

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: January 14 February 11

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

Important Dates

January 28 - Deadline to send content for **this** newsletter. Email UWFNewsletter@StMarksCarmel.org

President's Corner

As the clock strikes midnight on December 31st, the world will bid farewell to a year filled with its unique challenges and triumphs and steps into the promise of 2025.

Each year is a blank canvas, offering us a chance to reflect, reset, and renew our hopes, dreams and aspirations. **Welcoming** 2025 is not just about celebrating the passage of time but embracing opportunities for growth and connection.

Welcome isn't just a word–it's an attitude, a mindset, and a way of life. At United Women in Faith, we are all about **welcoming**, growing, service and connecting. When we say **'welcome,'** we mean it with every part of who we are. It's not just about being there–it's about being present, open, and ready to give and grow.

Welcome is a word used to greet someone in a friendly and hospitable way. It expresses a sense of warmth, acceptance or gratitude toward someone's arrival or presence.

By **welcoming** this year with optimism and intention, we set the stage for meaningful progress. Let us approach 2025 with open hearts and minds, ready to make it a year of positive impact for ourselves and the world.

In the spirit of renewal and celebration, let us step boldly into 2025, carrying the lessons of yesterday and the dreams of tomorrow. It is not just a new year, but a new opportunity to create a brighter future.

With prayerful hearts and steadfast spirits, we can make 2025 a year of purpose, fellowship, and action. May this year be filled with joy, hope, and grace as we continue to shine God's light in the world. Together, let us step boldly into this new chapter, trusting in His guidance every step of the way.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

Romans 15:7

Welcome 2025 welcome!

Steff Mabe

UWF President

steffmabe@yahoo.com



Happy New Year

Happy New Year! The next monthly United Women in Faith meeting in 2025 will be **Tuesday, January 14 at 9:30 am and 7**pm. It's not to late to join an interest group. Childcare is available for AM meetings. Please register by the Thursday prior to the meeting to allow time to obtain staffing. Register for childcare at stmarkscarmel.org/signups. All women of the church are invited to join us at United Women in Faith. If you need a ride, please contact Mary Etta Yoho at 765-215-7773.

"All is Calm, All is Bright" Christmas Gathering of UWF on December 10th was full of laughter, smiles, joy, and Christmas spirit! The evening began with hot cider and fellowship, followed by a delicious carry-in dinner. Lovely and creative table decorations were provided by table hostesses Kathy DeaKyne, Beccie Galloway, Rodene Gosselin, Nancy Heller, Elaine Keyes, Sarah Lasbury, Steff Mabe, Lucy Sheehan, Conie Southard and Lorie Ullmer. It was a joy to welcome new guests to UWF and renew friendships.

Highlights of the evening were the singing of carols, inspiring program, "Songs of the Savior" presented by St. Mark's gifted musicians with Carol Cobbs, accompanist. Those participating were Meridith Anderson, Leslie French, Kassie Schaefer, Jackie Rowell, Jenny Miller, Carol Smith, Jeff Keyt, Darrel Klutey, Roger Schmener and Pam Whitehead. Pastor Karla enlightened us with the origin of Silent Night. Special Mission Recognition Pins were awarded to Peggy Hoy and Linda Schenk for their service and outreach in mission.

Special thanks to our kitchen cleanup crew: John Clodfelder, Roger Schenk, George Southard and Tim Bemis; to the custodial staff Juan and Oscar; and to the planning committee of Carol Blackwell, Janet Lucas, Jackie Mock and Mary Etta Yoho. It was a joyful time!

Pictures of the event can be found at UWF - St. Marks Carmel facebook page. Not a member? Go to UWF - St. Marks Carmel to join.

Happy New Year! Looking forward to greeting you on Jan. 14, 2025!

Need a ride?



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



In the event of inclement weather, be advised we will follow Carmel school's lead. If cancelled (not delayed), UWFaith will cancel and will send an email and post on facebook.





2024 Mission Recipients



Linda Schenk

Our honoree has served St. Mark's in a variety of ways: she's been a communion server, Sunday School teacher, and a vacation Bible School teacher. She's also a Faithful member of a small group and the Handbell Choir. She has served in several capacities on the UWF Board-serving as the Education and Interpretation Chair as well as co-chairing the Membership Nurture and Outreach. And she's even co-chaired the Trinkets and Treasures fundraiser.

To be more specific, she has always had the welfare of children in the forefront of her professional as well as spiritual life. She's been instrumental in serving as a liaison for the Fletcher Place, recently arranging a preschool visit. She's also participated in and helped arrange for others to go on the Ascent 121 Prayer Journey. And she's also participated in the East 10th Street Christmas Party.

It is with great pleasure to introduce Linda Schenk as one of this year's recipients.

Peggy-Anne Hoy

She is a person with unbound energy with which she blesses not only St. Mark's and United Women in Faith but our larger community. You can see her participate and be a part of almost every UWF event.

She has been on the Board and a leader in many positions. To list a few:

- UWF Treasurer from 2011 to 2013 and again in 2024
- Member-At-Large in 2017 and 2018
- UWF Newsletter Editor 2019 to 2024
- Co-chair for the "Trinkets and Treasure" rummage sale from 2022 through 2024
- Arts & Craft Sale she has, for at least six years, worked the Candy Cane Café. Her made from scratch tomato soup is enjoyed by not only St Markers but by the vendors and shoppers too! I even heard one vendor say she participated in our event because of the soup!

She and her family moved from Canada to the US in 1995 for a new job for her husband, Bruce. Our recipient, a nurse in Canada, never one to be idle, sat for the NY State Nursing Boards while 7 months pregnant with Andrew in 1992. Her family joined St. Mark's UMC in August 1996 and

we are so fortunate that they did. Her capable, caring personality is a perfect fit for our United Women of Faith and St. Mark's where she served on the Trustees Commitee.

She often has her hands in hot water and has earned the title "head dishwasher" for the Holiday Celebration, Mother/ Daughter/Friends event, Arts and Crafts Fair and our September Kick-Off gathering. She goes where she is needed such as helping with celebrations of life, visiting UWF members in the hospital and home. You can count on her to be there.

Aside from her nursing career, role of wife, mother of two sons, Andrew and Matthew and grandma Nana to their first granddaughter Willa, she is a knitting machine and crochets mittens for our Outreach programs. She enjoys the sport of Curling. Plus she volunteers at the Trinity Free Clinic using her nursing skills.

We take great delight in recognizing Peggy Anne Hoy. Congratulations for your many accomplishments and generosity to United Women in Faith, St. Mark's church and our community. We are proud to offer the 2024 Special Mission Recognition Pin to you!!!



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. Anyone, anywhere, can participate—you do not have to attend the book discussions but we love it when you do. The first 2025 book discussion, from the Education for Mission category, is **Monday, January 27 at 7pm**. The group meets in the church library. For more information on the National Reading Program do not hesitate to contact Kathy at KathyLentz@gmail.com



Notes of Appreciation

Fletcher Place

Thank you for your continued support. "Without the help of wonderful donors like UWF, we can't do what we do."

Operation Classroom

Karen Gould reports that she traveled to Sierra Leone in October and witnessed the graduation of 40 students from Tarama Enterprise Academy (TEA). She heard how their TEA education had changed their lives. Without the support of UWF, this would not be possible. Anyone wanting to go on the October 2025 journey, contact her.

Joyce Click

Thanks UWF for their support of her Vocal scholarship. In the last 2 years, 40 students have received vocal/music lessons that they would never have had the opportunity to attend.

Gleaners

Gleaners thanks UWF for the support. It allows them to support the local food pantries in central Indiana. We were offered an opportunity to do a volunteer day with them.

Eric DeForest

Thanks UWF for the gift of money to support the music department at St Mark's.



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.

Please join the January morning or evening group to hear from Debbie Uhl about SE Asia!

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 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. 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
Jeremiah 29:11 NIV

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."



Shared by Donna Schwartz

Happy New Year and more work than ever is needed!

In case you missed this, "I Support the Girls" was awarded the "Good Neighbor" winner this year on the Kelly Clarkson show. The competition was stiff but this organization that provides bras and underwear and period products to the homeless, inneed students, prisons and others was gifted \$100,000 by Starbucks. St. Mark's UWFaith donated a car load of needed items to the Indianapolis affiliate last fall. We plan to donate again this spring, so decide which bras, (including nursing bras, breast cancer items and fancy bras of ALL sizes) are good enough to give and purchase period and menopause items as well. **Watch for updates soon.**

Please check the <u>UWFaith.org</u> website for the next Faith Talks on **January 2 and 16, <u>2 p.m.</u>**

Watch for activities in our area, <u>January 18-20</u> for MLK Days of Service.

On the UWFaith website find Serve & Advocate, then Racial Justice and read the UWfaith *Charter for Racial Justice* in an Interdependent Global Community.

Finally, take five minutes to watch the video, **Never Give Up: Cynthia and Michelle's Faithful Fight Against Mass Incarceration**.

Happy New Year and make it a year of hope and action!

Calling All Bakers and Candy Makers

9th from 8:30 to 12:15. Please package your treats in small amounts (4-6 squares) and 6 cookies. If they are gluten free, nut free or sugar free, please note that on the package. Set up and drop off of treats will be on **Saturday**Feb 8th from 10:00 to noon. Sign ups will be at the January meeting and a sign up genius will be sent out in January. All proceeds go to missions . Any questions, contact Jackie Mock or Peggy Hoy.



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 <u>UWFNewsletter@StMarksCarmel.org</u> by **January 28** for the February Update!



2025 Daily Prayer - Generation of Grace

"Generation" names a group of people born and living at about the same time. Each successive generation is influenced by those that come before and lays down markers that help to shape those that come after. Existence is intergenerational.

God is at work in every generation, as is evident from the Bible's broad sweep—the lineages of Adam and Eve, the Abrahamic tribes, the Davidic line that incorporates the family of Jesus, and the households and communities of faith started by Paul and others and which collectively became the Christian church.

The grace—the love of God enlivens and makes the church strong as it celebrates generations of faith rooted in grace. As Paul writes to Timothy, commenting on three generations of a family of faith—Grandmother Lois, Mother Eunice, and the young man, Timothy—says, "For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love, and self-discipline" (2 Timothy 1:7, NIV).

How do we share God's grace-filled gifts—including power, love, and self-discipline—across generations today? This is no easy task. Cultural trends, economic factors, and technological developments can raise barriers among the generations. Expanding secularization, even open hostility to religion makes it harder for families or communities to adhere to or share faith commitments.

The 2025 Daily Prayer Guide explores intergenerational relations within the faith community through study, prayer, meditation, conversation, artwork, and, notably, storytelling. It invites participants to become shapers of accounts of the experiences of intergenerational grace within congregations and groups including circles of United Women in Faith. Strong emphasis falls on interaction with children, remembering Jesus' welcoming children into his circle (Mark 10:13-14, NRSVUE).

The church and its organizations are called to encourage intergenerational storytelling about the experience of God's grace. This means not only listening to others but coming to truly understand the joys and cares of people of all ages, all of whom share in the generations of grace.

	Lectionary Readings	Pray Every Day
JAN 12 BAPTISM OF THE LORD	Isaiah 43:1-7, Luke 3:15-17, 21-22	Atlantic Street Center, Seattle, Washington
JAN 13	Judges 4:1-6, Ephesians 6:10-17	Aditi Alin Mathews, scholarship recipient, pursuing a B.Com. degree in Commerce at Isabella Thoburn College, India
JAN 14	Judges 5:12-21, 1 John 5:13-21	Haitian Assets for Peace International (HAPI)
JAN 15	Numbers 27:1-11, Luke 11:33-36	Global Health Action, Atlanta, Georgia
JAN 16	Jeremiah 3:1-5, Acts 8:18-24	Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees - Middle East Council of Churches
JAN 17	Jeremiah 3:19-25, 1 Corinthians 7:1-7	Kissy General Hospital, Sierra Leone
JAN 18	Jeremiah 4:1-4, Luke 11:14-23	Amarillo Wesley Community Center, Amarillo, Texas

Birthdays of the Week: Cornelia Wieck, Fawn McCallister, Lisa Bachman, Logan Alley, Maria Hase, Pennie (Jeanie) Hughes, Steven Chingadza, Tendai Paul Manyeza.



January Birthdays

Events

Pat Weeks

Pat Parks

Jennifer Cloud-Buckner

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 <u>uwfaith.org/resources/podcasts/</u>

January

Spiritual Growth Retreat

- January 17-18 (Friday 7pm-Sat 3pm)
- + McCormick's Creek State Park

February

Dessert Extravaganza

+ February 9 8:30am

Legislation/Advocacy Day

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

St. Mark's Events

January

Juliets

- * Juliets will not be meeting in January!
 - **Suicide Prevention Training**
- + January 26 3-5pm
- * Register on St. Mark's website by January 23

February

Talent Show

+ February 16 2pm

March

Kids Music and Praise Lenten Musical

March 23 1:30pm



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

Thai Zoodle Salad

Ingredients

- + 1 2 zucchini, spiralized, chopped into bite size pieces to make 2-4 cups
- + 1/4 cabbage, sliced thin
- + 1 carrot, cut into ribbons
- + 1/2 C chopped peanuts
- + 1 C chicken, shredded or chopped
- + 1/2 C cilantro, chopped
- + 2 scallions, diced
- + Peanut sauce

Directions

- 1. In a large bowl mix all ingredients except sauce.
- 2. When ready, drizzle with sauce. Toss well. Garnish with additional peanuts and cilantro.

Thai Salad Dressing

Ingredients

- + 1 T low sodium soy sauce
- + 1 T fish sauce
- + 2 T lime juice (from 2 limes)
- + 1 T honey
- * 1/4 C creamy peanut butter
- + 1/2 C neutral oil (like EVOO)
- + 2 T white vinegar
- + 1 T brown sugar (optional)

Directions

- 1. In a small bowl, wish together the soy sauce, peanut butter, fish sauce, oil, lime juice, vinegar, honey and brown sugar until emulsified.
- 2. Store for up to 1 week in refrigerator in an airtight container.

Shared by Peggy-Anne Hoy



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: February 4, 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 Secretary Beth 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