



United Women in Faith



St Mark's UWF Update Newsletter -December 2023

"St Mark's United Women in Faith " monthly gatherings take place September through May. They are held the second Tuesday each month.

Morning meetings: 9:30-11:30 am. Evening meetings: 7-9 pm. Childcare is provided for AM meetings! We ask that you put your request in by Thursday prior to the meeting to allow time to obtain staffing. To register for childcare. please click on the link below:

All are invited to join us for fun and fellowship!

[https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c094ba9a722a13-childcare4#/.](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c094ba9a722a13-childcare4#/)

The President's Corner

"Take a walk through the Bethlehem of 2000 years ago and experience the sights and sounds leading up to the birth of the Messiah, Jesus Christ." Holy Walk was this year! December 1 st and 2nd .

What is Holy Walk? Holy Walk is a community outreach that has become a tradition for many families in our community. These families look forward to the Holy Walk every two years. A little history: Cindi and Chris Miller attended a Holy Walk in Atlanta; Janet and Doug Brown attended a Holy Walk in Michigan. The

four of them got together and started planning a walk for St. Mark's in 1999. They met regularly for a year to plan the event, combining ideas from both previously attended events. The first year, 1600 guests attended and 3,000 the second year!

It transports you back to the time of the Holy Child's birth. A guide leads you through the village where you meet characters from that time. Roman guards meet you at the entrance. When you approach the tax collectors, you must have your papers stamped before you can enter the village. Once there, you'll meet shepherds, live animals, prophets, Wise Men, angels and finally the Christ Child! After your journey, you retire to the gym for hot cocoa and cookies. Comments include: "Was the authenticity of the entire experience. I love the village." Winning games, learning about Jesus and kindness of St. Mark's." I felt like I was transported to Bethlehem. Very meaningful and an amazing experience. I hope that you were able to take the opportunity to travel through Bethlehem to meet the Christ Child.

Merry Christmas!

Steff,

UWF President steffmabe@yahoo.com

Update Articles

Please submit all articles for the "Update" to Peggy-Anne Hoy at pahat664@gmail.com

Distribution List Changes

Please submit any changes to Laura McCloughan at laura.mccloughan@gmail.com

UWF Pledges



World Thank Offering

Together your coins, bills and checks totaled \$745 for the World Thank Offering! Because we are blessed by God in so many ways, our offering will be sent to the National UWF to support women, children and youth throughout the world. WTO monies can still be received until December 15 for 2023.

2023 pledge payments can be made until December 15. Please send your checks to the church or to me: Mary Etta Yoho, 3305 Heathcliff Ct., Westfield, IN 46074.

2024 Pledges

Thank you to all who have made a commitment to UWF in 2024 to support our local, national and global ministries of United Women in Faith. If you did not fill out a 2024 pledge form and would like to do so, please drop me a note or email me the amount to maryetta.yoho@gmail.com.

UWF Reading Program "Your Windows to the World" St Mark's Church Library

Women are invited to participate in the cherished United Women in Faith tradition that brings together members in mission as they explore, share, and discuss books from each of the reading categories.

The Reading Program books are divided into five categories: Education for Mission, Leadership Development, Nurturing for Community, Social Action, and Spiritual Growth.

Books from the various categories are available in the St. Mark's Library on the UWF bookshelf or at your local library.

Contact Kathy at KathyLentz@gmail.com for more information on how to participate.

The UWFaith Reading Program next meeting is Monday 2/26/24 7:00pm-8:30pm in the church library. It is an Education for Mission category.

Congratulations to the six United Women in Faith who completed the National Reading Program in 2023 by reading at least one book from each of the 5 reading categories. Lydia Fourman, Fran Hageboeck, Kathy Lentz, Barbie Schmenner, Emily Stahl, and Jane VanDyne.

Action Alert: Protect Vulnerable Youth and Religious Workers

Contact me at dehschwartz@gmail.com if you have questions.



From Operation Classroom: "Your gift will assist a student in Sierra Leone and Liberia to receive the education they need to be able to imagine a better future. A student named Alfred was abandoned by his father at birth. His grandmother saw his passion for learning, and sent him to primary school. When she died, he was left to figure out life on his own at an early age. Amid his struggles, he enrolled

in an engine mechanics program at Taiama Enterprise Academy and excelled in a hands-on learning environment. His high test scores on the West Africa graduation exam earned him a stipend from Operation Classroom to attend a technical university in Sierra Leone to become an electrician." Operation Classroom's mission is to partner with the United Methodist Church in Liberia and Sierra Leone to improve secondary education.

From Ronald McDonald House Charities:

"Thank you for your gift to support our culinary program, Meals That Heal. We know seeking out meals is not top of one's mind when a child is lying in a hospital bed and money is tight. Providing nourishing food gives parents the energy they need to better meet the physical and emotional demands of caring for a sick or injured child. Thank you for helping us provide a place that feels like home where families can heal together. "

From Indiana United Methodist Children's Home: "Your donation helps give the children in our care in Lebanon a safe loving place to call home and a family to guide them in the healing process. Because of donors like you, we celebrated high school graduation of 15 youths who are pursuing post-secondary education . It is difficult to imagine what would have become of the children we serve, if not for our care. The children need all of us. Thank you for your partnership in our children's mission!"

Have a wonderful wedding time! Dance the night away!



**“May your days be merry
and bright and may all your
Christmases be white!”**

“A White Christmas Presence” will be the theme for the annual United Women in Faith Christmas Gathering on Tuesday, December 12th, in the narthex at St Mark’s. This joint gathering will be filled with wonderful fellowship, a delicious carry-in meal, singing of

carols, learning more about our MOPS group plus lots of Christmas joy. You are invited to come and bring a friend at 6 pm for hot cider and gathering with dinner beginning promptly at 6:30 pm. Bring your favorite carry-in dish to share as we celebrate **Jesus!...the best present ever!**

A special offering will be collected for the St Mark's Playground Fund.

UWF INTEREST GROUPS

INTEREST GROUPS RESUME IN JANUARY SO ALL LADIES CAN ATTEND THE JOINT CHRISTMAS GATHERING!

AM

BOOKWORMS: I hope you have enjoyed your summer. I have the following schedule for 2023-2024, but you will need to get your own copies for October and January.

January "Love and Quasars" by Paul Wallace

February "My Antoinia" by Willa Cather

March "The Thursday Murder Club" by Richard Osman

April "Chances Are" by Richard Russo
Facilitator: **Gail Lee**

CULTURAL INSIGHTS: Each month a different presenter will be sharing experiences from various locations or cultures. In January,

Anna Flohr will discuss travel experiences in India. This group will be meeting in rooms G/H.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH: This group **will** read ***Nevertheless: American Methodists and Women's Rights***. 2020 marked the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment. While some things have changed, others haven't. This book tells the story of American Methodist women's efforts fight for women's rights, beginning with the Women's Christian Temperance Union and ending with the #MeToo movement. Each chapter documents particular Methodist women and provides the reader with a basic historic context of the time or situation at hand as it shows how Methodist women engaged and fought for women's equality or women's rights in American society and American Methodism.

This group will be gathering in room B/C following the UWF monthly meeting.

Facilitator: **Pastor Karla Elliott**

PM

BOOKMARKERS: This group reads a variety of subjects. Haven't read the book, then come for the discussion and fellowship
January - The Storied Life of A. J. Fikry by Gabrielle Zevin

February - Are You There, God? It's Me, Margaret by Judy Blume

March - That Summer by Jennifer Weiner

April - A Gun in my Gucci by E.C. Smith

May - The Gatekeepers by Chris Whipple

Summer - The Next Ship Home by Heather Webb

Facilitator: Debbie Skinner

dskins25@hotmail.com or call 317-574-1997
with any questions.

Spiritual Formation: We will continue to examine the book *Spiritual Formation: Following the Movements of the Spirit* by Henri Nouwen.

“For those seeking a vibrant connection with God, *Spiritual Formation* offers graceful and practical guidance toward a heart transformed by love.”

No preparation or homework is needed to join this small group and explore spiritual growth. Please feel free to stay after the general meeting and gather in the conference room to participate in the teaching and discussion.

Facilitator: Michelle B. White.



United Women in Faith wish the following ladies a Happy Birthday in the month of December and January



Inclement Weather Notice

In case of inclement weather this winter, please be advised that we will follow Carmel Clay school's lead. If school is canceled for the day (not just a 2 hr delay), then the UW Faith meeting will not be held. In this event, we will send out an email blast and post this on the St Mark's Facebook page.

Betty Bemis & Pam Whitehead	12/2
Ingrid Fitschen	12/3
Fran Hageboeck	12/9
Robin Spyker	12/12
Sarah Copeland & Heather Winters	12/14
Barbara Regnault	12/15
Leslie French	12/17
Karen Reist	12/18
Marcia Flora	12/19
Kathy Curnett	12/20
Jennifer Denison	12/22
Pat Beutien	12/23
Roxanne Krieg & Pat Swagger	12/25
Mary Engle	12/26
Jenna Zartman	12/27
Sue Roper	12/29
Denise Broad & Mimi Stilwell	1/1
Pat Weeks	1/4
Lydia Fourman	1/9
Pat Parks	1/10
Angela Blankenship	1/12
Laura McCloughan	1/13
Alison Burnett	1/14

Lucy Sheehan	1/18
Emily Stahl	1/25
Nancy Story	1/26
Jennifer Cloud-Buckner &	
Jane Van Dyne	1/27
Marilyn Bisbecos & Kathleen Wetzel	1/30
Beth Montag & Marilyn Myers	1/31

Let us know if we have left anyone out.

To receive reminders about UWF activities, please send a note & your email. We look forward to hearing from you.

With faith, hope & love,
Membership, Nurture and Outreach:
Ann Baker, Linda Schenk
and Holly Moore

Dec. Theme from MNO

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16 NIV

St. Marks UWF Facebook Group

All women of St. Mark's UMC are invited to sign up for the Closed Facebook Group. To sign up go to: UWF - St Marks Carmel

Reminder- The Mission Messenger which is the Indiana UWF newsletter is available via link on the St Mark's UWF website.

<http://www.stmarkscarmel.org/uwf>



Juliets

(Just Us Ladies Into Eating Out Together)
Thursday, 12/21 | 11:30 AM
Tilly's Tea Room | 8702 Keystone Crossing
Please contact Linda Schenk,
lschenk@att.net or Sandi McCracken,
smccracken75@yahoo.com by 12/17 so
current reservations can be made or for
more information. All women are invited!

UPCOMING EVENTS FROM THE UWF CONFERENCE

Spiritual Growth Retreat- Jan 19th & 20th (see the flyer at back of newsletter for details)

Legislative Day via Zoom

podcast- Feb 8th 10am to noon



Faith Talks are monthly conversations with United Women in Faith hosted by Jennifer 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 <https://uwfaith.org/resources/podcasts>.

2023/24 United Women of Faith Calendar

Tues Dec 5th- UWF Board Meeting 7 pm
 Tues Dec 12th- UWF Christmas Celebration (**Joint meeting**)
 6:30 to 9 :00 pm

Tues Jan 2nd- UWF Board Meeting 7 pm
 Tues Jan 8th- UWF meeting
 9:30 - 11:30 am & 7 -9 pm

Tues Feb 6nd- UWF Board Meeting 7 pm
 Sat Feb 10th - Set up for Dessert Sale
 10:00 - noon
 Sun Feb 11th- Dessert Extravaganza
 before and after each service
 Tues Jan 13th- UWF meeting
 9:30 - 11:30 am & 7 -9 pm



Dessert Extravaganza Sunday, 2/11/24

Up next is the Dessert Extravaganza on February 11th! All bakers and candy makers get ready to bake! We will need dessert donations as well as help with setting up on Saturday and selling on Sunday. Look for a sign up at the January 9th gathering



Pecans are SOLD OUT 🙌🙌

Pecans are all sold—thanks to all who helped and bought them. There are a few pre-orders that still need to be picked up and these people will be reminded to get them. Yeaaaa—mission accomplished!!

2023/24 St Mark's UWF Board

President	Steff Mabe
Vice President of Interest Groups & Programming	OPEN
Fundraising Coordinator	Jackie Mock
Recording Secretary	Trisha Staneart
Corresponding Secretary	Beth Montag
Treasurer	Mary Etta Yoho
Assistant Treasurer	Cathy Wilkinson
Mission Coordinator/Spiritual Growth (AM)	Lydia Fourman
Mission Coordinator/Spiritual Growth (PM)	Michelle White
Mission Coordinator/Education & Interpretation	Linda Schenk
Mission Coord./Membership Nurture & Outreach-AM	Linda Schenk/ Ann Baker
Mission Coord./Membership Nurture & Outreach-PM	Holly Moore
Mission Coordinator/Social Action	Donna Schwartz
Secretary of Program Resources/Nat'l Reading Program	Kathy Lentz
Communication Chair	Becky Mills
Nominations Committee Chair	Linda Mitchell- Powell
Historian/Photographer	Kathy Lentz / Barbie Schmenner
Newsletter Editor	Peggy-Anne Hoy
Hospitality Coordinator AM	Janet Lucas / Carol Blackwell
Hospitality Coordinator PM	shared rotation -open
Pianist AM	Pam Whitehead
Pianist PM	Pat Parks
Songleader, AM	Lydia Fourman
Webmail Manager	Laura McCloughan
Members at Large	Miriam Taylor
	Brenda Erickson
	Doreen Velde

Daily Prayer Guide 2023 Reflecting on God's Faithfulness

In the well-loved hymn “Great Is Thy Faithfulness,” Thomas Chisholm celebrates God’s absolute steadfastness. Just as we cannot earn God’s favor by our actions, we cannot escape God’s love and compassion.

The Bible powerfully declares that life’s joys and pleasures reflect God’s gifts and goodness, while life’s pain and disappointments are tempered and transformed by God’s constant presence. New mercies appear morning by morning as expressions of God’s unchanging allegiance. God never stops calling us in gentle and sometimes fierce ways not loving relationships with God and our neighbors.

A sense of God’s total faithfulness guides our individual and collective commitment to minister to and change a hurting world—to extend mercy and justice, achieve peace, care for the needy, and comfort the brokenhearted.

This year’s Daily Prayer Guide offers glimpses of God’s faithfulness through the reflections and prayers of missionaries, deaconesses/home missionaries, staff of National Mission Institutions, retirees and others, and also through the art of children. The witnesses of the biblical text and the sharing of these witnesses may connect with your own story. When have you experienced God’s faithfulness in times of doubt? Of joy? Or celebrated God’s faithfulness in your life and calling? Do you have practices that help you remember God’s faithfulness in the midst of disasters and injustices, or when God seems far away? Or close at hand? Is there someone who would be blessed by glimpses of God’s faithfulness in your story? In your journey with Jesus Christ?

The hymn writer points to nature and the seasons, seedtime and harvest, as signs of God’s faithfulness. Are we also signs of God’s faithfulness? When we are confident of God’s faithfulness, we are strengthened to live out our own callings to service, to giving, to witness, and to advocacy for equity and just systems that honor the image of God in every person.

In God’s faithfulness we find “strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow.”

Lectionary Readings

Pray Every Day

DEC 10 Isaiah 40:1-11, Mark 1:1-8 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT	DEC 10 Supplementing Salary for Pastors in East Angola, Angola
DEC 11 Isaiah 26:7-15, Acts 2:37-42	DEC 11 World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women, New Zealand
DEC 12 Isaiah 4:2-6, Acts 11:1-18	DEC 12 My Heart's Appeal for the Intellectually Disabled, Liberia
DEC 13 Malachi 2:10—3:1, Luke 1:5-17	DEC 13 Layba Rashid, scholarship recipient pursuing a premedical degree at Kinnaird College for Women, Pakistan
DEC 14 Habakkuk 2:1-5, Philippians 3:7-11	DEC 14 Carolyn Belshe Orphanage Center (CBO), Mozambique
DEC 15 Habakkuk 3:2-6, Philippians 3:12-16	DEC 15 Give Them To Eat, Mexico
DEC 16 Habakkuk 3:13-19, Matthew 21:28-32	DEC 16 United Mission to Nepal Integrated Community Development Project, Nepal

Birthdays of the Week: Charles Barrow, Cindy Andrade-Johnson, Edmund Makowa, Genilma, Boehler, Jonah Ballesteros, Julie Wilson, Kim Devon Harris, Laarni Bibay, Maria Capezio Crookes, Mayana Silva, Barberino Souza, Priscilla Legay-Gilayeneh, Roland Fernandes, Sophia Agtarap, Sung-ok Lee, Whitney Simpson

St. Marks UWF Favorite Recipes



This is the recipe from MaryEtta Yoho's daughter, Rachel Blacker.

Crescent Roll Veggie Pizza

Prep Time: 15 minutes

Cook Time: 15 minutes
Servings: 12 slices

Total Time: 30 minutes

Ingredients

2 tubes of refrigerator crescent rolls
1/3 cup sour cream

1- 8 oz pkg of cream cheese – softened at room temperature
1 envelope of dry ranch salad dressing mix
2 TBSP of dill weed or 1/4 cup of fresh dill – chopped small

1 small head of broccoli – cut
1 red bell pepper – diced small
1 English cucumber – diced small

3/4 cup match stick or shredded carrots
1 yellow bell pepper – diced small

Instructions

Preheat the oven to 350° as directed on the crescent roll package instructions.

Dice all of the vegetables.

Spread crescent rolls across the cookie sheet so that cover the entire cookie sheet.

Using your fingers pinch the perforations on the crescent rolls to seal them together.

Bake according to crescent roll package instructions.

Cool completely before adding toppings (you can also cool it and lightly cover it with a paper towel or plastic wrap and leave on the countertop overnight).

In a medium-sized bowl, add softened cream cheese, sour cream, ranch dip, and dill; stir until fully mixed.

To assemble the pizza:

Spread the ranch dill dip all over the baked and cooled crescent roll pizza base.

Add chopped mixed veggies in this order, broccoli, cucumber, yellow bell peppers, red bell peppers, carrots.

Cut into equal squares and serve.

Ribbons of Hope Bags Continue to Be The Sunshine as you share “Ribbons of Hope~ Secure in God’s Love” encouragement bags. A complete list of supplies that are used and always appreciated is on the UWFaith website.



Bee A Helper Packets- Thank you for the helping hands that completed the “Bee A Helper Packets”. There will be more packets in the future.



UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH OF INDIANA

SPIRITUAL GROWTH RETREAT

JANUARY 19-20, 2024

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

Rev. Dr. Cindy Reynolds will share "BIBLICAL STORY TELLING: FOOD FOR THE SOUL"

Every part of Scripture is God-breathed and useful one way or another—showing us truth, exposing our rebellion, correcting our mistakes, training us to live God's way. Through the Word we are put together and shaped up for the tasks God has for us. ~2 Timothy 3:16-17 The Message

Cancellation Notice: Per our contract terms, UWF of IN will incur the cost of room and meal cancellations after December 15. **Therefore no cancellations will be accepted after December 15.**

Registration and payment need to be received by **December 15.**

Name _____ District _____

Address _____ Church _____

City _____ Zip Code _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Please specify your choice by selecting the appropriate option

- | | | |
|--|--|------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Person in room (1 bed) | Saturday breakfast and lunch | \$141 for single |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Persons in room (1 bed) | Saturday breakfast and lunch | \$96 per person |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Persons in room (2 beds) | Saturday breakfast and lunch | \$113 per person |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Persons in room (2 beds & sleeper sofa) | Saturday breakfast and lunch | \$98 per person |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commuter (no overnight room) | Saturday lunch | \$23 per person |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Need Handicap Accessible Room | <input type="checkbox"/> Special Diet, Specify _____ | |

Roommate (1) _____ (2) _____

Remember, registration is not complete without payment.

Mail completed registration with check made payable to UMW IN to:

Sherrae Davis, 809 Stockbridge Dr., Westfield, IN 46074 Questions? 317-710-2413 sherrae.davis@gotown.net.



Online payment
available with
VANCO

***An optional commitment: We will be collecting over the counter cold and flu medications for moms and small children at Middle Way House, Bloomington, IN.**

At Middle Way House, we work to support all survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking and educate the community through outreach and prevention programs.

Note: Pictures and videos captured during the event by conference representatives will be used for news and promotions, including social media. Registering for the event gives permission for one's image to be used. Names of youth and children will not be used with pictures.

In 2024, this retreat will be repeated at a second location on **April 19-20** at Lindenwood Retreat and Conference Center, Donaldson, IN 46513. Registration material will be available in March for that location.

2024 CONFERENCE CALENDAR

Spiritual Growth Retreat- January 19/20, 2024, Fri 7pm-Sat 3pm

Canyon Inn, McCormick's Creek State Park. 451 McCormick Creek Park Road, Spencer, IN. Cindy Reynolds will be the leader.

Legislative Day- Zoom with podcast, Feb 8, 2024, 10a-12p.

Spiritual Growth Retreat- April 19/20, 2024, Fri 7pm – Sat 3pm

Lindenwood Retreat & Conference Center, 9601 Union Road, Plymouth, IN.

General Conference UMC- April 23 – May 3, Charlotte, NC

UWF North Central Jurisdiction- May 30 – June 2, 2024.

Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel, 31 W Ohio St, Indianapolis, IN *

INUMC Annual Conference- June 6-8, 2024

St. Luke's United Methodist Church, Indianapolis

Limitless Event(s)- TBD

Mission u- Friday, July 12 - Sunday, July 14, Franklin College, Franklin, IN

Annual Celebration- October 4/5, 2024, Fri -5pm dinner, Sat- 9:45am-3pm

St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 4780 E 126th St, Carmel, IN *

Silent Retreat. October 11-13, Fri 7pm – Sun 12 noon

St. Joseph Retreat & Conference Center, 1440 W. Division Rd., Tipton, IN

November Leadership Development & Officer Training- Zoom

November 2, Sat 10am-3pm

