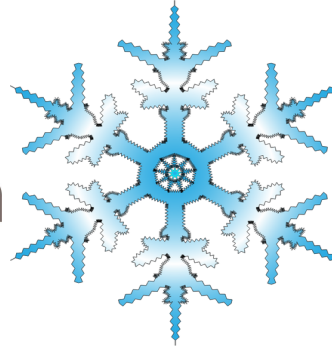




United
Women
in Faith



St Marks UWF Update- January 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: 9-11 am. Evening meetings: 7-9 pm. Childcare is provided for AM meetings! We ask that you put your request in the 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#/>.

The President’s Corner

The year 2023 is here! Can you believe it? Time goes so fast! I think 2023 is signaling a year of change.

What is change? One definition of change is to replace something with something else, especially something of the same kind that is newer or better; substitute one thing for another. Example: 2023 replacing 2022 or UWF replacing UMW.

Change is an inevitable part of life. It happens whether we’re ready or not. We

fear change because it means that outcomes are unknown.

Change allows us to move forward in life and experience new and exciting things. Change can open doors to other things, new friends, and new ideas.

But remember, in the middle of all this change, God is still the same! His love never changes, and He loves you just as much today as yesterday. God never changes, and nothing about Him changes. His character traits such as love, mercy, kindness, justice and wisdom always exist in perfection. God has built into us the ability to change.

2 Corinthians 5:17 says “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!”

Hebrews 13:8 reminds us “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.”

May the New Year bring you happiness, peace and prosperity. Embrace change! Think of the possibilities!

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

St. Mark's United Women in Faith had a wonderful year! With God's help and our faithful workers and supporters we were able to raise \$20,230 for local, district and national mission projects thru our pledges and fundraising events such as: Dessert Extravaganza, Trinkets & Treasures, Marketplace, and pecan sales. The following is a list of agencies served:

Brightwood Community Center
Brightwood Food Pantry
East Tenth St. UMC
Fletcher Place
Family Promise
Family Promise After Care
Family Promise Apt. Program
IN UM Children's Home
Hamilton Co. Kids Coats
Ascent 121
Hope Center
Abundant Vida Nueva UMC
Prevail
UM Operation Classroom
McDonald House
Heart & Soul Clinic
Carmel UMC Food Bank
Open Door Food Bank Westfield
Third Phase Food Bank
Roberts Park Soups On
St. Mark's Preschool Playground
Lucille Raines Residence Elevator Campaign
UMCOR

To God Be the Glory!

Blessings for the New Year,

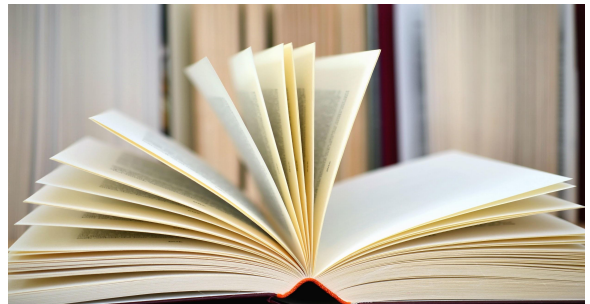
Mary Etta Yoho, Treasurer

PS. For those who made a 2022 pledge donation, you will receive a letter of appreciation in January.

2023 UWF Pledges

Pledges can be brought to the meetings, drop off in the church office or mailed to Treasurer, Mary Etta Yoho, 3305 Heathcliff Ct., Westfield, IN 46074.

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



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

Every year the United Women in Faith's National Office recommends a diverse range of books with the intention of broadening exposure to a variety of concepts. This program organizes books into five categories. Our UMW Reading Program group selects a book from each of the categories and meets five times a year for fellowship and book discussion.

The five categories:
Education for Mission
Leadership Development
Nurturing for Community

Social Action Spiritual Growth

Kathy is waiting for the National office to confirm meeting dates but we have been told that the first meeting will take place in March.

** For more information or to be added to the reading email list email Kathy Lentz at KathyLentz@gmail.com

Social Action and UWF Social Action/ Mission Education & Interpretation

Thank you for the generous donations to St. Mark's mission and social justice projects in 2022.

I contacted Indiana United Methodist Children's Home (IUMCH) in Lebanon about valentines for the students. Susan Bennett responded "Currently we have 38 youth but by Feb., we could have 45. Can you just sign the cards inside and we'll add their names on the envelopes. Some of the youth we have now may be discharged by then, so it makes more sense for us to add the names."

- I will bring 45 valentines to the January 10 meeting so that you may pick one to sign. I will collect them
- I will bundle the gift cards you may donate with them and get them to the IUMCH. There will be a basket at the meeting to collect any gift cards.

Gift cards have many uses for IUMCH including to help with living unit activities, incentives, and miscellaneous needs of the school and students.

Examples may include Cards for gas stations: Visa, Mastercard and Amazon. (Any dollar amount and please write the amount on the card)

Cards for food \$5 or \$10 dollars: Papa John's, McDonalds, Burger King, Subway, etc.

Cards for stores: Walmart, Kroger, Costco, Old Navy, Burlington, Half Price Books, Hobby Lobby, Kohl's, Bed, Bath & Beyond, etc.

Cards for theaters: Goodrich Lebanon 7 and AMC in NW Indianapolis

If you have any questions please contact Donna Schwartz dehschwartz@gmail.com

UWF Gathering



Our Christmas gathering was a joint meeting held on Tuesday December 13th. We started with punch and fellowship, followed by a pitch-in dinner which was delicious. Mike Chapuran, Director of Family Promise/IHN was our guest speaker. We collected a wealth of paper towels, toilet paper, pillows, and XL twin sheet sets for their apartment project. A huge thanks to John Clodfelders and Bruce Johnston for taking care of all the dishes for us.



MISSION RECOGNITION AWARDS

We recognized 3 individuals for all their efforts to missions . They were: Kathy Deakyne, Donna Schwartz and Rev Suzanne Jacques. Unfortunately Rev Jacques has a prior commitment so she will be recognized at our February meeting,

Kathy DeaKyne.



Kathy was born in Kansas City but moved to Indiana at age 16. She graduated from IU, where she met Jeff. They have 3 sons and 7

grandchildren. Before moving to Carmel, they spent 33 years in Lafayette, where Kathy was very active at Grace UMC. At St. Mark's, Kathy has been a ringer with our Chancel Bells and you may have spied her last Sunday in the percussion section of the St. Mark's Orchestra.

Beyond this, Kathy has been the Spiritual Growth Coordinator officer of the UMW and helped to plan the retreat at Forest Park. She co-teaches the Foundations & Friendships Sunday School class. It has been a joy to know and work with her.

Donna Schwartz



Donna is a native Hoosier and a farm girl. In fact, she lived some of her early life on the property that is now Conner Prairie. She is a retired home economics teacher with 2 daughters. She is married to Jeff Keyt.

Donna is in her second year as our UWF Education & Interpretation Coordinator as well as Mission Coordinator for Social Action. She is helping educate our members by writing Social Action articles in the Update newsletter, promoting the Faith Talk podcast and the UWF website. She is passionate about Social Action and has planned mission field trips to Ascent 121 and to the Indiana United Methodist Children's Home in Lebanon.

Donna is an usher, leads a small group on Sunday nights, and is a member of the Wednesday AM Bible Study. She has been a member and chair of St. Mark's Mission Committee.

UWF INTEREST GROUPS- AM

BOOKWORMS: A book discussion group that reads both fiction and non-fiction. The books may or may not be related to Christianity, but we will often ask if the material points us toward redemption, reconciliation, and grace.

January 2023- **The Doctors Blackwell** by Janice Nemura

Please obtain your own copy

February 2023- The Alice Network by Kate Quinn

March 2023- The Stars are Fire by Anita Shreve

April 2023- The Dutch House by Ann Patchett

Facilitator: **Gail Lee** 317-650-5352.

COLOR & CHAT: Enjoy a relaxing time of adding beautiful colors to cards and bookmarks, as scriptures are studied and shared. This meaningful group provides support and encouragement to those participating. Color & Chat is adding some colorful touches to our Dec. ornament favors which will be given to each attendee for the December Gathering.

The group remains in Cornerstone Commons following the UWF Meeting.

Facilitators: **Deirdre Robinson & Cathy Brinkman**

CULTURAL INSIGHTS: Each month a different presenter will be sharing experiences from various locations or cultures. This group will be meeting in rooms G/H. This month Pat Parks and her daughter will discuss their experiences living in Germany.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH: This group will be studying **The Book of Joy** which is a collaboration between the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu. This summary is from the book's publisher: "In April of 2015, Archbishop Tutu traveled to the Dalai Lama's home in Dharamsala, India, to celebrate His Holiness's eightieth birthday and to create what they hoped would be a gift for others. They looked back on their long lives to answer a single burning question: How do we find joy in the face of life's inevitable suffering?" Books are being collected and ordered for this study and a syllabus of the monthly chapters for discussion will be coming soon. 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 2023- **Lessons in Chemistry** by Bonnie Garmus

February - Surprised by Joy by CS Lewis

March - Gum Moon by Jeffrey C. Staley (There is a copy in St Mark's library)

April- Talking to Strangers by Malcolm Gladwell

May- The Light Years by Elizabeth Jane Howard

Summer- Resistance Women by Jennifer Chiaverini.

Facilitator: **Debbie Skinner**

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

Spiritual Formation: "Spiritual Formation
Feel free to join our exploration of spiritual formation featuring a unique *visio divina* to help guide and focus prayer and share the wisdom of spiritual guide Henri Nouwen's writings. Following the book Spiritual Formation: Following the Movements of the Spirit, we will consider the sculpting work God is doing in your own life. Come, bring a

notepad or blank journal, no need to read the book, no homework. Spiritual formation is best done in a community of support. In our world of many words, sitting in silent reflection with an image may aid in the descent of your mind into the heart."

Facilitator: Michelle White.

Notice

The January and February 2023 UWF meetings will be held in the Narthex instead of the Cornerstone Commons. Gathering will have refreshments in the Coffee Area of the Main Entry Way. Meetings for both AM and PM Groups will be in the Chapel. Interest Groups will be in their own designated areas.

Donations for Ribbons of Hope

Heart Stickers and any Variety of Stickers
 Gift Bags any color (at least 8 1/2 by 10).
 Ribbon - variety of widths
 Tissue Paper - variety of colors.
 Yarn
 Packets of Oatmeal, Soups, Hot Chocolate, or Apple Cider
 Granola & Snack Bars Fruit and Multi Grain
 Healthy Snack Bars or Snack Cracker Packs
 Tea Bags
 Candy Treats- Hostess Cupcakes and Varieties of Snacks.
 Lip Balm Hand Cream Small Kleenex
 Packages Small Hand Sanitizer Bottles.
 Small Stuffed Animals
 Devotional Books Puzzle Books
 Encouragement & Thinking of You Cards
 Blank Cards *
 Basically anything and everything will be used and shared in the bags.

Thank you so very much for helping make this outreach possible. Items may be placed in the Ribbons of Hope clear plastic bin at the main church door entrance anytime. Also items may be brought to the monthly meetings and placed in the Ribbons of Hope bin on the registration table. So far 14 baskets have been delivered this fall.

United Women in Faith would like to wish a very happy birthday to all those who are celebrating this Jan and Feb.



Denise Broad & Mimi Stilwell	1/1
Mary Jane Bodnar	1/3
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
Karen Selzer	1/19
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
Jennifer Howell, Lori Roberts & Victoria Snyder	2/1
Barbie Schmenner	2/2
Becky Beckman, Joanne Herman & Beth Meador	2/4
Anne Flohr & Joan Holtzberg	2/5
Pam Bollier	2/7
Jackie Rowell	2/8
Ada Hoffmaster	2/9

Jennifer Fogo, Holly Moore,	
Amy Pritchard & Jane Roberts	2/13
Jenny Wilkins	2/14
Deb Ranek & Connie Tingley	2/15
Lindsey Carter, Karen Demler,	
Deb Forbes, Kris Gidley &	
Jody Hook	2/18
Debbie Skinner	2/20
Cathy Wilkinson	2/21
Judy Bonnet	2/22
Linda Duncan & Sharon Roach	2/24
Mary Gospel	2/25
Connie Southard	2/26
Rita Chreist	2/27
Lindsay Zippay	2/28

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 and Linda Schenk

January Theme from MNO

6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. **7** And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:6-7 New International Version

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>

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: Childcare Available

Childcare for children 5 and under will be available for the morning UWF monthly meetings, which are held on the second Tuesdays of the month beginning at 9 am, through April 2023. In December and May, there are only evening events. You will need to request childcare by the Thursday before the meeting by contacting Jackie Rowell at StMarkscarmel.org

Need a Ride to the Meetings?

If you would like a ride to and from either the morning or evening meeting, please contact the Membership/Nurture/Outreach chairs Ann Baker (812-480-6864 or ab39@evansville.edu) or Linda Schenk (812-454-0661 or lschenk@att.net). We'd love to have you join us.

Looking for a Good Woman

We are looking for a Fundraising Chair for the 2023 UWF board. Since our major fundraisers already have chair people in place, this creative person would just oversee fundraising and provide new ideas for possible future fundraising opportunities. If this sounds like something you would be interested in, please contact Holly Moore at [holly.e.moore693@gmail](mailto:holly.e.moore693@gmail.com)

Dessert Extravaganza



UWF will be sponsoring our dessert bake sale on Sunday 2/12. We will be selling our homemade baked goods between the church services.

Please package your items in smaller amounts and mark if the items contain nuts. Look for signups in January!

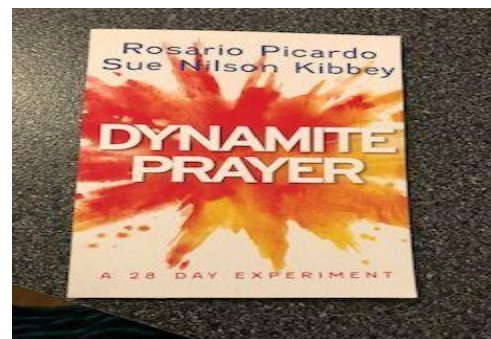
Be thinking of some sweet or treat that you would like to make. Please mark your calendars to start baking and be ready to bring your items to the church.

We will meet on Sat 2/11 from 10am to noon to price.

Lets make our sale a “Sweet” success!!!

New Church Wide Bible Study

Coming Soon. Keep an eye out for further details.



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, go to <https://uwfaith.org/resources/podcasts> and look for Faith Talks in the blue box.

Jan. 5, 2 pm Climate Justice & COP27

2023 United Women of Faith Calendar

Tues Jan 10th - UWF meeting 9 - 11 am & 7 -9 pm (Narthex)
Tues Feb 7th - UWF Board meeting 7 pm
Sat Feb 11th - Dessert Extravaganza setup 10- noon
Sun Feb 12th- Dessert Extravaganza Sale - after all services.
Tues Feb 14th- UWF meeting 9 - 11 am & 7 -9 pm (Narthe

2023 St Mark's UWF Board

President	Steff Mabe
Vice President of Interest Groups & Programming	Sonjia Clodfelder
Fundraising Coordinator	open
Recording Secretary	Trisha Stanearth
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	Donna Schwartz
Mission Coordinator/Membership Nurture & Outreach	Linda Schenk/ Ann Baker
Mission Coordinator/Social Action	Donna Schwartz
Secretary of Program Resources/Nat'l Reading Program	Kathy Lentz
Communication Chair	Becky Mills
Nominations Committee Chair	open
Historian/Photographer	Kathy Lentz / Barbie Schmenner
Newsletter Editor	Peggy-Anne Hoy
Hospitality Coordinator AM	Lucy Sheehan/ Louise Snyder
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	Kathi Hall / Miriam Taylor

