

Maumee River News & Views



United
Women
in Faith

Maumee River News & Views

September, 2025

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Message from the President

Happy Fall, everyone! I think fall is my favorite time of year, with the cooler air, all the colors and pumpkin-spiced everything! I'm glad to live "in the north" so I can experience all 4 seasons.

Our conference women's team just had our once-a-year in-person meeting. It's so good to be able to give hugs, which we can't do with zoom meetings. One of the District presidents who used to serve on the national UWF team, told us about a meeting with now retired General Secretary and CEO Harriet Jane Olson. Harriet asked the ladies there how they would answer why they were members of United Methodist Women if they were asked by a person getting into an elevator with them and they only had 3 minutes to respond. This got me thinking about the 54 years ago that I became a member. I would have to include that the purpose drew me in. I was seeking spiritual growth and a supportive community in the early years of my marriage and having moved to a new community where I didn't know anyone. I also loved reading, and the Reading Program provided a lot of opportunities to grow. But the main reason I have stuck with the organization, I would have to say, is the tireless group of women I have met and worked with. Our community just lost one of those very dedicated ladies. Her birthday was Nov. 14th. Thirty years ago, this Nov. 14th, my first granddaughter was born. I was on the agenda to do the UMW program that night for our local unit. That sweet lady stopped at the hospital on her way home from work, on her own birthday, to give congratulations and offer to do the program for me, that night. Teaching and leading were not in her list of "gifts" back then, but she saw a need and stepped in, and did a wonderful job,

(cont'd)



(cont'd from page 1) from what I heard. Of course, leadership training is a big part of the organization and in time she became one of the strongest leaders in our community. The fun and fellowship, working together at harvest bazaars and turkey dinners, serving funeral dinners for community members, and all the ways we do mission together would all be something I would not have wanted to miss. I urge you to:

Come—to the WOC UWF Annual Celebration

Come—to our MRD UWF Fall meeting

Come—to National Assembly in 2026

Come—to Mission u

Come and see all the things women can accomplish when they put their hearts and skills together.

Vicki

Websites and Social Media

**National United Women in Faith
Faith**

www.uwfaith.org

www.facebook.com/uwomenfaith/

Conference United Methodist Church

www.westohioumc.org

www.facebook.com/westohioumc

Conference United Women in Faith

www.westohiouwf.org

Maumee River District United Women in

www.westohiouwf.org/maumee-river

Mission u

www.facebook.com/WOCMISSIONU

United Women in Faith Resource Center

www.uwfaithresources.org

888.409.8137

Dates to Remember

October 11	West Ohio United Women in Faith Annual Conference; Worthington, OH, 10am-2pm
October 21	Expanding Connections Book Club
October 27	Ministry Mondays; Christmas Miracle with the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections
November 8	Maumee River District Fall Annual Day; Howard UMC, Findlay 10-2:30
November 18	Expanding Connections Book Club
December 16	Expanding Connections Book Club
May 15-17, 2026	Assembly 2026; Indianapolis, IN
June 12-14	Mission u; Bergamo Center, Dayton
July 8,15,22,29	Virtual Mission u; 7pm-9pm
July 9,16,23,29	Virtual Mission u; 10am - noon

**Maumee River District, United Women in Faith
2025 Fall Annual Day**

Speaker: Dr. Kirsten C. Kunkle

The leading Native American Soprano

Spiritual Unity - Equality in Christ

Saturday, November 8, 10am - 2:30 pm

Howard United Methodist Church

220 Cherry St., Findlay, OH

**Travel-size personal hygiene items will be collected
for the Howard Church outreach**

Name _____ Church _____

Address _____

Phone(s) _____ Email _____

Dietary Restrictions _____

Emergency Contact/Number _____

Cost \$15 per person

Make checks payable to: MRD UWF

Send registration & check to: Charlotte Kain, 15870 CR 8, Findlay, OH 45840.

charchgram8@gmail.com

419-721-9126, Due by November 3, 2025

KIRSTEN C. KUNKLE



Meet Dr. Kirsten C. Kunkle

The Leading Native American Soprano

About Kirsten

Dr. Kirsten C. Kunkle is making waves in the classical music world as today's leading Native American soprano! As a proud voting citizen of the Mvskoke Nation, she brings both exceptional talent and important cultural representation to the opera stage.

Critics and audiences alike have fallen in love with Kirsten's incredible voice, describing it as beautiful, ethereal, powerful, fiery, and absolutely bewitching. But she's not just an amazing singer – she's also recognized as an outstanding singing actress who truly brings her characters to life.

Her Musical Legacy

Kirsten is passionate about celebrating Native American culture through music. She has commissioned and premiered sixteen original compositions, including one she wrote herself, all based on the beautiful poetry of her ancestor Alex Posey – a highly acclaimed poet from the Muscogee Nation. Her work is so significant that her recordings are now part of the permanent collections at:

The Library of Congress

The National Museum of the American Indian at the Smithsonian Institution

The Merkel Area Museum in Merkel, Texas

Making Opera Accessible

As Co-Founder and Artistic Director of Wilmington Concert Opera, Kirsten is on a mission to bring opera to everyone! This grassroots, women and minority-led opera company in Wilmington, Delaware, reflects her commitment to making classical music more inclusive and accessible.



Reading Program

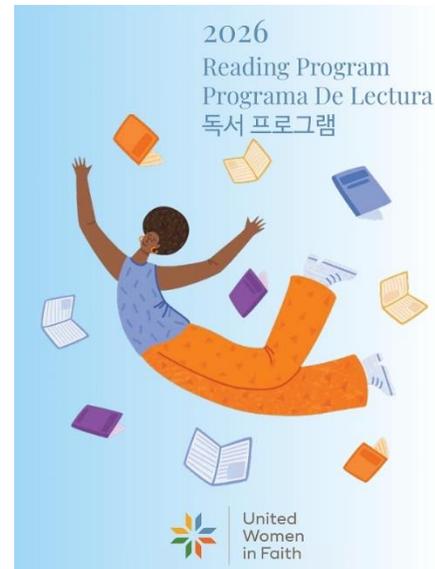
United Women in Faith

2026 Reading Program Released Today!

Dear United Women in Faith Members and Friends,

We are delighted to announce the release of the [2026 Reading Program](#)! It is available on the [Reading Program webpage](#) starting today.

The Reading Program is a beloved tradition with a powerful future. Through the Reading Program, members and friends of United Women in Faith read and grow together, engaging contemporary books on spiritual growth, social action, leadership development, nurturing for community, and education for mission. We are for readers (and listeners) of all ages, with titles available for adults, youth, and children. We have programs available in English, Korean, and Spanish.



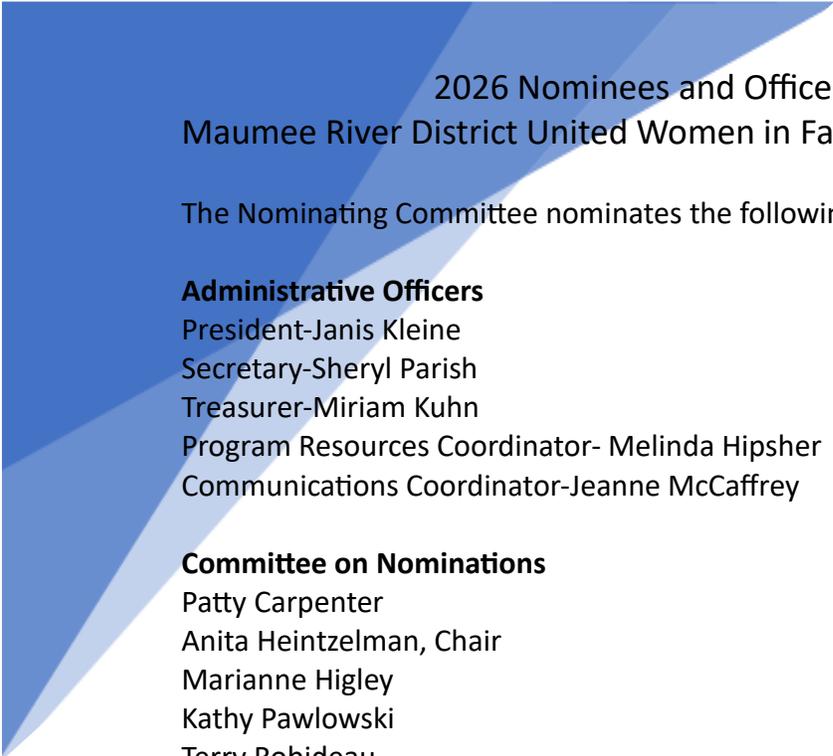
[Click Here to View and Download](#)

You can get the books wherever you'd like. You can borrow your books from the local library or purchase them from the bookseller of your choice. If you're looking for a centralized spot to buy Reading Program books while earning cash back for the organization, you can do so at bookshop.org/shop/uwfaith.

Finally, if you would like to stay in touch with the Reading Program throughout the year, including receiving invitations to author talks, book discussions, and volunteer opportunities, please join our email list [here](#).

Blessings,

Emily Jones



2026 Nominees and Officers for Maumee River District United Women in Faith

The Nominating Committee nominates the following women for 2026.

Administrative Officers

President-Janis Kleine
Secretary-Sheryl Parish
Treasurer-Miriam Kuhn
Program Resources Coordinator- Melinda Hipsher
Communications Coordinator-Jeanne McCaffrey

Committee on Nominations

Patty Carpenter
Anita Heintzelman, Chair
Marianne Higley
Kathy Pawlowski
Terry Robideau

Mission Coordinators

Membership, Nurture, & Outreach-Melinda Hipsher
Education & Interpretation-Cheryl Bolton
Social Action-Becky Ruple
Spiritual Growth-Kathy Pawlowski

The Committee on Nominations would also like to extend its appreciation to the following who have worked so diligently for Maumee River District but will no longer be serving in their prior positions in 2026.

Vicki Barnes-2024, 2025-MRD President
Charlotte Kain-2024, 2025-MRD Treasurer
Cheryl Bolton-2024, 2025-MRD Program Resources Coordinator
Lana Stearns-2024, 2025-MRD Committee on Nominations
Cheryl Geer-2024, 2025-MRD Membership, Nurture, & Outreach
Janis Kleine-2024, 2025-MRD Social Action

Respectfully submitted by the 2025 Committee on Nominations,
Patty Carpenter
Anita Heintzelman, chair
Marianne Higley
Kathy Pawlowski
Lana Stearns

Hello UWF Treasurers,

I believe Fall Season may finally be here. I am looking forward to the changing color of the tree foliage.

Just a couple reminders. Your last remittance for 2025 should be turned in by November 15th or earlier if possible.

Also pledge forms were sent to Presidents of each unit. The pledge for 2026 can be brought to our November Fall event or you may also email me at charchargram8@gmail.com.

Keep up the good work! I appreciate all you do and your kind words and support.

Charlotte Kain

Maumee River District UWF Treasurer



MISSION U NEWS

Remembering 2025 Mission u: All we learned, inspiring teachers, old friends we connected with, new friends, wonderful worship speakers and music, memory stole craft, ideas to share back home ... and more!

Attendance #s – (slightly less than 2024)

In-Person *75 adults, 9 youth and children, 19 commuters;

3 Martha Scholarships, 2 for CEU credit

Virtual *25 including folks from Iowa, Arkansas, New York, Virginia Pennsylvania, and Ohio

Offerings *Walk-for-Mission **\$2,920** for Wesley Dayton Community Center, Wesley Education Center Cincinnati, and Community for All People Columbus.

*Table Offering **\$950** for Mission u scholarships and

WOHUWF.

*Legacy Fund **\$1,000**

*Palestinian Relief **\$1,695**

2026 Mission u Save-the-dates: We are so excited for this next study, “Experiencing Emmanuel!” The committee is planning for wonderful activities, teachers, and speakers to inspire us to continue serving in God’s world. Scholarships are available.

The Youth and Children’s groups are in for some exciting activities, too.

There are plenty of rooms for more folks to attend!

In-Person June 12-14, 2026 (Friday-Sunday) Bergamo Educational Center, 4400 Shakertown Road, Dayton, OH 45430

Virtual Wednesdays, July 8, 15, 22, 29, 7-9 pm **or**

(Zoom) Thursdays, July 9, 16, 23, 29, 10 am-Noon

Registration begins April 1, so put these dates on your calendar or in your phone! Join us for an inspiring time! More info available: <https://www.westhiouwf.org/2026-mission-u>

SOCIAL ACTION

Looking for a way to show your concerns about our country’s current direction? Saturday, October 18, 2025, the NO KINGS march provides an opportunity to gather with others in many locations in Ohio, to demonstrate for Democracy. Check your county website or call their offices to find out about the locations and times. I found encouragement when I joined others to make a difference. If you can’t walk or stand for long, take a lawn chair and support that way. **Take action!**

Becky Ruple

A CALL TO SOCIAL ACTION

Just a reminder that our two main foci of social action for the 2025-2028 quadrennium are climate justice, also known as Just Energy 4 All, and mass incarceration, or Ending the School-to-Prison-Pipeline. But admittedly there is more going on around us that requires social action. For instance, regardless of how we feel about the immigration issue, I hope we can all agree on how all people should be treated.

And in case another reminder is needed, UWFaith's purpose includes the statement "to expand concepts of mission through participation in the *global* ministries of the Church. (Emphasis added.) May we all seek where we can make a difference, ask for guidance in our journey, and knock on doors to make a difference. May the force (Spirit) be with you!

Janis Kleine, District Social Action



Join Us in Building a Legacy of Love

I hope this message finds you blessed, thriving, and inspired by the power of our community and sisterhood. Today, I am reaching out to share an update on the Legacy Endowment Fund.

At United Women in Faith, we are dedicated to addressing the needs of vulnerable people, fostering equity, and advancing social good for women, children, and youth here at home and around the world.

Together, we bear witness to the Wesleyan tradition of living an active Christian life, blessing others with our service, and building the kin-dom—**we love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously**. That's what we do as Methodist women: United Women in Faith's mission is to connect and nurture women through Christian spiritual formation, leadership development, creative fellowship, and education.

One of the most impactful ways you can contribute to our mission of putting love in action is to join us by supporting the Legacy Endowment Fund, a permanently invested endowment, that will be an ongoing source of income, providing the assurance that our important work can always continue for generations to come. In 2014, United Women in Faith launched the Legacy Endowment Fund Campaign with a bold goal of raising \$60 million. The Legacy Endowment Fund is **now at \$50.4 million!**

We are excited and proud that we have come this far together. Without you, none of this would have been possible.

I believe that your gift is not just of monetary value; it's an investment in the next generation of bold, courageous women who will live their faith by showing up and taking action in service of love, justice, and mercy.

If you are able, please consider giving generously and joining us in building this legacy of love. Giving to the Legacy Endowment Fund will support United Women in Faith in perpetuity. To make your gift today, visit <https://uwfaith.org/legacy>

Thank you for your generosity and for your commitment to putting love first.

In Christ,
Janice Deal, Legacy Liaison



Let me introduce you to a very special place—my church, RiverPoint Ministries United Methodist Church. It's the friendliest, most diverse, and busiest congregation I've ever been blessed to be part of.

We're located on the northern edge of Ohio, right along the beautiful shores of Lake Erie. Although officially in Toledo, our neighborhood is known as Point Place—a boating and waterfront community that brushes right up against the Michigan border. Our area is a vibrant mix of people from every walk of life.

Our church shares its property with *Mustard Seed Outreach Ministry*, which serves the 43611 community. Mustard Seed provides food, clothing, and referrals to other local agencies. RiverPoint owns and maintains the building where Mustard Seed operates, and our congregation actively supports their mission. A grocery cart in our narthex is always ready for donations, which are regularly wheeled across the parking lot to help restock their shelves. We're not alone in this—other Point Place churches also contribute through ecumenical food drives.

In the past two years, RiverPoint has also launched its own food ministry, *Feed My Sheep*. Each month, members prepare about 130 hearty, microwavable freezer meals. These are delivered to Mustard Seed to bless families in need and are always received with gratitude.

Another beloved outreach is our *Monthly Drive-Through Community Dinner*. Volunteers come together to prepare a full meal, complete with dessert, for anyone who stops by—no questions asked. In just one hour, we often serve over 200 dinners! As cars pull up, Pastor Amy greets guests with a smile and offers prayer for those who'd like it.

During the school year, Wednesday nights are especially lively. We host Bible study classes for children, tweens, teens, and adults. Before class, a warm dinner is offered on a free-will donation basis—a highlight for many, not just for the delicious food but for the fellowship it brings.

Our women's ministries are thriving. The long-standing *Ruth Circle* meets during the day, focusing on mission work and supporting the Friendly Center. For those with busy schedules, *SALT*—Serving and Learning Together—meets in the evenings. SALT is hands-on with fundraisers and community events, including the ever-popular rummage sale.

Being near the water, we even have a new *Fishing Ministry*—just call, and you'll have a fishing buddy ready to go. Our men's ministry meets for breakfast every Sunday before worship, tackling everything from faith to the "world's problems" over coffee and eggs.

We may not be a large congregation, but our hearts are big, and our hands are ready to serve. If you ever find yourself up north, we'd love for you to stop in. You might just leave feeling like family.

MRD Leadership Team 2025

Administrative Officers

President Vicki Barnes <i>Farmhouse at Metamora</i>	17021 Co Rd 1 Berkey, OH 43504	vickilbarnes@aol.com	419-388-7795
Secretary Sheryl Parish <i>Houcktown</i>	15958 Co Rd 8 Findlay, OH 45840	separish55@gmail.com	419-889-5180
Treasurer Charlotte Kain <i>Houcktown</i>	15870 CR 8 Findlay, OH 45840	charchargram8@gmail.com	419-694-3822 H 419-721-9126 C
Program Resources Coord. Cheryl Bolton <i>Hayes Memorial Fremont</i>	1057 Shorewood Dr. Fremont, OH 43420	beloved.of.tim@gmail.com	419-307-3512
Communications Coord. Jeanne McCaffrey <i>St. Marks Findlay</i>	2005 Greendale Ave. Findlay, OH 45840	jcmccaffrey@woh.rr.com	419-306-1610

Committee on Nominations

Chair Anita Heintzelman <i>St. Marks Findlay</i>	2246 Saratoga Dr. Findlay, OH 45840	aheintz5@aol.com	419-423-6689 H 419-509-9331
Kathy Pawlowski <i>Home Church</i>	3673 School Rd. Temperance, MI 48182	pawlowski.kathy@gmail.com	419-514-5589
Lana Stearns <i>Howard</i>	10133 Rockport Rd. Bluffton, OH 45817	No email	419-359-0095 H 419-296-5375 C
Patty Carpenter <i>Whitehouse Hope</i>	10639 Babcock Dr. Whitehouse, OH 43571	patcarpenter52@yahoo.com	419-324-6001
Marianne Higley <i>Howard</i>	1021Sunset Dr. Findlay, OH 5840	hcheesy1021@aol.com	419-581-0678

Mission Coordinators

Membrshp, Nurtur & Outreach Cheryl Geer <i>Farmhouse at Metamora</i>	216 Shawnee Dr. Metamora, OH 43540	cbeckergeer@gmail.com	419-346-7969
Educ. & Interpretation Cheryl Bolton <i>Hayes Memorial Fremont</i>	1057 Shorewood Dr. Fremont, OH 43420	beloved.of.tim@gmail.com	419-307-3512
Social Action Janis Kleine <i>Cloverdale</i>	8113 Linwood Dr. Bowling Green, OH 43402	Jkleine1976@hotmail.com	419-308-3935
Spiritual Growth Cheryl Bolton <i>Hayes Memorial Fremont</i>	1057 Shorewood Dr. Fremont, OH 43420	beloved.of.tim@gmail.com	419-307-3512

Resident WOC Officers

Marsha Klingbeil <i>Toledo Salem</i>	935 Cloverdale Rd. Toledo, OH 43612	UWFMarsha419@gmail.com	419-367-4867
Terry Robideau Swanton Trinity	1200 Wildflower Dr. Metamora, OH 43540	tlr909@yahoo.com	419-343-2120
Becky Ruple Swanton Trinity	408 Adrian St. Delta, OH 43515	rlruple@hotmail.com	937-237-7468

Maumee River District
United Women in Faith
Shepherdess List 2025

Vicki Barnes

Arcadia
Defiance St. Paul
Edgerton

Sheryl Parish

Continental
Continental Christ
Millbury St. Paul

Charlotte Kain

Findlay Houcktown
Upper Sandusky Salem

Cheryl Bolton

Hayes Memorial-Fremont

Jeanne McCaffrey

Ottawa Trinity

Anita Heintzelman

Findlay St. Marks
Findlay St. Andrew's

Kathy Pawlowski

Church of St. Andrew
Toledo Riverpoint

Lana Stearns

Howard UMC

Patty Carpenter

Whitehouse Hope

Marianne Higley

Findlay Zion
Forest

Cheryl Geer

Metamora-The Farmhouse
Bowling Green Trinity

Janis Kleine

Aldersgate
Cloverdale
Weston

Marsha Klingbiel

Clark Street
Toledo Salem

Terry Robideau

Colton
Liberty Center
Maumee
Unity-Northwood

Becky Ruple

Bryan Wesley
Hicksville Grace
Swanton Trinity