

UPDATE



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 <u>UWF</u> site) by Thursday prior to the meeting.

Upcoming Meeting Dates:
December 10 - Evening Only
January 14

Need a ride? Contact Mary Etta at (765) 215-7773 or email <u>maryetta.yoho@gmail.com</u>

Important Dates

December 31 - Deadline to send content for **this** newsletter. Email UWFNewsletter@StMarksCarmel.org

President's Corner

The holidays are fast approaching! By the time you read this, Thanksgiving will have come and gone. I hope you enjoyed food and fellowship with your family or friends.

Now here comes the Christmas holiday! Besides planning family gettogethers; Christmas dinner; perhaps travel; attending holiday parties; getting a Christmas tree and decorating it; decorating your house with lights; maybe placing deer or a snowman in your yard, you are busy, busy! Anything I'm forgetting? Ah yes, gift giving!

If you know me, you know I love to send cards. Any kind of cards - get well, thinking of you, encouragement, thank you, sympathy, congratulations and holiday cards. My husband thinks I should open a card shop. I'll bet I have any card that you would want. (Did you know that Hallmark's headquarters are in Kansas City, Missouri? Yes, I've toured it. It was heaven!)

Why do I like to send cards? It is a way for me to let people know how much I care about them. It's a physical way for me to let them know that I'm thinking of them, they matter, they are important.

It's a gift from me to you!

On December 10th, United Women in Faith is giving all the women at St. Mark's a gift. It's our annual Christmas Gathering. Ten Table Hostesses will decorate the tables with centerpieces. The theme this year is "all is calm, all is bright." The centerpieces will use symbols of Christmas decor such as stars, carolers, nativity, etc using colors of nature such as greenery, berries and wood. It will be a time for fellowship, great food, singing, and fun with some surprises. I hope you plan to attend.

Jesus has a gift for you too. It's the Bible. Inside you will find words of encouragement, comfort, hope, thinking of you and undying love. What a gift!

2 Corinthians 9:15 says "Thank God for this gift too wonderful for words!"

May you find the perfect gift in the Bible this Christmas. See you next year!

Steff Mabe

UWF President

steffmabe@yahoo.com

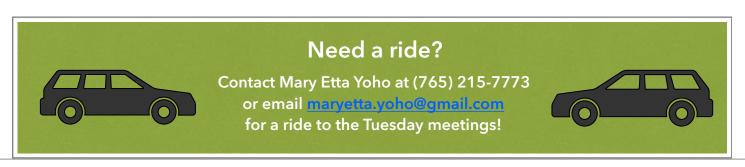


December Gathering!



"All is Calm, All is Bright" is the theme of the annual United Women in Faith Christmas Gathering on **Tuesday evening, Dec. 10**, in the gathering area at St. Mark's. It will be an evening filled with wonderful fellowship, a delicious carry-in meal, singing of carols, plus lots of Christmas Spirit! A musical program, "Songs for the Savior", presented by our talented St. Mark's musicians, will delight us with Christmas joy.

You are invited to come and bring a friend at **6 pm** for hot spiced cider and fellowship with **dinner** promptly beginning at **6:30 p.m.** Bring your favorite carryin dish to share as we celebrate the birth of Jesus!



Notes of Appreciation

Ronald McDonald House

Because of your generous gift, families can find solace in knowing they have a comfortable place to stay near the hospital, home-cooked meals and a network of support.

Family Promise of Greater Indianapolis and their Aftercare Program

Your support will help our families stay on the path to permanent housing.

Abundant Harvest Vida Nueva

Thank you received for our continued support.

World Thank Offering

World Thank Offering collection was \$700.45.

Thanks to all who collected their spare change, bills or wrote a check for this cause

Pledges

Please remember that we will be taking 2024 pledges are being accepted until **Saturday, December 14**. If you have any questions about any outstanding balances, please contact Peggy Hoy at pahat664@gmail.com.



Ribbons of Hope

Secured in God's Love

Thank you to all those "Bee A Helper" helping hands for completing the project kits used to fill our encouragement bags. This aids in providing them for each monthly meeting, as well as having them available in the church main door entryway.

Notes sent from those receiving the "Ribbons of Hope Bags", let us know how much this outreach of encouragement, love, and support means. Take a bag to share and help be the hands and feet of Christ to someone who needs to know they are loved.



Donations Needed

Supplies are always needed and all donations are greatly appreciated. Place supplies in the Clear Plastic Bin, on the bottom shelf, at the Main Church Door Entry, the bin is clearly marked.

Tissue Paper, Ribbons, Lip Balm, Small Hand Lotions, Granola Bars & Snacks, Wrapped candies, Encouragement & Blank Cards, Tea Bags & Hot Cocoa Packets, Additional items will all be used.

Reading Group

You have until the **end of December** to finish reading a book from each of the five categories to complete the 2024 United Women in Faith's 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 but we love it when you do.

For information on finishing the program this year or to participate in 2025 do not hesitate to contact Kathy at KathyLentz@gmail.com.

Additions to New Arrival Library Shelf

The following books have been added to the church library!

- * The Redhead of Auschwitz by Nechama Birnbaum
- * Carnegie's Maid by Marie Benedict
- * Freeing Jesus by Diana Butler Bass
- * What Happens When Women Walk in Faith by Lysa Terkeurst
- * This Marks the Spot Where My Past Returns by Jean Marks Bail
- * Winter Garden by Kristen Hannah
- * The Ride of Her Life by Elizabeth Letts
- * The Next Ship Home by Heather Webb
- Love in a Time of Hate by Hanna Schott
- * Seek Me With All Your Heart by Beth Wiseman
- The Women_by Kristin Hannah
- America, a redemption story: choosing hope, creating unity by Tim Scott
- * The Winemaker's Wife by Kristin Harmel
- * Soundtrack of Silence: Love, Loss, and a Playlist for Life by Matt Hay (son-in-law of Sarah Lasbury)
- Prayer: Experiencing Awe and Intimacy with God by Timothy Keller
- The Grieving Brain: The Surprising Science of How We Learn from Love and Loss by Mary-Frances O'Connor



Interest Groups

Interest Groups meet after the general meeting, with the exception of September, December and May.

Morning and Evening Groups

Cultural Insights

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. This group meets in room G/H.

January - "Visiting our Neighbors in Southeast Asia" with Debbie Uhl

Welcome to Vietnam and Cambodia.

February - "Listen Up!" with Jonene McDermid Jonene's mom, Marguerite, began losing her hearing in 1958. Her eventual deafness led Jonene to a career teaching deaf children at the Indiana School for the Deaf and as an itinerant teacher in Hamilton county. We Interest groups will not meet in December and there is only an evening gathering!

See you at the Christmas Celebration at 6pm!

Please join the January morning or evening group to hear from

Debbie Uhl about SE Asia!

are blessed to be able to LISTEN to her story and learn about the challenges of deafness.

March - "Living in China" with Brenda Erickson

Brenda, her husband Kent and daughter, Chrissy, moved to Shanghai, China in 2007, for Ken's corporate job. Chrissy was 15 and soon to be a sophomore when they moved to their primary home there in 2016. Hear about the joys, adventures, trials and tribulations of living in China!

April - "Finding God in Other Places and People" with Mary Hayes

Mary will talk about the value of getting out of your comfort zone in service to others.

Morning Groups

Bookworms

Gail Lee, Facilitator

Bookworms discusses both fiction and non-fiction works from a faith-based perspective. This group meets in the Library.

- January: "Horse" by Geraldine Brooks
- February: "Come and Get Me" by August Norman
- March "Strong Poison" by Dorothy Sayers
- April "Vera Wong's Unsolicited Advice for Murderers" by Jesse Sutanto

Gail has reserved all of the kits at the Carmel library.



Spiritual Growth

Pastor Karla, Facilitator

Reading Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis's book *Fierce Love: A Bold Path to Ferocious Courage and Rule-Breaking Kindness That Can Heal the World* for Oct-Nov, Jan-Apr, meeting in Room B/C. In our divided world, our differences are reduced to simplistic labels that can all too often turn our perspective into "us" against "them." But the author's experiences—of being the first female and first Black minister in her church's history, being in an interracial marriage, and making peace with childhood abuse—illustrate that our human capacity for empathy and forgiveness is the key to reversing these ugly trends. Inspired by the tenets of *ubuntu*—the Zulu philosophy that we are each impacted by the circumstances that impact those around us, and that the world won't get better until we all get better—*Fierce Love* lays out the nine daily practices for breaking through tribalism and engineering the change we seek. From downsizing our emotional baggage to speaking truth to power to fueling our activism with joy, it demonstrates the power of small, morally courageous steps to heal our own lives, our posse, and our larger communities. Books will be available for purchase and are in the church entrance (Door #2) for \$13.

Evening Groups

Bookmarkers

Led by Debbie Skinner - (317) 574-1997

January: The Night Portrait by Laura Morelli

February: Ordinary Grace by William Kent Krueger

March: The Personal Librarian by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray

April: *The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig May: *The Seed Keepers* by Diane Wilson

Summer (second Tuesday in August): The Alice Network by Kate Quinn

Join us even if you haven't read the book. All welcome.

Spiritual Formation

Led by Michelle White

Welcome ladies to the evening UWF spiritual formation interest group for a study of the prophet Isaiah. Isaiah "saw the glory of Christ and spoke of him." (John 12: 41), linking the Old Testament and the New Testament.

Each month we will watch and then discuss a video.

Copies of the study book Isaiah: Striving Less and Trusting God More by Melissa Spoelstra will be available for any who would like to read further about learning to rely on the Lord.

Please feel free to drop in and share your thoughts and prayers with our small group.

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. If you have not made a 2024 pledge, it is not too late. 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.

MNO Theme Luke 2: 6-7 NIV

While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them



Social Action

Shared by Donna Schwartz

Social Action leads to Social Justice

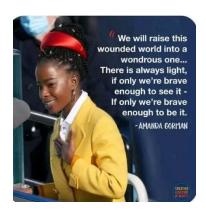
To Do Justice. To Love Kindness. To Walk Humbly with God.

Take the pledge: https://p2a.co/ypojie9 with UWFaith

We are not alone in these changing and troubling times. Be Brave!

St. Alban's Episcopal Church, El Cajo, CA posted part of Amanda Gorman's "We Will Rise" poem as inspiration. Sign up for the newsletter on the UMC General Commission of Race and Religion (GCORR) www.gcorr.org. The site recommends several resources for each month's emphasis. (Antiracism, Diversity, Inclusion, and many more)

This is how we move forward through fear, discouragement, and frustration. This is not new to us as women or as United Methodists. The encouragement is all through the Bible. **Micah 6:8** is just one of the scriptures we can lean into every day.



Check out some local resources:

Greater Indianapolis Multifaith Alliance (GIMA) https://www.indymultifaith.org organizes the faith community of Indianapolis to advocate for fair, affordable housing, and Indy's eviction crisis. Their legislative work affects the entire state. Private equity funds, many are out of state, are making massive amounts of money evicting Hoosiers, buying up rentals, and single-family homes. Rents and home prices increase, but the properties are not maintained, so Indiana loses!

Carmel Green Initiative http://carmelgreen.org and learn about changing habits to improve our environment.

Don't lose hope, sign up for reliable sources to get information. Begin to sort out where your heart and scripture are leading you. Don't be overwhelmed, be informed. United Women in Faith and the United Methodist Church are stepping up and actively working for all our neighbors.

We believe love in action can change the world.

Newsletter Content Contributions

Your help is needed! Do you have any content for the newsletter?!? How about a recipe you would love to share? We do not have many recipes for the upcoming year and could really use your contributions! Please send them via the email address below. You can send it as a picture, scan, word doc, text etc. and it will be formatted for our newsletter! If you have a little tidbit or story to go along with it to make it a little more personal - it's always welcomed!

Email content to UWFNewsletter@StMarksCarmel.org by December 31 for the January Update!



Breaking Bread Together

Daily Prayer Guide 2024

Faith and good are strong partners in the human experience. The Bible makes that clear. The very act of eating is a reminder of God the Creator, the Provider. God in the beginning builds dietary guidelines into the covenant with Israel and sends manna from heaven when the people are lost in the wilderness. Feeding the stranger and the needy is a biblical mandate. The Bible finds resolution in the

Breaking bread together in faith calls for reverence—in the attitude of the spiritual:

Let us break bread together on our knees.
Let us break bread together on our knees.
When I call on my knees,
With my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.

formation of the church, a community of faith formed around an actual and symbolic meal. Acts 2:42 describes early Christians as devoting "themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer." In the pleasure of the table, the young church emulated Jesus, who enjoyed wedding feasts (at Cana), dinner parties (at Matthew's), and picnics (by the lake for 5,000).

And then there is Holy Communion, the ultimate breaking of bread as an act of faith:

While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying "Drink from it, all of you; for this is by blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of since." (Matthew 26:26-30)

"Breaking Bread Together," as the 2024 Daily Prayer Guide theme, prompts humble thanksgiving for God's abundant provision of nourishment and grace—for the product of field and stream and for the love bound up in Jesus Christ. It leads to rejoicing in the opportunity to serve the food needs of all persons and to celebrate he lives of those—

	Lectionary Readings	Pray Every Day
DEC 8 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT	Malachi 3:1-4, Luke 3:1-6	Nome Community Center, Nome, Alaska
NOV 11	Isaiah 40:1-11, Romans 8:22-25	Mariel Faith Marcolino Yamson, a scholarship recipient pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Christian Education (Deaconess Program) at Harris Memorial College in the Philippines
NOV 12	Isaiah 40:1-11, Romans 8:22-25	Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin
NOV 13	Isaiah 40:1-11, Romans 8:22-25	Maya Diana Flores, a scholarship student from Mozambique pursuing a M.D. at Universidad Privada Franz Tamayo in Bolivia
NOV 14	Amos 6:1-8, 2 Corinthians 8:1-15	Bishop Judith Craig Children Village, Liberia
NOV 15	Amos 8:4-12, 2 Corinthians 9:1-15	English-Speaking United Methodist Church of Prague (ESUMC Prague), Czech Republic
NOV 16	Amos 9:8-15, Luke 1:57-66	Partners in Ministry, Laurinburg, North Carolina

including missionaries, deaconesses, home missioners, and others-who plant and harvest in Christ's name.

Birthdays of the Week: Christine Glenn Brua, Cindy Andrade-Johnson, Edmund Makowa, Genilma Boehler, Jonah Ballesteros, Julie Wilson, Kim Devon Harris, Laarni Bibay, Maria (Chiv) Capezio Crookes, Mayana Silva Barberino Souza, Priscilla Legay-Gilayeneh, Roland Fernandes, Ruel Jade Zaldivar, Shelly Owen, Sophia Agtarap, Sunk-ok Lee, Whitney Simpson.



December Birthdays

Events

Pam Whitehead

Molly Webb

Fran Hageboeck

12 Robin Spyker

14 Sarah Copeland

18 Karen Reist

Marcia Flora

20 Kathy Curnett

Mary Engle
Deborah Tener

Jenna Zartman

Sue Roper



Conference 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/

December

- + December 16
- * Deadline to sign up for Spiritual Retreat (registration form at end of newsletter)

January

Spiritual Growth Retreat

- + January 17-18 (Friday 7pm-Sat 3pm),
- * McCormick's Creek State Park
- * Registration form at end of newsletter

February

Legislation/Advocacy Day

- + February 13 9:30AM Noon
- More information on flyer at the end of newsletter

St. Mark's Events

December

Juliets

- + Dec 19 Cooper's Hawk
- Make your reservations by the Monday before to Linda Schenk, <u>Ischenk@att.net</u> or 812-454-0661

More Events

For more events check out page 3 of the Mission Messenger Newsletter. Newsletter is linked on our website (https://stmarkscarmel.org/UWF/#uwfcommunication).



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 Laura

McCloughan at

laura.mccloughan@gmail.com

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 by emailing

UWFNewsletter@StMarksCarmel.org

UWF Favorite Recipes

Candy Cane Crescent Roll Breakfast Pastry

Serves: 10-12

Ingredients

Pastry & Filling

- * 2 packages of refrigerated crescent rolls
- + 18 oz. Cream Cheese; softened
- + 1 egg
- + 1/3 C. Sugar
- * 1 Can Cherry Pie Filling

Glaze

- + 1/2 C. Powdered Sugar
- * 1 1/2 Tbsp. Milk

ed Sugar lk

Directions

- 1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
- 2. On a cookie sheet, arrange crescent roll triangles pointing inward into the shape of a candy cane with edges overlapping (see photos above). Lightly press triangles together to seal. I used exactly 1 1/2 packages of crescent rolls to make the candy cane shape.
- 3. In a mixing bowl, beat together cream cheese and sugar, add egg; beat until smooth.
- 4. Using a teaspoon, spoon cream cheese filling onto the larger part of each triangle; leaving around 1/2 on inch from the edges. You will have extra cheese
- 5. Add teaspoons of cherry filling over the top of the cream cheese.
- 6. Fold tops of triangles towards the base end of each triangle and press lightly to seal. Using the extra croissant roll dough, cut the triangle ends off of 2 rolls to fill in extra spaces at the top of the candy cane as necessary.
- 7. Bake for around 15 minutes or until top of pastry is golden brown.
- 8. Allow to cool slightly before adding glaze.
- 9. Prepare Glaze:
- 10. Beat together powdered sugar and milk until smooth. May add an additional 1/2 Tbsp. of milk if too thick.
- 11. Using a teaspoon, drizzle glaze over crescent tops of candy cane.

I found this recipe <u>online</u> many years ago and have made it for our family Christmas morning breakfast. It's enjoyed by all! – Shared by Angela Blankenship



Board Members

President	Steff Mabe
Vice President	Mary Etta Yoho
Recording Secretary	Trisha Staneart
Treasurer	Peggy Hoy
Assistant Treasurer	Cathy Wilkinson
Interest Group Coordinators	Nancy Heller Angela Blankenship
Fundraising Coordinator	Jackie Mock
Mission Coordinators - Spiritual Growth AM - Spiritual Growth PM - Education & Interpretation - Membership Nurture & Outreach AM - Membership Nurture & Outreach PM - Social Action	 Jenny Miller Michelle White Linda Schenk Connie Southard Holly Moore Donna Schwartz
Program Resources Coordinator (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	Brenda Erickson
Member-at-Large	Betty Bemis

Next Board Meeting: January 7, 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 Janet Lucas

Carol Blackwell

- Evening Shared by Evening Group

Pianist

- Morning - Pam Whitehead

- Evening - Pat Parks

Song Leader Morning Lydia Fourman

Historian/Photographer Kathy Lentz

Barbie Schmenner

Corresponding SecretaryBeth Montag

Web Mail Manager Laura McCloughan

Interest Group Facilitators

Morning

- Spiritual Growth - Pastor Karla Elliott

- Bookworms - Gail Lee

- Cultural and Life Insights - Nancy Heller

Evening

- Book Markers - Debbie Skinner

- Spiritual Formation - Michelle White

- Cultural and Life Insights - Nancy Heller

Fundraising Chairs

Arts & Crafts Marketplace Steff Mabe

- Candy Cane Cafe - Jackie Mock & Connie Southard

- Bake Table - Ann Baker

- UWFaith Craft Table - Steff Mabe

Pecan Sales Linda Mitchell-Powell

Jackie Mock Susan Salter

Dessert Extravaganza Jackie Mock

Trinkets & Treasures Peggy Hoy

Steff Mabe



SAVE THE DATE!

Legislation/Advocacy Day

Thursday, February 13, 2025

"Climate Justice" & **Indiana General Assembly** Legislation Updates

Zoom - 9:30AM ET to Noon

Co-Sponsored by



Women in Faith



Keynote Speakers

Crys Zinkiewicz - She is with the United Methodist Creation Justice Movement working primarily with the communications work group, where she is a contributor and editor for the **UMCJM Newsletter**.



Other Speakers will be knowledgable of Indiana General Assembly Legislation for Environmental, Children and Housing Issues

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH OF INDIANA SPIRITUAL GROWTH RETREAT

JANUARY 17-18, 2025

Begins Friday 7:00 p.m. EST ~ Saturday 3:00 p.m. EST Friday Dinner is not included.

Canyon Inn

McCormick's Creek State Park 451 McCormick Creek Park Road Spencer, IN 41460. 877-922-6966

Reverend Lore Gibson will share "Finding Courage When the World Ain't Right"

Registration Deadline: December 16

~Numbers 27:1-11 The Message

Cancellation Notice: Per our contract terms, UWF of IN will incur the cost of room and meal cancellations after December 16. **Therefore no cancellations will be accepted after December 16**.

Name		District		
Address		Church		
City	Zip Code	Phone	_Email	
	Please specify your ch	noice by selecting the approp	riate opt	ion
1 Person in room (1 bed)	Saturday breakfast and lunc	h	\$129 for single
2 Persons in room	(1 bed)	Saturday breakfast and lunc	h	\$85 per person
2 Persons in room	(2 beds)	Saturday breakfast and lunc	h	\$101 per person
3 Persons in room	(2 beds & sleeper sofa)	Saturday breakfast and lunc	h	\$86 per person
Commuter (no ove	ernight room)	Saturday lunch		\$24 per person
Need Handicap Ac	cessible Room	Special Diet, Specify		
Roommate (1)		(2)		
Emergency Contacts (R	oommate 1)	(Roommate	2)	
Amount Enclosed	\$	-	奥螺	Online payment available with
Remember, registrati	on is not complete witho	out payment.		VANCO
Mail completed regis	tration with check made	payable to UMW IN to:		
Rae Wallis, 9431 Eng	lish Oak Dr., Indianapolis	, IN 46235 Questions? 317-62	25-2523	raewallis@comcast.net
promotions, including s	eos captured during the ev social media. Registering fo not be used with pictures	ent by conference representation for the event gives permission fo	ves will be r one's in	e used for news and nage to be used. Names o
		ocation on April 25-26 at Linde be available in March for that loc		etreat and Conference Cer