnic" on Tuesday evening, May 12.

Plan to invite your children, grandchildren, and friends!!! Don't miss it!!!!

Need a ride?



Contact Mary Etta Yoho at (765) 215-7773
or email maryetta.yoho@gmail.com
for a ride to the Tuesday meetings!



United Women in Faith's National Reading Program

This program is designed to help women of faith to achieve five key goals: lean into our spiritual growth, strengthen our leadership skills, equip ourselves for local and global mission, take faithful action for the common good, and build community in ways large and small.

The books are current and cover a wide variety of topics. Participating in the program can help you grow. And anyone, anywhere, can participate— you do not have to attend the book discussions to participate, but we love it when you do.

Our discussion dates for 2026 are:

All dates are on a Mondays and we meet in the Church Library from 7pm-8:30pm

- ✦ April 27, 2026 - LD * Leadership Development
- ✦ June 29, 2026 - NC * Nurturing for Community
- ✦ August 24, 2026 - SA * Social Action
- ✦ October 26, 2026 - SG * Spiritual Growth

For more information on the National Reading Program do not hesitate to contact Kathy at KathyLentz@gmail.com



Open Board Position

Our UWF Board for 2025-2026 has one opening that we've been unable to fill and wanted to let the entire UWF membership know to see if anyone has an interest. The position of **Mission Coordinator of Social Action** is currently unfilled. This position would work with members to identify issues on which to focus prayer, study and action. This person would also keep the membership informed on these issues. You would receive information from the national level as well. If this position sounds like something you would be interested in learning more please reach out to either Steff Mabe or Kathy DeaKyne ([765-491-3749](tel:765-491-3749)) for more information.

Share your Experiences

Do you know someone who has had an **interesting career** or has **lived in a foreign country**? Or maybe you have **traveled** to a part of the country where few people have ever gone. Or maybe **you or someone you know** are involved in a **unique ministry**. Would you be **willing to share** your experiences with the UWF's Culture and Life Interest group in the 26-27 year?

Please reach out to our Interest Group Coordinators - Nancy Heller (naheller0775@gmail.com) or Angela Blankenship (uwfnewsletter@stmarkscarmel.org)

Education and Interpretation

The Lucille Raines Residence, operated by the Indiana United of women of Faith, provides housing for up to 49 individuals who are recovering from alcohol and drug addiction. St. Mark's UWF provides ongoing financial support to Lucille Raines, but there is a new way to individually support this amazing facility. There is now an Amazon Registry that makes it easy to purchase items that the residents truly need. If you are interested in helping in this way, please go to the website at www.lucillerrainesresidence.org and locate the menu in the top right-hand corner. Find the support link and scroll down to Amazon. Click on the link to bring up a list of items. This is ongoing, and you can donate at any time. If you have any questions, please contact Linda Schenk at lschenk@att.net.

Morning Meeting Goodies

Each month a different interest group brings snacks to share. Signup sheets will be available and distributed by the hospitality team.

- ✦ **March:** Cultural & Life Insights
- ✦ **April:** Spiritual Growth
- ✦ **May:** Bookworms



Social Justice

Climate Justice - Just Energy 4 All (JE4A)

United Women in Faith supports partners who provide direct services to women, children, youth, and families in neighborhoods across the United States. Internationally, we partner with organizations that empower women, children, and youth through education and economic development. We advocate for a more just world – improving life for women, children, and youth everywhere.

Just Energy 4 All (JE4A)

One of our current justice campaigns is [Just Energy 4 All \(JE4A\)](#). This campaign mobilizes members and communities to advocate for cleaner, 100% renewable, and just energy – for people and all creation.

As people of faith, we are stewards of God’s creation. This is one of our first callings – to love, protect, and share in the gifts of creation. Ecclesiastes 1:4-7 reminds us of the abundance of these gifts: the sun, the wind, and the streams – renewable sources of energy that sustain life across generations. Yet through exploitative systems, environmental abuse, and reliance on fossil fuels, we have reached a point of planetary climate crisis. JE4A calls us to faithful action.

Take Action

Many resources are available on the [Just Energy 4 All Campaign](#) page to explore, share, and implement locally. Here are ways to get involved:

Individual / Member Actions

- Subscribe to the JE4A newsletter
- Advocate for climate justice legislation
- Conserve energy at home
- Volunteer with local environmental or justice organizations

Unit / Church Actions

- Host an Earth Day 2026 ([April 22](#)) event or Bible study
- Mobilize our church to install LED bulbs and/or post energy-efficiency reminders
- Distribute LED light bulbs to congregation members and build awareness
- Designate a JE4A leader within our group
- Organize a group volunteer outing focused on environmental justice

Ending Mass Incarceration - Immigration Update

Several February Events were held to stand for justice with our immigrant neighbors including: Prayer Vigil at the Statehouse, Prayer Vigil Monthly Service, and Faith in Action Day in Washington DC. The next Prayer Vigil will be Monday, March 23, 2pm, outside the Miami Correctional Facility.

Resources Used

<https://uwfaith.org/what-we-do/serve-and-advocate/>

<https://uwfaith.org/what-we-do/serve-and-advocate/climate-justice/>

<https://uwfaith.org/what-we-do/serve-and-advocate/just-energy-4-all/>

UWF Pledges

Pledges can be brought to the meetings, dropped off in the church office or mailed to UWF Treasurer, 4780 E. 126th Street, Carmel, IN 46074.

Forms will be available at the next meeting or email Peggy-Anne with the amount to pahat664@gmail.com.

Our pledges are a major resource for UWF to respond to the needs of others locally, nationally and globally.



Pledges for 2026

If you haven't turned in a pledge for 2026, no worries. There is still time. Forms will be available at the meetings. Just fill one out and drop it in the pledge basket.

Zelle

What is it and how to use it?

Many of the ladies are asking for an electronic way to pay their pledges or purchase things such as desserts, pecans or delightful finds at Trinkets and Treasurer. Zelle is an electronic transfer from your bank acct to UWF acct. There are no transaction fees involved (unlike Venmo or credit cards). You must simply have a Zelle acct. Most major banks have Zelle as an option.

To do this you must:

- 1) **Access your bank's app or website-** Look for the section labelled **Payments** or **Zelle**. It often can be found on the home screen or under transfer options.
- 2) **Enroll in Zelle** by following the prompts. You will need to provide your US mobile number or email address, which will be linked to your Zelle acct. Make sure these details are accurate, as they will be used for sending and receiving money.
- 3) **Verify your Information:** You may receive a one-time verification code via text or email. Enter this code to complete your enrollment.
- 4) **Start Using Zelle-**Once enrolled, you can start sending money- Simply choose a recipient from your contacts or enter their email/phone number. We will have a QR code available for you to take a picture of and it will take you directly to St Mark's UWF acct. Specify the amt and reason (pecans, T&T, Pledge, Desserts etc) and confirm the transaction. The UWF Treasurer receives an instant email advising of the transaction.

This is just another method available to us to help support St Mark's UWF. We still take checks and cash as well.

Ribbons of Hope Bags

Your generous donations certainly make the Ribbons of Hope Bags very special. The bags are filled with a huge variety of clever items, some food treats and candies, encouragement cards and scripture notes, small tubes of lotion, lip balm, unique crafts, and cute stuff animals.

Hearts are warmed and encouraged as these bags are shared with others.

Thanks for all the support in this UWF Outreach.





Interest Groups

Morning and Evening Groups

Helping Hands

Steff Mabe, Morning Facilitator - Room J/K
Holly Moore, Evening Facilitator - Room G/H

(Sonja Clodfelder will also supply Ribbons of Hope bag materials and guidance.)

Our Missions and Educations departments will provide projects that need to be made or assembled for the church or community. Things like making blankets, assembling Sunday School supplies, or Ribbons of Hope bags may be among the projects we will do. It will be a good time to gather with UWF friends while doing good for others!

Morning Groups

Cultural and Life Insights

Nancy Heller, Facilitator - Room G/H

Each month October, November, January through April, a different travel location or extremely unusual career or life experience will be shared during the monthly morning Interest Group.

- ✦ **March** - Living in Saudi Arabia, a Culturally Different Country - Carol Blackwell

Carol and her husband and family lived for one year in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. She will tell us about the differences in their culture and share her pictures of the beautiful landscape

- ✦ **April** - Chaplaincy in Daily Life - Pastor Missi Koenig

Our own Missi Koenig has had many experiences since she was first called into the ministry. Come and hear the lessons she has learned that can help each of us as we are in community with other.

Bookworms

Gail Lee, Facilitator - Library

This book group meets to discuss the books they have chosen to read. The book for January must be personally obtained by each reader. Gail will not be providing it.

The remaining books for this year are as follows:

- ✦ **February:** "The Reading List" by Sara Adams
- ✦ **March:** "The Personal Librarian" by Marie Benedict
- ✦ **April:** "Tell No One" by Harlem Coben

Spiritual Growth

Pastor Karla, Facilitator - Room B/C

Freeing Jesus: Rediscovering the Many Faces of Christ by Diana Bass

Pastor Karla will continue to discuss the book, "Freeing Jesus: Rediscovering the Many Faces of Christ" by Diana Bass.

Discussions with Karla are always thought provoking and inspiring. Join the group to "explore together how we have understood Jesus throughout our spiritual journeys and how we might experience Jesus anew in community.

Evening Groups

Bookmarkers

Debbie Skinner, Facilitator- Library

This group has chosen to read the following list of books this year:

- ✦ **March** - "The Memory Library" by Kate Stony
- ✦ **April** - "The Edge of the Orchard" by Tracey Chevalier
- ✦ **May** - "The Berrypickers" by Amanda Peters
- ✦ **August** - "The Briar Club" by Kate Quinn

2026 should be a very interesting year! Come and join the group of your choice and get to know the women of St. Mark's!

MNO Theme
Ephesians 4:32 NIV

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as Christ God forgave you.



Daily Prayer Guide 2026 – Wayfinders Together

The world changes. Today we as individuals, families, and communities face new challenges from nature, culture, politics, science, and technology. How do we find our way? We do it together! This is a powerful truth for people of faith in the church.

The Bible is filled with creative wayfinding and wayfinders. Many stories in the Hebrew Bible recount the pilgrimages of the Israelites and their adaption to geopolitical change. The New Testament is a drama of new faith movement, centered on a Galilean preacher, positioning itself to both change the world and equip itself to cope with change. Collaboration is a strong biblical motif.

The 2020s are days of considerable worldwide change for church communities. Issues arising from the digital age challenge long-held patterns of religious practice: erratic national and international political behavior complicates the alleviation of entrenched global economic and health crises. Justice and mercy are sacrificed on the altars of greed, racism, and narrow ideologies.

The 2026 Daily Prayer Guide features accounts and photos that illustrate spiritual and social wayfinding in such a time as this. The church teaches that new ways are possible in faithfulness to God’s love. This requires dependence on God’s Word as a guide, openness to the Holy Spirit, and an irrepressible hope in Jesus Christ.

“Hopeful” is the one character who stays with “Christian” all the way home to the Celestial City in Paul Bunyan’s classical wayfinder’s epic, *The Pilgrim’s Progress*. “Hopeful” represents reassurance in the constancy of God’s grace, a love that withstands all assaults. When “Christian” encounters despair and doubt, “Hopeful” offers encouragement: “Be of good cheer, Christ makes thee whole,” he offers.

“Christian” and “Hopeful” are wayfinders together. Today, when so much is changing, we work together to affirm new opportunities for ministry amid the change. We collaborate in determining what to accept or to reject and protest from the world’s menu of ethical variables. Our standard is to cling to the loving and caring example of Jesus as we travel toward a saner, more compassionate world.

Christ Jesus keep us on your way as we together find our way.

Birthdays of the Week: Debora Constable, Dilundama Ndombasi, Elizabeth McCormick, Julian Uzumefune, Juliet Choi, Maria Ramirez-Meneses, Tatiana Dwyer, Velda Dhanoolal

	Lectionary Readings	Pray Every Day
MAR 8 THIRD SUNDAY IN THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY; UMCOR SUNDAY	Exodus 17:1-7, John 4:5-42	United Community Centers, Fort Worth, Texas
MAR 9	Genesis 24:1-27, 2 John 1:1-13	Aaliyah Brown, scholarship recipient, pursuing a BA in Business Administration at Paine College, Augusta, Georgia
MAR 10	Genesis 29:1-14, 1 Corinthians 10:1-4	Ministry with Women, Children, & Youth in Zimbabwe’s women’s baking program
MAR 11	1 Samuel 15:10-21, Ephesians 4:25-32	United Methodist Women Organization in North Mozambique Annual Conference, Mozambique
MAR 12	1 Samuel 15:10-21, Ephesians 4:25-32	Cambodia Mission Initiative
MAR 13	1 Samuel 15:32-32, John 1:1-9	Augmenting Food Production & Income in Times of Siege: Women’s Gardens, Israel/Palestine
MAR 14	1 Samuel 15:32-32, John 1:1-9	Augmenting Food Production & Income in Times of Siege: Women’s Gardens, Israel/Palestine



March Birthdays

1 Amanda Koluch

7 Joyce Click
Lisa Smith

9 Jan Borcharding

10 Rodene Gosselin

12 Jackie Mock

15 Pat Cooper

16 Jenny Miller
Cathy Saik

21 Gayla Breslauer

25 Audra Lukaart

27 Becky Bultemeier

28 Nyla Johnson
Marilyn Kruger

30 Deb Uhl

Events

Monthly

Faith Talks

Faith Talks are monthly conversations with United Methodist Women hosted by Jennifer R Farmer, Spotlight PR. Each conversation explores themes and resources that empower us to put faith, hope and love into action. To access Faith Talks podcasts, go to uwfaith.org/resources/podcasts/

March 2026

World Day of Prayer

- ✦ March 6

Spring Spiritual Growth Retreat

- ✦ March 27-28 - Friday, 7:00 p.m.-Saturday, 3:00 p.m.
- ✦ Canyon Inn, Spencer, IN
- ✦ [Form registration link](#)

May 2026

UWFaith Assembly

- ✦ May 15, 16 and 17, 2026
- ✦ At Indianapolis Convention Center

August 2026

Trinkets and Treasures

- ✦ August 7-9, 2026 - More information to come!

St. Mark's Events

Juliets Dates and Locations

All are invited to join us for food, fellowship, and lively conversation.

All luncheons start at 11:30, and reservations are due by the Monday before the luncheon.

- ✦ **March 19** 10:30 am *time change - Hotcakes Emporium 4705 E 96th Street
- ✦ **April 16** - TBD
- ✦ **May 21** - Muldoon's, 111 W Main St., Carmel
- ✦ **June 18** - Wolfie's at Geist, 11699 Fall Creek Rs., Indianapolis

Questions and reservations to Linda Schenk, lschenk@att.net or [812-454-0661](tel:812-454-0661)



UWF Favorite Recipes

Stay Connected

FACEBOOK

All women of St. Mark's UMC are invited to sign up for the closed facebook group. Search for the group UWF - St Marks Carmel on facebook and send a request to join.

DISTRIBUTION LIST

Please submit any changes to your contact information to UWFNewsletter@StMarksCarmel.org

NEWSLETTERS

Mission Messenger

Link found on St. Mark's UWF Website <http://www.stmarkscarmel.org/UWF>

UWF Connect Newsletter

Subscribe by emailing info@uwfaith.org

Update (This Newsletter)

Share your favorite recipes and stories by emailing UWFNewsletter@StMarksCarmel.org

Conference UWF Social Action Update

For the most current information and social action needs, email Lori Chambers lochambers1122@gmail.com

“Broccomole” Dip

Ingredients

- 2 cups chopped fresh broccoli, cooked and chilled
- 1/4 cup reduced-fat sour cream
- 1 to 2 tablespoons finely chopped onion
- 1 tablespoon fat-free mayonnaise
- 2 to 3 tablespoons lemon juice
- 1/4 to 1/2 teaspoon chili powder
- Assorted fresh vegetables or tortilla chips

Directions

In a food processor, combine the first six ingredients; cover and process until smooth. Refrigerate for several hours. Serve with vegetables or tortilla chips.



Your recipes are needed! Please send your favorites to the newsletter to be featured in upcoming editions!



Board Members

President	Steff Mabe
Vice President	Mary Etta Yoho
Recording Secretary	Trisha Stanearth
Treasurer	Peggy Hoy
Assistant Treasurer	Amy Schulke
Interest Group Coordinators	Nancy Heller Angela Blankenship
Fundraising Coordinator	Becky Bultemeier
Mission Coordinators - Spiritual Growth AM - Spiritual Growth PM - Education & Interpretation - Membership Nurture & Outreach AM - Membership Nurture & Outreach PM - Social Action	- Jenny Miller - Jenny Miller - Linda Schenk - Connie Southard - Holly Moore - OPEN
Secretary of Programs Resources (National Reading Program)	Kathy Lentz
Communications Coordinator	Becky Mills
Nominations Chair	Kathy DeaKyne
Update Newsletter Editor	Angela Blankenship
Member-at-Large	Doreen Velde
Member-at-Large	Betty Bemis
Member-at-Large	Carol Blackwell

Next Board Meeting: March 3, 7pm at St. Mark's UMC.

If you are interested in attending the UWF Board meeting via zoom, please email **Becky Mills** at bmills@stmarkscarmel.org by 3 PM on the first Tuesday of each month.



Support Team Members

Hospitality Coordinators

- Morning: Meridith Anderson, Hallie Meyer
- Evening: Shared by Evening Group

Pianist

- Morning: - Pam Whitehead
- Evening: - Pat Parks

Song Leader Morning

Lydia Fourman

Historian/Photographer

Kathy Lentz
Barbie Schmenner

Corresponding Secretary

Beth Montag

Web Mail Manager

Send Updates to uwfnewsletter@stmarkscarmel.org

Interest Group Facilitators

- Morning
- Spiritual Growth: - Pastor Karla Elliott
 - Bookworms: - Gail Lee
 - Cultural and Life Insights: - Nancy Heller
 - Helping Hands: - Steff Mabe
- Evening
- Book Markers: - Debbie Skinner
 - Helping Hands: - Holly Moore

Fundraising Chairs

- Arts & Crafts Marketplace
- Candy Cane Cafe: Steff Mabe, Jackie Mock
 - Bake Table: Ann Baker & Joann Burnett
 - UWFaith Craft Table: Steff Mabe & Janet Lucas
- Pecan Sales
- Linda Mitchell-Powell
Jackie Mock
Susan Salter
Ann Baker
Doreen Velde
- Dessert Extravaganza
- Linda Schenk
Meridith Anderson
- Trinkets & Treasures
- Steff Mabe
Peggy Hoy
Roz Sunderland

"Gathering From Across the Plains"

West Central Plains District of United Women in Faith Spring Meeting

Saturday, March 21, 2026

Calvary UMC, 575 West Northfield Dr., Brownsburg, IN

Registration, Refreshments and Fellowship: 9:30—10:00 am

Meeting from 10 am—Noon

You will also have the option of joining us by Zoom at 10 a.m.

(Click on zoom link below)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89657169801?pwd=uNVdzj0ma1RaaDrWc90g2BmQbrWM0X.1>

Featured Speakers

Jodie Little

Executive Director of Lucille Raines Residence

"Be strong and courageous...for the Lord God is with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9

We will be collecting items for Lucille Raines Residence.

Suggestions are twin bed sheet sets, pillows,

laundry soap and gift cards (gas or Kroger).

Rae Wallis

IN Conference UWFaith Education and Interpretation Coordinator

"Five Channels of Giving"

"Whatever you do for the least of these, you do for me." Matt. 25:45

The offering will be shared equally with Mission Giving and Lucille Raines Residence.

WCP UWFaith Spring Meeting Registration Form

(You may register more than one person per registration form.)

Name _____ Home Address _____

Cell Phone _____ Email _____

Local Church _____ City _____

Number attending in person _____. Number attending by zoom _____.

**Registration
deadline is
March 14!**

Submit to: Trisha Staneart, 2802 Cross Creek Circle, Westfield, IN 46074-9728

Or you may email your registration information to tstaneart@frontier.com or text message to 317-430-4490!