



# United Women in Faith

MAY 2023

## **Greetings Sisters**

I greet you in the name of our heavenly father who passes out blessing after blessing. He knows our hearts and minds so we must be accountable for all our actions, whether timely or untimely.

**About me** - This has been a Spring of Springs for me. Many of you knew that I was in an air cast since the beginning of March. I am now out of the cast, going on two weeks and doing well. It tells me when to sit down and put my feet up. Learning to walk at a normal gait is interesting and who knew how much your little toe has to do with your balance after a Jones fracture? I am now in therapy for my right shoulder, not the one I had surgery on. Arthritis in the right one has really limited my normal way of life. However, I am rebounding and can now comb my hair and reach up in the kitchen cabinets.

My church is also involved in the Thriving Churches Study with Dr. Angela Cowser that has kept me busy with countless meetings. However, I have learned the most about Mental Health and its importance in our daily lives, home, school, church and community. Our church's research is bringing us to action on affordable housing issues, homelessness, education and mental health and the effect poverty has on these issues.

## CANAL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

**Outside our Walls** - Now, we must go outside the walls of our churches and be a vital force working with the community. Our area is Sherbondy Hill in West Akron and includes an elementary school. I'm positive many of you are involved with youth in your church. However, we must remember to go outside the hallowed walls of our church and be leaders and mentors for them. They are living in times that are very different from when most of us came up.

**Spring District Meeting** - First I give immeasurable thanks to our host unit, the sisters of Cuyahoga Falls First UMC. The Unit, led by President, Sue Boltz, provided everything that we needed, planned or unplanned. They didn't miss a step and breakfast was a feast! Next, I would like to thank all of you who graced our Spring District Meeting with your presence, support and prayers to a wonderful hosting committee.

**Flat Rock Homes** - Our speaker, Rose Darling, from Flat Rock, was outstanding and really opened the eyes of some of us to what awaits us as we age. Thanks for your liberal gifts, you gave so generously.

**Our Holy Communion Service** was a very unique one and we thank you Pastor. Holy Communion is so important and was indeed so meaningfully done. He sent us on way with a blessed benediction.

**Surveys** - I have not seen the surveys but I am sure that you gave kudos to our wonderful host/hostesses.

**Fall Gathering** - Your survey will help us plan for our next district event, Fall Gathering which will be hosted by our UWF Unit of Hudson UMC led by Cheryl Gamble. Your surveys are welcomed and help us with planning for our next gathering. What can we do differently? What can we add?

**Technology** was indeed our friend at Spring Gathering and handled so well by Pastor's Son, with expertise. We thank those of you that joined us on social media. Technology is wonderful when it works, and it was, as far as I know, our friend on April 15, 2023.

**Music** - You have probably heard me say, there's nothing more beautiful than the sound of women singing. I thank you for following the lead of our wonderful musician. Though some of the songs may have been very unfamiliar; you still lifted your voices in song. Please do learn our UWF Song, sung to the tune of *Oh, Susanna*.

**Mission u** - Elizabeth Feldman urges us to make this year's event more participatory and sponsor or bring children and youth. I was introduced to this event when it was the School of Missions. My grandmother lived for this event, which was held at Bennett College, one of our schools. I will honor her this year with a special gift because she was my mentor to being involved in mission work. Please join us this year. The information and registration form are attached.

**East Ohio Redistricting Proposal** - Bishop Malone and her cabinet invite clergy and laity to join them in this informational webinar on May 22, 2023, from 6:30pm to 8:30pm. Participants are urged to send their questions, in advance, to Rev. Ed Peterson, Executive Assistant to the bishop. You may find more information on the conference website. The proposal will be presented at Annual Conference this year. As Lay Delegate from my church, I'm sure I will see many of you at the Knight Center.

#### **PUSHOUT Act of 2023 - (HR2690)**

- Strengthens civil rights monitoring.
- Establishes a task force to address school pushout, with particular attention to the needs of girls of color.
- Allocates funds for Healing School Climate.
- Grants to encourage disciplinary policies and practices that do not push children of color out of the classroom.

#### **What can you do?**

Join United Women of Faith members and friends in urging congress to pass the *Ending PUSHOUT Act of 2023*. You can research this act on the web and be an active Woman United in Faith and in urging your congress representatives to vote to pass the Ending PUSHOUT Act of 2023.

**Unit Census**- Please get these done. Everybody counts.

**Leadership Meeting**- Coming up in June on Zoom!

**uwfaith.org is your friend.  
Visit it regularly!**



United  
Women  
in Faith

CANAL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

MAY 2023

### Lighthouse Churches/Oasis Groups -

This new ministry initiative is a challenging one but being accepted by ministry and laity. It is so named because it is to help us as we go through our changing church



and to support those who may find themselves facing disaffiliation or church closings. What we can do together is, perhaps more than we can do as singular groups. You can also find out about this initiative on the conference website. This ministry has two unique logos. However, I just used the lighthouse symbol because we all know the importance of a lighthouse and why we need to go to an oasis.

**Dual Thanks** – Oceans of thanks to Michele Accord for her QUAD -Program Resources /Education Interpretation UWF Reading Program/Unit Awards and Cindy Mykrantz, our great treasurer.

**New website/email site** coming in July. However, I need some names to add to our team. Won't you step out and up and fill the empty void? Our team is a good mix of talented women who have a passion for our 'Faith in Action' mission statement. With all the positions filled, the work will be light for all. Currently team meetings are held on Zoom, so travel time is perfect! Someone who could update the website would be an amazing addition.

### Words from our National UWF

**President, Ainise Isama'u** –

“The future for United Women in Faith is promising and hopeful. We have been given a legacy from our foremothers that is ours to steward and care for. A legacy that has left countless lasting fingerprints on the lives touched and whose combined impact has been huge. Those strong, bold women who went before us are so very like the women all around us, right here and right now. They are the mentors that I look up to and so many other young women look to emulate. “UWF members have been influencers from day one, and day 56,210 (that’s 154 years) will be no different. We change as times change, using new approaches and different tools. Social media is a tool for today, and we will seek to influence, share our stories, and reach others through these platforms. Newer members and younger women see our current members standing up for justice, reaching out in new and sometimes unfamiliar ways to make a difference, and stretching themselves to honor and continue the legacy. These are characteristics of UWF since the beginning, and they are our characteristics for the future. Continue to be bold, continue to stretch, and continue to innovate and influence. For the future is bright and the future is now.” Taken from *response* magazine.

**Blessings to All!**

*Mary Lane*