United Women in Faith

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

UPDATE

NOVEMBER 2026



IN THIS ISSUE

We are so glad you're here! Inside this issue, you'll find updates, events, and inspiring stories that connect us, encourage us, and help us grow together.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

A message from our President

Well, ladies, here we are in November! The leaves are falling, the days are getting shorter, and Thanksgiving is just around the corner (and your President's birthday is coming up!) It's that wonderful time of year when we count our blessings, count our calories, and then decide that calories don't count on holidays!
November is the season of gratitude, and I have to say, one of the things I'm most thankful for is this wonderful, slightly unpredictable, occasionally opinionated, but always amazing group of women we call United Women in Faith!

Let's face it, we are quite a collection! We have the planners who have everything organized three months in advance, the last-minute miracle workers, the ladies who bring enough food to feed a small army, and those who show up, smile sweetly, and ask, "Now, what are we doing today?"
We have women who can organize an entire event before breakfast, women who can decorate anything with a little ribbon and a glue gun, and women who can turn a five-minute discussion into a forty-five-minute conversation. And somehow, we love every minute of it. Well, almost every minute!

Our Arts and Crafts Fair is a perfect example of what happens when you put a group of determined women together. There were tables to arrange, vendors to welcome, questions to answer and at least one person asking, "Who's in charge around here?" My advice was to look for the lady wearing a Holiday headband.

But underneath all the laughter, busy schedules, and occasional chaos is something truly special.

We are women who care. Women who give. Women who show up when there's work to be done, a friend who needs encouragement, or someone who simply needs to know she's not alone.

And isn't that what United Women in Faith is really about?

We don't have to agree on everything. We don't have to do everything perfectly. And heaven knows we don't all have to bring a casserole! What matters is that we come together with open hearts, willing hands, and a shared desire to make a difference.
As Thanksgiving approaches, I find myself thinking less about the things on my table and more about the people around it. The friendships we've made, the laughter we've shared, the challenges we've faced, and the blessings we sometimes overlook.
I am thankful for each of you—not just for what you do, but for who you are. You bring something unique to our sisterhood, and together we create something far greater than any one of us could accomplish alone.

So this November, let's remember to slow down, enjoy the little moments, appreciate one another, and thank God for the blessings He places in our lives.
And when Thanksgiving dinner is over, remember these three important things: the dishes can wait, the leftovers will be there tomorrow, and nobody ever regretted an extra piece of pie!

Happy Thanksgiving, ladies! May your blessings be many, your worries be few, your friendships be strong, and your stretchy pants be ready!

With love, laughter, and a grateful heart,

Steff Mabe

United Women in Faith

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Important updates, reminders, and opportunities to stay informed.

WORLD THANK OFFERING

The World Thank Offering is a way for members of United Women in Faith to show gratitude for God's blessings and find creative ways to raise funds to improve the lives of women, children, and youth. Some women drop a coin in a box each day to give thanks for their daily blessings, while others add coins and dollars on special occasions in their lives.

Through your gifts to the World Thank Offering, you support the total program of mission carried on through United Women in Faith's national office in the United States and around the world. The offering in the United Women in Faith centers around working for a world of one body, where all are honored in God.

This November, as our faith community celebrates World Thank Offering, we contemplate how we all belong, how we are all part of one community, one nation, and one humanity. Part of being alive and faithful is figuring out how to live like it, and fight for a world where that deep, intimate oneness brings joy rather than danger.

Please remember to bring your change, cash or checks for the WTO service in November.



CHRISTMAS IS COMING SOON!

Save the date for the annual UWF Christmas Gathering on Tuesday, **December 8th at 6pm** in Wesley Hall.

The theme for the event is 'Shine: Women Reflecting the Light of Christ'.

Please join us for an evening of celebration, fellowship, and seeing how Christ's love shines through all of us. Stay tuned for more details.



EUCHRE

Anyone interested in play euchre? UWF ladies meet the 3rd Monday of the month for some fun and fellowship. The next date is Monday November 16th at 1 pm. We meet at St Mark's in the Livingroom (Rm N). If you want to play or learn, please contact Cathy Saik at wb9uca@comcast.net

2026 PLEDGES

Pledges for 2026 are being accepted until **Sunday Dec 13th**. After that date, any funds received will be applied to your 2027 Pledge.

If you pledged in 2026 and can not remember if you have paid or how much is left to be paid based on your pledge, reach out to Peggy Hoy at 317-850-3132 or pahat664@gmail.com. She will let you know where you stand. In November, friendly reminders will be send out for outstanding 2026 pledges.

T-SHIRTS

UWF is once again offering our very colorful t-shirts.

They are available in crew neck or v-neck.

The order will not be placed until we reach the minimum of 25 t-shirts.

Order form will be on the welcome table or contact Steff at steffmabe@yahoo.com or 317-374-2529.



Do you have an announcement to share? Please email your information by the 15th of the previous month to UWFNewsletter@stmarkscarmel.org

United Women in Faith

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Important updates, reminders, and opportunities to stay informed.

NEXT MEETING



"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.

FINDING UWF INFORMATION JUST GOT EASIER!

Stay connected with United Women in Faith at St. Mark's! Visit stmarkscarmel.org/uwf for the latest news, upcoming events, service opportunities, and sign-ups.

You can also find UWF information in the St. Mark's app! Simply select the Grow tile, then United Women in Faith (UWF). Don't have the app yet? Download it here to stay connected with church news, events, and ministries.

As more members begin using the app, we look forward to adding even more UWF resources and updates. Your participation and feedback will help us make it an even better way to connect!

Need help getting started? Becky would be happy to assist you on Sunday morning or at a UWF morning meeting.



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.

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, announcements, news, 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

Do you have an announcement to share? Please email your information by the 15th of the previous month to UWFNewsletter@stmarkscarmel.org

United Women in Faith

EVENTS

Happy Birthday

2	Sheri Burger
5	Elizabeth Haines
8	Judy Baylor
9	Elaine Keyes Rosaland Thornton
10	Missi Koenig
11	Diane Shultz
12	Hallie Meyer
13	Joann Burnett
16	Jennifer Chapman Heather Fellabaum
18	Doreen Velde
19	Miriam Taylor
20	Ginny Nelson Frances Palmer
22	Donna Schwartz
23	Laurie Ross
24	Leslie Simich
25	Steff Mabe
28	Janet Lucas
30	Donna Payne

Join us! Mark your calendar and be part of what's happening.

November

16 MONDAY

EUCHRE

1:00 PM
Living Room at St. Mark's UMC

December

8 TUESDAY

NEXT UWF MEETING

6 PM
Evening Only - Christmas Gathering

We had a really great turnout for our **UWF October 13th** meeting. There were 44 AM members, 18 PM members for a total of 62 active members. 1 Guest and 2 Supportive members also attended so we had a **Grand Total of 65**!!

MORNING MEETING GOODIES

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

- **November**: Bookworms
- **December**:Christmas event (all members)
- **January**: Cultural & Life Insights
- **February**: Spiritual Growth
- **March**: Helping Hands
- **April**: Bookworms
- **May**: Spring Event (all members)



MNO VERSE

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

John 14:27 NIV

Jesus reminds us not to be worried about what unfolds in the world around us. Let's remember that God can give us peace no matter the challenges we face in our lives. This is an incredibly comforting reality.

Do you have an event to share?

Please email your information by the 15th of the previous month to UWFNewsletter@stmarkscarmel.org

United Women in Faith

INTEREST GROUPS

MORNING GROUPS

BOOKWORMS

Facilitator: Gail Lee

- **November** "Queens of Crime" Marie Benedict
- **January** "The Blackout Murders" Anna Elliot
- **February** "Small Things Like These" Claire Keegan
- **March** "Leave Only Footprints" Conor Knighton
- **April** "Dictionary of Lost Words" Pip Williams

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Facilitator: This group will meet for discussion and fellowship on Nov. 10. Jan. – April 2027 Jennifer Cloud-Buckner, Lydia Fourman and Jenny Miller will rotate as facilitator.

"*Wesleyan Vile-tality: Reclaiming the Heart of Methodist Identity*" by Ashley Boggan (speaker at Assembly)

Wesleyan Vile-tality invites us to rediscover the bold roots of Methodism. Drawing on John Wesley's willingness to "submit to be more vile" in order to share God's love beyond traditional boundaries, Ashley Boggan explores how early Methodists became known as rule-benders, rabble-rousers, and people who welcomed those pushed aside. Through engaging stories from Methodist history, the book challenges us to consider what may have been lost as the church pursued respectability–and what it might mean to reclaim some of that original "vile-tality" today.

CULTURAL INSIGHTS

Rachelle Darabi and Mary Etta Yoho, Co-Facilitators

November – "Teter Organic Farm" presented by Pastor Amber Good, Noblesville 1st UMC
Teter Farms grows and donates organic foods to help with food insecurity in Hamilton Co.

January 2027 – "Life in South Africa" presented by Andrea Muller
Come and hear St. Mark's member, Andrea Muller, talk about her beautiful homeland, South Africa.

February – "Longevity – Putting Life to your years" presented by Rachelle Darabi
We all hear a lot about longevity as people are living longer than ever before in human history. However, it's just not about adding years to your life, but life to your years. Come learn practical, everyday ways to eat well and move well so you can thrive – not just survive – in the decades ahead.

March – "World Vision Water Project" presented by Becky Bultemeier
Becky will share details about World Vision and the work they are doing to solve the global water crisis by 2030. She has been running, hiking, and fundraising for World Vision since 2018, taking on endurance events to raise money for clean water. Come and hear about her adventures across the country and overseas!

April – Offsite tour of the Palladium Center for the Performing Arts with stories about its architecture and history.

EVENING GROUPS

BOOK MARKERS

Facilitator: Deb Skinner

November – "Tom Lake" by Ann Pachett
January 2027 – "Shark Heart" by Emily Habeck
February – "The Correspondent" by Virginia Evans
March – "The Wife, the Maid and the Mistress" by Ariel Lawson
April – "The Measure" by Nikki Erlick
May – "The Plot" by Jean Hariff Karelitz
Summer (August) – "The Calamity Club" by Kathryn Stockett

MORNING & EVENING

HELPING HANDS

Facilitators:
AM: Steff Mabe PM: Holly Moore

Our missions and educations departments will provide us with projects that need to be made or assembled for the church. We will also help assemble the Ribbons of Hope bags whenever possible. Great time to gather for fellowship with friends while doing good for others.

United Women in Faith

DAILY PRAYER GUIDE

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.

	Lectionary Readings	Daily Prayer
NOV 8, 2026 TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST	Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25, Matthew 25:1-13	Neighborhood Center of the UMC, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
NOV 9, 2026	Joshua 24:25-33, 1 Corinthians 14:20-25	Emmah Onacha, scholarship recipient, pursuing a BA in Information Science at Kenya Methodist University, Kenya
NOV 10, 2026	Nehemiah 8:1-12, 12 Thessalonians 3:6-13	The Spiritual Life Program of AK Child & Family, Anchorage, Alaska
NOV 11, 2026	Jeremiah 31:31-34, Matthew 24:29-35	Iglesia Evangelica Metodista En Bolivia, Bolivia
NOV 12, 2026	Judges 2:6-15, Revelation 16:1-7	Language & Vocational Training Center, Laos
NOV 13, 2026	Judges 2:16-23, Revelation 16:8-21	Unalaska United Methodist Church Outreach & Community Ministry, Unalaska, Alaska
NOV 14, 2026	Judges 5:1-12, Matthew 12:43-45	Edward Mworia, scholarship recipient, pursuing a MA in Operations Management at Nairobi University, Kenya

THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS

Alana Walls, Angela Overstreet, Christopher Hamera, Denise Walling, Hong Duk Kim, Jean Claude Maleka, Jennifer Moore, Jennifer Phillips, Jin Kim, Lev Musenge Mutombo, Senia Robinson, Theresa Hill, Yu-Ting Chiu, Zacheus Mwita Chacha

If you want your own copy of the Daily Prayer Guide, you may purchase one at: https://uwfaith.org/resources/prayerguide/

United Women in Faith

SOCIAL ACTION
CLIMATE JUSTICE UPDATES



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 through two focus areas: Climate Justice and Racial Justice.

If you want to stay informed on United Women of Faith Indiana Social Action, reach out to be included on the Indiana Conference UWFaith Social Action Messages (sent via email).

Local Opportunity Spotlight - St. Mark's UWFaith Trinkets and Treasures – Giving Second Chances

St. Mark's UWFaith has a long wonderful "second chance" ministry – our own Trinkets and Treasures. Every year our unit hosts this annual sale – providing an opportunity for gently used items to find a second use. Your help is needed – instead of throwing out gently used items, please consider donating for next August's sale. If you have larger items, or are short on storage space, reach out – we have you covered!

Creation Justice Movement November Tips - Giving Second Chances

Our faith is built on grace, the gift of second chances.
Recycling is a faithful action, extending second chances to Earth

Landfills pollute the environment, generate potent greenhouse gases, consume massive amounts of land, pose health risks to nearby communities, and negatively affect property values. Keep items out of landfills. Recycling is a good option.

- Buy green. What you buy and what you don't buy have an impact. Avoid excess packaging and single-use plastics. Choose local goods to cut down on the emissions, purchase products with recycled content so that more companies will create merchandise that incorporates recycled materials. Your dollars speak loudly.
- Watch what you recycle - 25% of what is going into recycling facilities is wrong and contaminates the output. 1) Make sure items are dry and not soiled with food. 2) Know local guidelines for recycling. 3) Take a tour of our local recycling center. 4) Watch for news about recycling from our local government and spread the word. Learn and follow the rules. Give thanks for those who work there. Your recycling—if it's in a plastic bag—won't be recycled. The bag will be pulled off the line and trashed because there is no time to open and empty it, and plastic bags cannot be allowed to go through because they tangle up the equipment
- Choose aluminum cans over plastic bottles. Even "little" choices make a difference for creation. Plastic can be successfully recycled just once or twice (only 3–6% of plastic that makes it to the recycling bin is truly recycled). On the other hand, aluminum can be recycled over and over again—as long as you put the can into the recycle bin. Recycle your paper and cardboard. The effects of recycling a ton of paper and cardboard are impressive: saving 17 trees, 380 gallons of oil, 3 cubic yards of landfill space, and 7,000 gallons of water. What you do adds up.
- Go "thrifting" (another name for recycling). When you purchase gently used clothing and other items at thrift stores, you are keeping fabrics out of landfills. Also, shop your own closet for what you can recycle by donating for someone else to use.
- Place blame where it belongs. The plastic industry has ignored—even covered up—the damage done by their products and production. They also promote recycling, telling us disposal is our responsibility. We can't recycle our way out of the continuing harm caused by complex systems. Individual recycling helps, but it's not enough. Contact your local, state, and federal lawmakers to support efforts to ban single-use plastics and/or return the responsibility to the manufacturers.
- Send your worn sneakers for recycling, or host a sneaker drive and collect for donations. Check out Changing Footprints for volunteering and donations.
- Find "electronics recycling" or "e-waste disposal" to find options nearby. Only 15% of all discarded electronic devices is recycled. Lead, mercury, cadmium, nickel, beryllium, and zinc from e-waste can leech into soil or into the water supply, harming plant and human life. Or as a church, maybe we can arrange an e-waste recycle drop-off event and promote it to congregation and community?

Source: UM Creation Justice Movement, go to umcreationjustice.org.

United Women in Faith

SOCIAL ACTION

RACIAL JUSTICE UPDATES



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 through two focus areas: Climate Justice and Racial Justice..

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Local Opportunity Spotlight - Use What You Got Prison Ministry

One local group that has received support from our unit is Use What You Got Prison Ministry. The mission of this faith based organization is to ensure that families maintain contact by providing transportation for prison visitation and promoting a holistic approach to family wellness. Supplemental services, including a weekly women's group and holiday giving, are part of the programs offered. More information about this organization can be found here.

Interrupt the School-to-Prison Pipeline – Dignity in School Campaign

As part of the Interrupt School-to-Prison Pipeline Campaign, UWFaith members were invited to participate in The National Week of Action Against School Pushout was October 17 – October 25. UWFaith members are encouraged to continue to learn, act, and lead in our work to interrupt the school-to-prison pipeline and end school pushout. Visit the Dignity in Schools campaign to learn more and/or explore the following resources:

- Learn. Watch or read Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools. The book is available in the St. Mark's Library.
- Act. Advocate through the follow Quick Virtual Actions:
  - Counseling Not Criminalization in Schools
  - Tell Congress to Support The Ending PUSHOUT Act
  - Tell Congress: Ban Corporal Punishment in Our Schools!
- Lead. Consider leading a local action. Have an idea? Reach out to UWFaith Board.

General Opportunities - Reminder

Do No Harm Virtual Conference, November 12-14 -

The GCSRW (General Commission on the Status Role of Women) is hosting the Do No Harm Virtual Conference November 12 - 14. There is opportunity for both professional development and public witness. The Professional Development sessions on Thursday and Friday (November 12 & 13) will focus on institutional systems, featuring a roundtable on collaborative leadership and an opportunity to learn from international models for supporting survivors and navigating complaints. The Public Witness sessions on Saturday (November 14) will be a broader scope to a wider audience for community learning, concluding with a powerful, joint conversation between keynote speakers Rachael Denhollander and Ashley Judd.

To learn more about this virtual conference, visit here.

Looking for more information about social action opportunities or have one to share, please reach out to the UWF Board.

Sources:

- https://uwfaith.org/what-we-do/serve-and-advocate/
- umcreationjustice.org
- https://uwfaith.org/what-we-do/serve-and-advocate/just-energy-4-all/
- https://uwfaith.org/what-we-do/serve-and-advocate/mass-incarceration/interrupt-the-school-to-prison-pipeline-resources/

United Women in Faith

UWF FAVORITE RECIPES

Baked Blueberry-Pecan French Toast

Ingredients:
24-inch baguette
6 large eggs
3 cup whole milk
3/4 cup packed brown sugar
1 Tbsp. vanilla
½ Tbsp. freshly grated nutmeg
1 cup toasted pecans
1 Tbsp. butter
2 cups blueberries
½ stick butter
¼ cup brown sugar

Directions:
Butter a 13 x 9-inch baking dish. Cut 1" slices from baguette, arrange in one layer in baking dish. In a large bowl whisk together eggs, milk, sugar, vanilla and nutmeg and pour evenly over bread, then chill, covered, overnight. When ready to bake, preheat oven to 400°F. Toss toasted pecans in pan with butter and salt. Sprinkle pecans over bread mixture, add blueberries. Cut butter into pieces and heat with brown sugar in a small pan, stirring, until melted. Drizzle butter mixture over bread and bake 30-35 minutes, or until any liquid from blueberries is bubbling. Serve with heated maple syrup. Serves 6 generously. Gourmet, June 1999

Shared by Carol Smith



United Women in Faith

BOARD MEMBERS
& SUPPORTING MEMBERS

BOARD MEMBERS

President	Steff Mabe
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– Social Action	Anessa Miller
– Spiritual Growth AM	Jenny Miller
– Spiritual Growth PM	OPEN
– Education & Interpretation	OPEN
Members at Large	Doreen Velde
Member at Large	Betty Bemis
Member at Large	Carol Blackwell

SUPPORT TEAM

	MORNING	EVENING
Pianist	Pam Whitehead	Pat Parks
Song Leader	Lydia Fourman	
Hospitality Coordinator	Merideth Anderson Hallie Meyer	Shared by Group
Interest Group Facilitators		
• **Spiritual Growth**	Pastor Karla Elliott	N/A
• **Bookworms/BookMarkers**	Gail Lee	Debbie Skinner
• **Cultural and Life Insights**	Mary Etta Yoho	N/A
• **Helping Hands**	Steff Mabe	Holly Moore

Historian / Photographer	Kathy Lentz Barbie Schmenner
Corresponding Secretary	Beth Montag
Fundraising Chairs **– Arts & Crafts Marketplace**	Steff Mabe
– Bake Table	Ann Baker Joann Burnett
- Pecan Sales	Linda Mitchell-Powell
– UWFaith Craft Table	
- Dessert Extravaganza	
– Trinkets & Treasures	
– Candy Cane Café	

Thank you to all of our board members and support team for your time, talents, and faithful service!