



United  
Women  
in Faith

# INSIGHT

Northern Illinois Conference

October 2023

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### October

06 --- PN District Planning Meeting

[10 --- UWFaith NIC Graduate Scholarship](#)

[Deadline](#)

16 --- LS District Leadership Team

[28 --- NIC Conference Annual Celebration](#)

[28 --- NIC Annual Celebration - Leadership  
Training District Leaders](#)

30 --- PS District Leadership Team

### November

05 --- KUMW Annual Celebration

[07 --- NIC Conference Leadership Team](#)

13 --- PC District Leadership Team

### December

08 --- PN District Leadership Team

10 --- KUMW Leadership Team

11 --- LS District Leadership Team

[View Google Calendar](#)

## **UWFaith NIC has a new website and email**

Please start using our new website and email address.  
Please use this information in all correspondence.

[uwfaithnic.org](http://uwfaithnic.org)

[uwfaithnic@gmail.com](mailto:uwfaithnic@gmail.com)

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New mailing address for the United Women in Faith National office:

United Women in Faith  
Church Center for the United Nations  
777 United Nations Plaza - 11th Floor  
New York, NY 10017

## President's Word

The letter "C" has been swirling in my head this week.....

- COME to the October 28th Annual Celebration in
- CARY, IL, at Cary UMC, 500 N First St, via
- CARPOOLING, which is strongly urged **and** it's "green", so
- CONTACT your local Unit members and be in
- COMMUNITY, along with District officers, as ALL travel to



- CELEBRATE 2023 and look forward to 2024, gathering in person and via streaming!
- COUNT to 50: This is the 50th Annual Meeting, counting from and including the 1974 meeting with Frances Alguire as president (page 31 in the 2023 Yearbook)
- CHANGE – Embrace it, even if you didn't want it! Changes can be good and accepting change is much easier with a positive attitude that acknowledges *all* our blessings.

On to the letter "D".....DISTRICT OFFICERS – PLEASE NOTE:

Your attendance on Saturday October 28th in Cary is **especially important!** After the meeting and elections and lunch, conference officers will conduct **TRAINING** for their District counterparts – for ALL those *currently* serving at the District level **and** those recently elected in September for a role that will begin January 1, 2024.

Focus group options will be available for non-officers during the same post-lunch hour. Alternatively, non-officer members are encouraged to attend any session in which they have an interest / curiosity! Contact Peggy Hansen [prhisu71@att.net](mailto:prhisu71@att.net) or myself if you have questions.

Jumping to "G" for GRANT - **please "spread the word"!! More INFO below!** The deadline for applications is October 10th; there are none to date!

Back to "C" for **CONNECT**: Let us ALL strive to stay Connected. We adapted to pandemic-mode, Changing many patterns; now we must get back into Communities with Common goals, including active / reactivated membership in our wonderful United Women in Faith! Personal Contact is KEY, especially as we re-group post-pandemic. Help each other with modern devices and tools to enhance Connections. **As we grow our legacy, let us Continue to Inspire / Influence / Impact!!**

"C" "U" October 28th! Keep "telling our story"!!

Marilyn Steenwyk, President, UWFaith NIC  
[MS2223.umwnic@gmail.com](mailto:MS2223.umwnic@gmail.com)

## Annual Celebration



United Women in Faith Northern Illinois Conference  
 Annual Celebration  
**Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup>**

**"Embrace Change: Even if You Didn't Want it!"**

Use your Yearbook to start calling other local members to fill your carpool.



It's time to register for this year's meeting! You can register easily on-line at [Cheddar Up](#) or you can print the [registration form](#) and mail it in.

Registration is open now until October 21<sup>st</sup>  
**Register now!**

The schedule for the day:

8:30 a.m. - Registration and fellowship  
9:00 a.m. - Gathering music and meeting

The documents for the business meeting are:

[2022 Annual Celebration Minutes](#)  
[2024 Nominations report](#)  
[2024 Nominees for National Board of Directors](#)  
[2024 Proposed budget](#)

Lunch will be served between meeting and leadership training.  
Three focus groups will be offered for attendees not participating in leadership training.  
Childcare being provided at no cost, just bring snacks and sack lunch for each child.



Kids Above All continues to collect pliable plastic for another bench. Plastic can be brought to our annual celebration October 28th at Cary UMC. See the [flyer!](#)

## Leadership Roster Reports for 2024

**District secretaries** with the help of their **district nominations chairperson** should submit the new form [2024 DISTRICT Leadership Roster Report](#) by **October 1st** to conference secretary Lois Voss, since all the district annual celebrations will be completed by that time. Then after the district annual celebration minutes are approved by the leadership teams, please send Lois a copy by **November 1st**.

**Local secretaries** will receive the new form [2024 LOCAL Leadership Roster Report](#) from their district secretary to complete and return to her by **November 1st**. The minimum should be the local president or contact person for the unit. Other names can be added as they are known. We also ask for: Pastor, Church: name, address, city, state, zip code. We would like to know your unit info: meeting time; members in 2023.

**District secretaries** will compile the list of local unit leadership to return to Lois by **December 1st**. All this information from all our unit levels will then be compiled into the conference yearbook & directory 2024.

The form [2024 Leadership Roster Report Template](#) will also be a link on the [UWFaithnic.org](http://UWFaithnic.org) website, if you need another to download.

Thank you for your support in completing these tasks.

Lois Voss

[loiskvoss@gmail.com](mailto:loiskvoss@gmail.com)

847-409-6013

UWFaith NIC Secretary

## Graduate Scholarship

# UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH NORTHERN ILLINOIS CONFERENCE GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP



## UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH NORTHERN ILLINOIS CONFERENCE GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP



[Apply here](#)

This scholarship is for a woman pursuing a related vocation within the church, whether it is in parish ministry, as a deaconess, in Christian Education or in a related field.

The following is a brief list of requirements for the applicant:

1. The applicant must be accepted by an accredited Graduate School.
2. The applicant must reside within Northern Illinois Conference.
3. The applicant must demonstrate a financial need for assistance.
4. The determination rests with the United Women in Faith Scholarship Committee.
5. The applicant must supply a copy of their Student Transcript with the application.

Please return the completed application by October 10, 2023 for consideration to:

Barrington United Methodist Church  
Attn: Janeen Hamack, Treasurer ~ UWFaith - NIC  
98 Algonquin Rd.  
Barrington, IL 60010

If you have any questions, please contact Janeen at (847) 885-0153.

## Just Energy For All



A bit about Green Teams: Green teams are groups of three or more people from a House of Worship who educate their members and motivate their faith community to incorporate environmental consciousness into all activities. Faith in Place Outreach Staff can mentor a starting group and work alongside to put programs into action.

Faith in Place is the Illinois, Indiana, and Wisconsin affiliate of Interfaith Power and Light. The mission of Faith in Place is to empower Illinois people of all faiths to be leaders in caring for the Earth, providing resources to educate, connect, and advocate for healthier communities.

October 8-11 Faith in Place presents the 2023 Green Team Summit. These four days will include one or two webinars each day. The keynote speaker is Leah Thomas, author of *The Intersectional Environmentalist: How to Dismantle Systems of Oppression to Protect People + Planet*. She will present Sunday, Oct. 8 from 5:00-6:30 pm CT. Additional webinars are Monday and Tuesday from 11:30 am-12:30 pm and the final webinar is Wednesday, 5:30-6:30 pm. (So, while it takes place over four days, you will not spend hours at your computer).

You can learn more and register for the Green Team Summit from the Faith in Place website, [www.faithinplace.org](http://www.faithinplace.org), or [www.greenteamsummit.org](http://www.greenteamsummit.org). There is no fee, but you can make a donation. There will be watch parties in various locations for the keynote speaker.

If you'd like to find information about federal grants and financing available to faith communities, check out the new



National Week of Action Against School Pushout is October 14th to 22nd. Each October, members of the Dignity in Schools Campaign (DSC), a national coalition of over 100 organizations (including United Women in Faith) host a series of events, teach-ins, rallies, protests and workshops across the country designed to bring attention to the ongoing and devastating impacts of school policing and zero-tolerance discipline policies. National event details will be posted soon at: [www.dscwoa2023.com](http://www.dscwoa2023.com)

United Women in Faith has developed a postcard listing the DSC National Platform. If you would like to host a post card party and then forward the cards to the relevant local decision maker in your community, you may find the postcards [HERE](#).

## New Resources

### Program Resources

The new **Fall Program Resource 2023** is now available to order! First, programs for September through December will be featured on our [new digital platform](#), available for **only \$5** each for both digital and print. Then coming in January 2024: The 2024 Program Resource, offering a year's worth of programs featuring shared meals, spiritual practices, hands-on activities, and God who dwells with us at the table. [Purchase it today](#) for preorder, or get it as part of [a bundle](#) with the Prayer Guide and Mission u adult curriculum and save **20 percent!** This offer is available only to the first 1,500 subscribers, so get yours today!

\* The 2023 print edition for September through December will ship the end of August (while supplies last). [Click here](#) to order your print copy.

\*\* 20% off the 2024 Bundle retail price offer – including shipping and handling – is available through December 31, 2023, for the first 1,500 subscribers. [Click here](#) for more information and to order.

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### Soul Care Retreat Manual

We also have a brand new resource for you: **The Soul Care Retreat Manual**. This manual is a step-by-step guide to design and host a welcoming event to engage new women. The retreat model is for women of all ages, ethnicities, and cultures who desire spiritual renewal, and purchase gives you exclusive access to supplemental resources, including templates, budgets, timelines, and registration buildout. Your soul care is sacred. [Click here](#) to purchase your Soul Care Retreat Manual today!

## Mission Giving

United Women in Faith is mission giving. The understanding of the total programs of our organization as mission becomes very important as funds are received and disbursed.

Without

mission education, advocacy for the marginalized does not take place. Without continual spiritual growth, social action becomes shallow. Without a solid supportive community, women

are unable to care for their own needs and the needs of others.

As an organization, United Women in Faith has not merely sent money from a distance. Women have always understood giving as an expression of God's grace. Members are active in ministry with Jesus. Their faith has led them to follow the gospel and support the mission and ministry of Jesus.

Women, children and youth are most often the ones who are left out of God's feast. Too often, they are the poorest of the poor. They are systematically marginalized without access to education, healthcare and decision making. The barriers of discrimination around sex, class and race make our efforts for a just world extremely difficult.

Responsible stewardship of God's gifts is a challenge for individual Christians, especially in a culture and economic system where accumulation is valued and rights of ownership unquestioned. Responsible stewardship is also a challenge for United Women in Faith. The accountability of both the giver and the receiver are required to be in giving in community. Decisions about budgets and giving are based on a strong belief in mission education, leadership development and the needs of women, children and youth.

*\*Submitted by Karen Messley*

## Reading Program

The 2024 Reading List is now available at <https://uwfaith.org/read>. It includes some new enhanced features for your enjoyment:

- An expanded selection of books offering more choice for readers.
- A larger number of youth and children's book selections, including several intentionally paired sets to facilitate intergenerational programming.
- A new virtual page at <https://bookshop.org/shop/uwfaith> where you can browse and purchase most of the 2024 Reading Program books while earning 10% back for the organization.

Look for the catalog titles in the upcoming November/December issue of response.

Eligible years: For 2024, books from the 2019, 2020, 2021-2022, 2023, and 2024 Reading Program lists are all eligible for Reading Program credit, if you have not previously read them. You can find the full list of eligible books in this [spreadsheet](#).

Events: To receive invitations to book discussions and author talks throughout the year, sign up for emails from the Reading Program.

For more information, visit <https://uwfaith.org/read>.

## Get Together

North Central Jurisdiction Quadrennial Event

SEE MORE INFORMATION [HERE](#).

# REGISTER

# HERE

Please wait to make your hotel reservation, but keep in mind you will need to book that reservation through the event in order to receive the event rate.



**Get Together!**

 United Women in Faith

NORTH CENTRAL JURISDICTION  
QUADRENNIAL EVENT  
[HTTPS://WWW.UMWNCJ.ORG/](https://www.umwncj.org/)

**Come to Indianapolis, IN on May 31 - June 2, 2024**

GET TOGETHER to feel the joy of faith-filled women, uniting.  
GET TOGETHER to nurture your soul.  
GET TOGETHER to deepen your relationship with God.  
GET TOGETHER to explore the power of love to make a difference.

<p><b>WHY YOU SHOULD REGISTER</b></p> <p>What does it mean to answer the call to "love one another" (John 13:34) in 2024? Come GET TOGETHER to explore the possibilities through</p> <p><b>FULL WEEKEND EXPERIENCE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Inspiring worships</li><li>• Engaging workshops</li><li>• Riveting and motivating speakers</li><li>• Renewing soul care</li></ul>	<p><b>PRICE</b></p> <p>The North Central Jurisdiction Quadrennial Event is a great value at the early registration fee of \$225. Few other faith-based conferences offer so much for such a low fee.</p> <p><b>FEATURING</b></p> <p>M. Garlinda Burton, Keynote Speaker Amanda Powell, Music Director Optional May 30th Experience: Pre-Conference Soul Care Retreat</p>
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**TOGETHER we can do more. TOGETHER we can be more  
TOGETHER the power of love in action can change the world.**

## Lake South District

**Trying New Things May Amaze You**  
*'Salt is good; but if salt has lost its taste,  
how can its saltiness be restored?*  
~ Luke 14:34

I had never tried the southern dish chicken and waffles until later in life. I had always thought it was a crazy idea and would never have put the two items together on my plate, but our hotel concierge highly recommended this dish at a restaurant around the corner and down the street just a couple of blocks from her southern hotel we had stopped to stay at for the night. I thought that I would be brave and try her recommendation, despite my misgivings. Oh my goodness! I was blown away! What had I been missing all of these years? A combination of sweet, savory and salty - crunchy and soft - juicy and buttery - all rolled into one plate of amazing flavors!

Our spiritual gifts and faith are much like this dish. We often try to adjust our faith to fit our own

comfort level in our lives, being reluctant to share the spiritual gifts God has so graciously blessed us with. Some of us choose to quietly study the Bible on our own, while others choose to join groups such as United Women in Faith to learn more about our faith with the help of others. Some sympathize with those in need, while others choose to donate or to "get out in the field" and do actual mission work to alleviate the troubles of the needy. When we choose NOT to put our spiritual gifts and our faith into action - only believing, but not showing or sharing our gifts and faith with others, we are like salt that has lost its saltiness. Once salt loses its saltiness, it isn't worth anything and must be thrown out.

Unlike salt, though, our faith and spiritual gifts can be re-energized and restored. We can choose to become more involved in sharing our faith and gifts with others and, by doing so, strengthen these very things within ourselves at the same time. Working together as one body in the different offices of United Women in Faith also makes what gifts we have to share that much stronger in combination with the varying gifts of others, just as a savory combination of spices can bring an otherwise bland dish into a more powerfully flavorful experience to enjoy. We just have to make the decision for ourselves by stepping out in faith to share our spiritual gifts in new ways alongside others working toward a common goal of serving Christ in ministry to the world around us.

What have you been missing by not volunteering to hold and work within an office of United Women in Faith? Why have you been hesitant to step forward in faith and serve within our Conference, District or even your Local UW Faith Unit? You may blow your mind with how amazingly your choice to share your faith and spiritual gifts through this organization not only transforms and strengthens you, but transforms and strengthens those with whom and for whom you serve.

Wishing you all God's most abundant grace and blessings,  
Wendy Miller  
UW Faith Lake South District President

## Community



### From Treatment at Cunningham to Professional at Rosecrance: Andrea's Journey of Hope and Healing

By Brooke Buzard Watson

At Cunningham, through residential treatment, special education and community-based services, our staff works hard to transform lives by helping children and youth reach their potential.

Andrea Phillipot is a perfect example of this.

Shortly after turning 15 years old, Andrea became





As a Recovery Specialist at Rosecrance



With TJ at her graduation from Illinois State University

part of the Cunningham family through our then-foster care program. She began working with TJ, her case manager, who guided this determined young lady on what has turned out to be an amazing journey.

Andrea received support from various Cunningham programs. At HopeSprings Counseling Services, Andrea learned to manage her anxiety and insomnia that stemmed from past traumas. She developed coping skills like taking deep breaths, meditation and surrounding herself with positive people which helped regulate her emotions.

[Read Andrea's story here](#)

# KIDS ABOVE ALL HOLIDAY GIFT DRIVE

NOVEMBER 27 - DECEMBER 13

CONTACT: CINSERRA@KIDSABOVEALL.ORG OR (847) 224-2870



## Sponsor a Child

Purchase a gift for a child in our programs and help make their holiday wish come true. Contact Catherine at [cinserra@kidsaboveall.org](mailto:cinserra@kidsaboveall.org) or (847) 224-2870 to set up a donation time.

## Volunteer in our Toy Room

Our 2023 Toy Room will be at Kids Above All's Better Life Distribution Center, located at 1801 E. Oakton St. Des Plaines, IL 60018. Contact Catherine at [cinserra@kidsaboveall.org](mailto:cinserra@kidsaboveall.org) or (847) 224-2870 to reserve your time to volunteer.

## Donate Toys via Amazon Registry

The drive needs new, unwrapped toys, games, or books for children of various ages. Our 2023 Holiday Gift Drive Amazon Registry will be available starting in mid-October to help guide the gift selection process for our children and youth.



Find information on Three Ways of Giving [HERE](#).



## Brand / Logo Guidelines

Just a reminder to keep United Women in Faith first in writing our names:

United Women in Faith Northern Illinois Conference or  
United Women in Faith NIC or  
United Women in Faith Lake South District or  
United Women in Faith Annual Celebration



UW Faith may be used in publication after United Women in Faith has been written.

**NEVER** use UWF in public writing. Save it for your personal notes for yourself.



United  
Women  
in Faith

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## WE ARE NOW ON INSTAGRAM!

If you are on Instagram, please find [uwfaith\\_nic](#) and follow us!

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Connect with United Women in Faith  
NIConference:



Connect with United Women in Faith  
Globally:



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**Submission deadline: 15th of the month**

Send to: Shelly Davenport, Communications Coordinator  
[sdavenportarch@gmail.com](mailto:sdavenportarch@gmail.com)

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