

Greetings to each of our women's ministry leaders!



It is so hard to believe that we are at the end of 2023 and about to enter 2024. I'm sure many of you can relate. For over a month, the thought of holiness has hung out in my thoughts. I find the verses where God calls us to be holy, because He is holy, intimidating, mysterious, and fascinating. I have found ten verses that clearly command us to be holy. First, I know that I can never be holy on my own- thus it is intimidating. Secondly, I do not know how to be holy on my own, nor do I understand holiness- mysterious. And finally, it blows my mind that the Lord Almighty, the Creator, the High and Holy One would have a desire for us mere humans to be holy with Him- fascinating. And, yet, there is still another word that is left hanging- application. How do I apply holiness to my life? I need to begin with my belief- do I believe that I can be holy? Not on my own, of course, but through the power of the resurrected Lord. Not on my own efforts, but by fully surrendering to the lordship of Jesus Christ. When I allow the belief that He can make me holy form and grow in my mind and heart, I do believe that the Lord will grow holiness in me. He can make me holy; He can cause His command to become real in me. Be holy. It is an overwhelming command unless you can simply rest in Him and allow Him to be holy through you. As we enter a new year, my prayer for each of you is that holiness will grow within you personally, and within every ministry that you are involved with. May His Kingdom come through each of you.

I cannot explain how grateful I am for each member of the Regional Women's Board who serves with me. Each of them brings a special gift and perspective to the table, and God has brought us together for such a time as this. I would like each of you to "meet" the other ladies, who are supporting and encouraging you from behind the scenes. Here is a bit about each one:

**Hi! My name is Christy Butorac.** I'm a member of Lima First Missionary Church. I've been a member of the Women's Regional Ministry Committee for over a year representing the office of prayer. I am very honored to serve our Region and look forward to praying and watching God move in our families for His glory and our good.

**Janine Cooper:** I joined the committee in 2023 and my key ministry area is Build (encouraging continued growth in faith and relationship with Christ). I have three adult children and five grandchildren who all attend True Life Community Church in Troy. I am actively involved in my church and community. I am a retired local government fiscal officer and reside in West Milton.

**Hi, I am Jennifer Artz.** I have been following the Lord for over 30 years. I have seen God's hand in my life since before I was born. I have been married to Keith for 30 years and we have 2 young men we have raised together. We also added a daughter-in-law this past year. Our family's main ministry is Ludlow Falls camp. I attend Pleasant View Missionary church in Greenville. My position on the board is Camp Events and temporarily, secretary.

**Sue Dukes:** I retired from the Air Force 2-years ago and since then have embraced the role of Pastor's wife. I enjoy being involved at both the local church and ECR level. I have a heart for missions and a passion for quilt ministries. I am a member of the ECR Regional Board and attend Rona Community Church in Fairborn. I serve in the mission role on the women's committee.

**Donna Kephart:** I bring a wide range of experience to the MCECR Women's Ministry Team. Over the past 30+ years, I have served in local church women's ministry as a pastor's wife, as past leadership coordinator with the MCUSA denominational women's ministry team, and for the past decade as the regional women's ministry director, as well as serving on multiple short term mission trips. My present role on the regional team is leadership coordinator and pastors' wives' liaison.

**Josie Hicks:** I attend Stonebridge Community Church in Piqua. I have been the treasurer of women's ministries for about 10 years. I am married to my husband Brandon and we have 2 growing young ladies. We like to play board games and socialize!

Following are our Regional Events for 2024:

**Oasis-** Our spring outreach event will again be held at Pleasant View Missionary Church. The date is Saturday, April 6. There will be vendors, breakout sessions, and lunch. Brittany Ulman will be our speaker for that day. You can read her bio on the enclosed flyer.

**G.R.O.W.-** This one-day retreat will again be held at Grace Missionary Church in Celina. The date is set for October 5<sup>th</sup>. We do not yet have a

speaker lined up but we will send that information to you as we get it set.

**Camp 2024-** Family Camp Meeting is July 20-27 in 2024, and this will be our 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration! Camp is a fun, regional event that we encourage you to join. The women's ministry will host a Missions Day on Thursday, the 25<sup>th</sup>, in the afternoon. We will have a panel of missionaries who will share with us what God is doing through them.

In the coming year, my hope is to get to know more of you personally and begin to meet with you individually. Until then, may you each continue to serve the Lord faithfully, seeking His holiness.

Love in Christ,  
**Betsy Berger**  
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