



LOOKING BACK AT 2024

In looking back one last time on 2024, we can say it was a **GREAT** year for United Women in Faith as we donated ...

over \$60K in cash and in kind donations

to women, children and youth helping many organizations in the process! Thanks to all of you for your unfailing support and help in making that possible!

A Message from the Presidents

Ginny Kindberg (gkindberg831@gmail.com) and
Marcellene Shockey (mshock58048@gmail.com)

"The heart of a person plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps."

Proverbs 16:9

Dear Friends,

As we look forward to a new year, many people like to set resolutions in place with the hopes that they might transform themselves. I must admit I don't make resolutions, but I do like to set my mind to focusing on God's plan for my life and so I offer up some good ideas that we as Christian women might try to follow for our own good and the good of all of us here at Church of the Saviour and I wanted to share with you:

Seek God First: Prioritize your goals in alignment with your faith, seeking God's guidance in prayer (Matthew 6:33). Try setting a goal to read your Bible 20 minutes a day.

Simply Ask God: Approach your goal setting with a spirit of prayer, asking God for wisdom and guidance (Matthew 7:7-8). Try setting aside 15 minutes each day to pray and talk to our heavenly Father.

Trust in the Lord: Acknowledge your dependence on God, trusting His plans over your own (Proverbs 3:5-6). Try saying Yes when asked to volunteer! God may have something special in mind for you and your journey!

Be Diligent About Your Plans: While trusting in God, also be diligent in working towards your goals (Proverbs 21:5). Try inviting a friend to church and following God's great commission!!

Transform and Renew Your Mind: Allow God's Word to shape your thoughts and attitudes, contributing to a positive mindset in pursuit of your goals (Romans 12:2). Be open and attuned to God's voice guiding your way!

Think Positive Thoughts: Cultivate positive thoughts and gratitude, as encouraged in Philippians 4:8, to maintain a healthy and optimistic perspective on your journey. Be a positive force in our church and to your family and friends!

So what is ahead as for 2025? UWF will continue to concentrate on strategic goals that include

1. focusing for stronger impact within the church,
2. trying to engage younger generations, and
3. communicating more effectively who we are and what we do. (Having Jannelle Moore as our Communication Coordinator this past year has been a great success especially when combined with Emily Stapleton who handles Communications for the church!) We have made our presence known to the church and we intend over this coming year to make an even bigger impact! I hope that includes you!

Looking Ahead to 2025, here is a preview of what's ahead for the new year:

- **Monday, January 20**, join the Church of the Saviour Justice Ministry Team for the 2025 MLK March and Program Celebrating the **50th** year! The Theme is **Jubilee for MLK's Beloved Community**. It starts at the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center (10:30 am) and will be amazing! Don't miss it!
- **February 9**, Project 5000 kicks off. Food bags distributed February 9 and 16, filled bags collected February 23!
- Be on the look out for more information about how to help with meals at the **Interfaith Hospitality Network Found House**. It is an amazing program and well worth your time!

To get involved with any of UWF committees, small groups, or projects contact Leah Hondorf, Marcellene Shockey, or myself!! Also read this newsletter to find out more details of what is coming this month.

Wishing you and your family health and blessing this coming new year!

Ginny Kindberg, Co-President

The next UWF Board meeting is on Monday January 6 (10-noon) on Zoom! All are welcome to attend. If you have any questions or need the Zoom link, please contact Ginny Kindberg (513-225-5123).

This month's meetings

Last Month's Activities



SMALL GROUP MEETINGS FOR JANUARY

Everyone is welcome at any of our monthly gatherings. Contact the leader to be sure you have all the details.

First MONDAY or TUESDAY: Susanna Wesley Women in Mission Leader: Mary Jane Sper (513-476-7250/ mjsper@gmail.com)

Tuesday, January 7 (7:00 pm): In January we meet at the home of Nora Moushey (8609 Twilight Tear Lane 45249). We will cook and assemble lasagna and cookies for State Ave UMC; also, Valentine bags and Easter cookies for Cooper's Trace Nursing and Rehab Center will be put together. If you have questions, contact Nora Moushey (513-307-5942). Visit the following link to sign up to bring items needed for the meeting: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4EAEA72AA2FBCF8-53649832-susanna>

TUESDAY: 3rd Tuesday Morning Hannah Group Leaders: Euphazine Reid-Kendall (678-857-8362)

Tuesday, January 25 (10:00 am-12:00 noon): Hannah Group will volunteer at Crayons to Computers (1350 Tennessee Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio 45229). The organization helps teachers acquire school supplies, incentive items, hygiene products, and healthy snacks for students in need. Students are from preschool to grade 12. Warm gloves, hats, and scarves are appreciated. Come and join us!!

TUESDAY: Esther Laird Friendship Group (3rd Tuesday of each month—1:00 pm) Leaders: Britt Raymond (brittie.raymond@gmail.com/513-375-4403) and Leah Hondorf (lhondorf@yahoo.com/ 513-304-5224)

Tuesday, January 21 (1:00 pm): The group meets at Twin Lakes for a memorial service when we'll take time to remember the ladies we lost this past year. We will also share a new year's resolution. Join us!

WEDNESDAY: Lydia Needlecrafters (1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month) 5:30 pm in the church parlor Leader: Pam Senefeld (513-314-5042)

Wednesday, January 8 and 22 (5:30 pm) due to New Year's Day on Wednesday: In 2024, our group gave away 26 scarves, 30 baby blankets, 66 baby hats to individual families, Jack's Closet, and to Matthew 25 Ministries for their Appalachia ministry. We distributed 139 prayer shawls to church members and families! To request a prayer shawl contact Pam Senefeld, Bonnie Nesbitt (513-349-8448) or Carrie Feldmeyer in the church office (513-270-3507). Come and join us if you want to have fun!



Hannah group decorated "Gifts from the Heart" goodie bags in December.



The Moms & Kids group made gingerbread houses in December.

NOTE: Upload photos of your small group gatherings to the UWF google drive for the UWF newsletter and email photos directly to Emily Stapleton (emily.stapleton@cos-umc.org) for posting on COS Facebook.

UWF Bible Study (1st & 3rd Wednesdays—7:00 pm) on Zoom Contact person: Jennifer Ehlers (mehlers4@aol.com)

Wednesday, January 8 (7:00 pm): The group will complete "Light from Afar." A new study will start on January 22. Then 1st & 3rd Wednesdays will start in February. Contact Jennifer Ehlers for more information on the new study.

SATURDAY: Moms & Kids Small Group Leader: Kristine Kahl (Kristine.f.guevara@sbcglobal.net)

Saturday, January 25 (1:00-3:00 pm): Join us as we serve at New Life Furniture Bank (11335 Reed Hartman Hwy Unit 134) to assemble linen kits and kitchenware boxes. RSVP at <https://tinyurl.com/3ct9tr63>.

Gifts from
the Heart



THANK YOU

to everyone at Church of the Saviour! The UWF "Gifts from the Heart" 31st Anniversary

Christmas mission project was a huge success! We were the hands and feet of Jesus by providing ...

- 450 Christmas gifts,
- 325 stocking stuffer bags,
- 40 backpacks, and
- **monetary donations to families in need at 7 local organizations as well as our Montgomery Nursery School and the church community!**

We would like to thank everyone who helped make this mission project a success, including those who: punched out the angels, labeled and attached string to the angels, decorated the stocking stuffer bags, set up the trees, set up our tables, worked the tables between the services, purchased and wrapped gifts, filled the stocking stuffer bags, sorted the gifts after the Vesper worship service on 12/8, and finally those who delivered gifts to children. "Gifts From the Heart" is truly a whole church mission project and we look forward to continuing this project for many years to come.

A special thanks to Jen Woeste who has taken over leadership of the "Gifts from the Heart" program this year.

"Gifts from the Heart" specifically recognizes Donna Steinmetz, whose leadership of this mission project over the years has been instrumental to its growth and success. She will be sorely missed as she moves into the next chapter of her life in North Carolina.



The Children's Closet



The Children's Closet Collects Donations for New Life Furniture Bank in January

Our Children's Closet, located in the colorful cabinet across the hall from the church office, is currently collecting **new or gently used towels, bedding (sheets, blankets, comforters), and kitchenware (dishes, utensils, pots and pans)** for the New Life Furniture Bank (nlfurniture.org).

New Life accepts gently used furniture and household items and uses them to set up new households for families overcoming homelessness, abuse, and poverty throughout Greater Cincinnati. New Life was founded in 2006 by volunteers from the Milford First United Methodist Church in partnership with Interfaith Hospitality Network.

Your donations will directly benefit children and families in the local area! Contact Regan Murray Mitchell, Children's Closet Coordinator (513-335-0407 or reganmurray@hotmail.com), with questions or to arrange a pickup of items you wish to donate.



We're a **sisterhood** acting in **faith** to tackle the **hard work** of the **world** without hesitation.

United Women in Faith Social Justice

from Pam Senefeld (513-314-5042), Social Justice Coordinator

The UWF Wednesday Bible Study is in the midst of an Advent daily devotional called *Light from Afar* ending January 8. Each of the four weeks is written by someone from another continent.

The third week is written by Nadiyka Gerbish from Ukraine. The title for the week was "JOY." Wow! JOY in war torn Ukraine—after almost two years of devastation? Nadiyka's words are heartfelt and true despite the country's strife. She says, "When you remain actively sensitive to the vulnerable around you—the weak, the weary, the depressed, the wounded,—you have no inner resources for hatred." Ukrainian soldiers often say, "We are not fighting because of hate for our enemies but out of love for our families, our homes, and our land."

Hatred might be a mighty fuel, but it runs out soon. Love is the fuel that remains, multiplies, overflows, and roots us in eternity. She offers this prayer, "Vulnerable God, we stand before you, just as we are, known and loved by you. We trust you with the outcome of circumstances beyond our control. Amen." Let us embrace the JOY she feels and share our love by praying for the Ukrainians and all living in situations beyond their control here and abroad in the new year.

"Reading Rainbow" Program at Wesley Chapel Mission Center

Wesley Chapel Mission Center (WCMC—76 East McMiken Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45202) is one of the two Church of the Saviour mission partners selected in 2018 by the Servant Leadership Board.

Reading Rainbow Program— The idea for this reading program stems from the great need the children have in all academic areas. On Monday volunteers will go together via carpool from the Church of the Saviour parking lot or on your own, for a 3:00-5:00 pm program period. It is possible to attend weekly or as your schedule permits. We will work with the children in grades 3-6 and concentrate on reading skills. Library books are available at the Center. We'll also help with homework.

Volunteer— If you are interested, contact Pam Senefeld (maxmuir1@aol.com or 513-314-5042). We are so blessed to be able to read and it is time to pass on this blessing to those less fortunate. Please consider volunteering as we become the hands and feet of Christ.

"We are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."
Ephesians 2:10 (NIV)

Scenes from
UWF Christmas
Dinner

Leah Hondorf received the "Special Mission Recognition" for 2024. This award honors someone who goes above and beyond in mission work.



The evening ended with entertainment by the Noteables, a quartet from the Sweet Adelines International Region 4.



United Women in Faith

Many thanks and our deepest gratitude to all who supported our UWF fundraisers and missions in 2024. We donated over \$60K in cash & in-kind donations to global and local missions!

Together we generously touched the lives of many . . .



Project 5000

2.4 Tons of Food plus \$3,500 in Cash Donations to Six Local Pantries



Gifts From The Heart

450 Gifts, 325 Stockings and 40 Backpacks Donated to Local Children



Rummage Sale

Over \$8,000 in Cash and In-Kind Donations to Local Missions



Silent Auction

Over \$5,000 in Sales Donated to Wesley Chapel Mission Center



Holiday Pie Sale

\$1,200 in Holiday Pie Sales Donated to Local Missions

Hannah Group

Meals, Clothing, Shoes, Coats, and Housewares

Lydia Needlecrafters

163 Prayer Shawls
795 Prayer Squares
132 Scarves, Pillowcases, Baby Blankets, and Hats

Susanna Wesley Women in Mission

Christmas Cards with Cash, Easter Baskets, Birthday Boxes, Valentine Gift Bags, Baby Blankets, Meal for State Ave UMC, and Laundry Detergent to NEEDS

Mom & Kids

Clothing, Gift Bags for Local Police and Fire Departments, Bake Sale, GFTH Bags, and Snack Bags for WCMC

Cash Books

Kroger Rewards

Member Pledges

Over \$6,000 Raised and Donated to Local and Global Missions

Children's Closet

Clothing, Shoes, Diapers, and School Supplies

Montgomery Nursery School

Clothing and Gifts

Boy Scouts

Packing, Moving, and Loading Donations for Rummage Sale

COS Youth

Unloading/Loading Food, Packing Personal Care Kits & Decorating & Assembling Stockings, Sorting Gifts

Wesley Chapel Mission Center **Wesley Education Center** Wesley Foundation **York Street UMC** State Ave UMC
New Vision UMC Mt. Washington UMC **Foot Care for the Souls** New Life Furniture **Dress for Success**
 UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) **Cincinnati Children's Hospital**
 Servants in Fellowship/Raising Hope Ministries (Haiti) **Goodwill** Princeton Closet **Operation Give Back**
 Jack's Closet **COS Youth Mission** Bethany House Services **Cooper's Trace Nursing and Rehab Center**
 Life Enriching Communities **Anti-Human Trafficking Program** First Step Home
NEEDS (NorthEast Emergency Distribution Center)
 Church of the Saviour Families and Friends