



United
Women
in Faith

INSIGHT

Northern Illinois Conference

February 2024

UPCOMING EVENTS

February

04 --- KUMW Dedication Service
10 --- UMC Laity Convocation
10 --- LS District Learning Event
16 --- LN District Leadership Team
19 --- PS District Leadership Team
24 --- PC,PN,PS Combined Districts
Sharing and Learning Event

March

01 --- World Day of Prayer - Church Women
United
01 --- PN Leadership Team
02 --- [NIC Leadership Team](#)
07 --- PC Leadership Team
09 --- World Federation of Methodist and
Uniting Church Women
11 --- LS Leadership Team
15 --- LN District Leadership Team
18 --- PS Spiritual Growth Event
23 --- Day of Giving - Legacy Fund - online

April

13 --- LS Day of SPiritual Renewal
15 --- PS Leadership Team
20 --- PN Day of Spiritual Renewal
19-20 --- Church Women United Illinois
State Assembly
27--- LN Day of Spiritual Renewal
TBD --- PC Billy Graham Museum

For More Detailed Information and
Future Events:

[View the Google Calendar](#)

President's Report

By Barb Farley

Greetings to all United Women in Faith! I am learning much as I begin this new chapter in my life as your conference president. I have been busy learning from National regarding my duties and collaborating with the NIC Conference Leadership Team as we begin the new year. I want to share this quote with you that I would like to follow and emulate as we all move forward through this year: "Bridges are built when two people develop authentic connections across their differences – when they can express their thoughts, beliefs, assumptions, ideas, and emotions to each in a relationship characterized by trust, empathy, vulnerability, and risk-taking." Authors, Tina Opie & Beth A. Livingston.

We are in a new chapter of life as UWFaith and I think it is especially important to be in relationship with our local units, districts, and across districts to listen and develop our programs to touch more than just "our own" members. To think outside the box as we develop our programs with regards to others in our immediate neighborhoods, churches, towns, and



districts. This is a daunting task but one I think that is approachable and able - especially if we utilize the new and ongoing information available to us through our UWFaith digital websites. There is leadership information: Leadership Touchpoints, monthly newsletter: Connect, and others. Please read our conference and district newsletters as well as add articles of your own.

Share, share, and share all that you are doing and ideas that pop up in the middle of the day. In that regard, I would like to recommend these books to read as we head into Black History Month: "Caste" by Isabel Wilkerson," Just Mercy" by Bryan Stevenson and "The Cross And The Lynching Tree" by James H. Cone. They have been in circulation for a while but are extremely pertinent for today. My mantra, "to put one foot in front of the other and lead with Love" is my everyday prayer for my journey and for each of us as United Women in Faith. Please feel free to contact me at: bfarley3@comcast.net with ideas, comments, and or concerns.

Secretary's Report

By Lois Voss

It's almost here! Your resource of conference, district, and local leadership, plus church, jurisdiction, and national information! You'll find our calendar, budget, standing rules, resources, past presidents, mission personnel, and deaconesses. Our cover focus is on the Quadrennial Jurisdiction Gathering.

The **United Women in Faith Northern Illinois Conference Annual 2024 Yearbook & Directory** is at the printer. This protected document will soon be on our conference website uwfaithnic.org. Paper copies are available for a fee: **\$4** if picked up, or **\$7** if mailed. To order a paper copy, follow the directions on the Cheddar Up site [HERE](#).

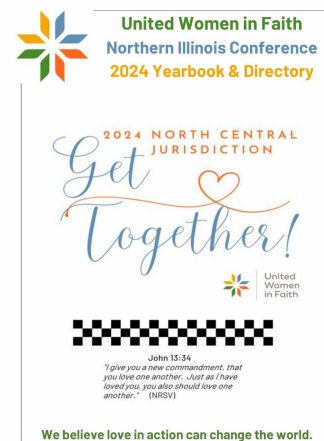
Payment may be made by credit card through Cheddar Up or by a check (payable to UMW NIC) and sent to our conference treasurer: Janeen Hamack, c/o Barrington United Methodist Church, 98 Algonquin Rd., Barrington, IL 60010.

Contact Lois Voss to pick up the paper copy from her at 401 Crest Dr., Cary, IL 60013. The online version is password protected on our website. To receive the password, contact Lois Voss at: loiskvoss@gmail.com or Shelly Davenport at: sdavenportarch@gmail.com. You will be able to download the document and print any pages you like (please save paper and print only what you need).

Please help by checking your personal information and your unit's entries. If you find errors or have additions during the year, please send corrections to our conference secretary, Lois Voss.

Questions? Updates? Contact: loiskvoss@gmail.com or 847-409-6013

Lois Voss
loiskvoss@gmail.com
847-409-6013
UWFaith NIC Secretary



Mission Planning 2024

By Karen Messley

Your leadership team is providing this Mission Planning sheet (formerly Mission Today Goals) to help you in your annual planning for your unit of United Women in Faith. We know that our Purpose and Vision are undertaken on behalf of women, children, and youth around the world, and expanded through prayer, study, and action.

As you meet in person or by electronic means, please consider the many ways your unit can fulfill our shared Purpose. Plan your meetings and events using some of our resources. Narrate one of your stories of mission service and submit it and related picture(s) to your District Mission Resources Coordinator (E & I) or designated leadership person.

[Mission Planning Sheet 2024](#)

Karen Messley
karen@messley.com
UWFaith NIC Mission Resource Coordinator

Save the Date for Summer Mission u



Save the Dates

Summer Learning Events

**July 12-14: Stronghold Camp and Retreat Center,
Oregon, IL**

**July 19-21: Wesley Woods Retreat Center,
Williams Bay, WI**

Our Study...

Welcome Home is an adult curriculum that explores how we can know God as an intimate friend who welcomes us.

The sessions include Scripture explorations, discussions, and activities to apply what is being learned.

Our Theme...

The Kin-dom Is Among You: Drawing Closer to God and One Another



Presented by
United Women in Faith
Northern Illinois Conference



United
Women
in Faith

What's Happening in Our Districts

Prairie Central, Prairie North & Prairie South Districts

Invite you to SHARE, a joint, virtual event

All are invited to SHARE: Serving Humanity And Recharging Each other, an event offered by United Women in Faith Prairie Districts. We will meet together, virtually, on Saturday, February 24th from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. Our morning will include presentations from a service organization in each district; recharging ourselves with chair yoga and breathing exercises; checking in on our heart (both physically and emotionally), and Bible reflection. We hope you will join us. Following the event, United Women in Faith 101 session will be offered.



[Flyer and Registration Here](#)

Lake South District Learning Event



We at United Women in Faith Lake South District invite you to join us for our Learning Event on Saturday, February 10th from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the First UMC in Western Springs. We know that learning events do not always fall at convenient times for us within our own district, so if you are unable to attend your own district's event, feel free to join us at ours!

View the flyer [HERE](#)

[Registration Form](#)

Korean - American UMW Newsletter



1. 남가주 연회 한인여선교회연합회 새해맞이 예배 Cal-Pacific Conference KUMw Network New Year's Worship Service
2. 북가주 연회 한인여선교회연합회 새해맞이 예배와 총회 Cal-Nevada Conference KUMw Network New Year's Worship Service
3. 북조지아 연회 한인여선교회연합회 새해맞이 예배 N. Georgia Conference KUMw Network New Year's Worship Service
4. 뉴욕 연회 한인여선교회연합회 새해맞이 예배 New York Conference KUMw Network New Year's Worship Service
5. 델라웨어-메릴랜드 연회 한인여선교회연합회 신년모임 Delaware- Maryland Conference KUMw Network New Year Gathering
6. 제15회 학당 안내 15th Hakdang(Virtual School Announcement)
7. 책소개 Book Recommendation 8. 선교유산 헌금 Mission Legacy of NNKUMw

Happy Lunar New Year everyone!

February 10, 2024, is the first day of Lunar New Year! 2024 is the year of Dragon!
Read the February 2024 National Network of Korean - American United Methodist Women

[HERE.](#)

General Conference 2024



United
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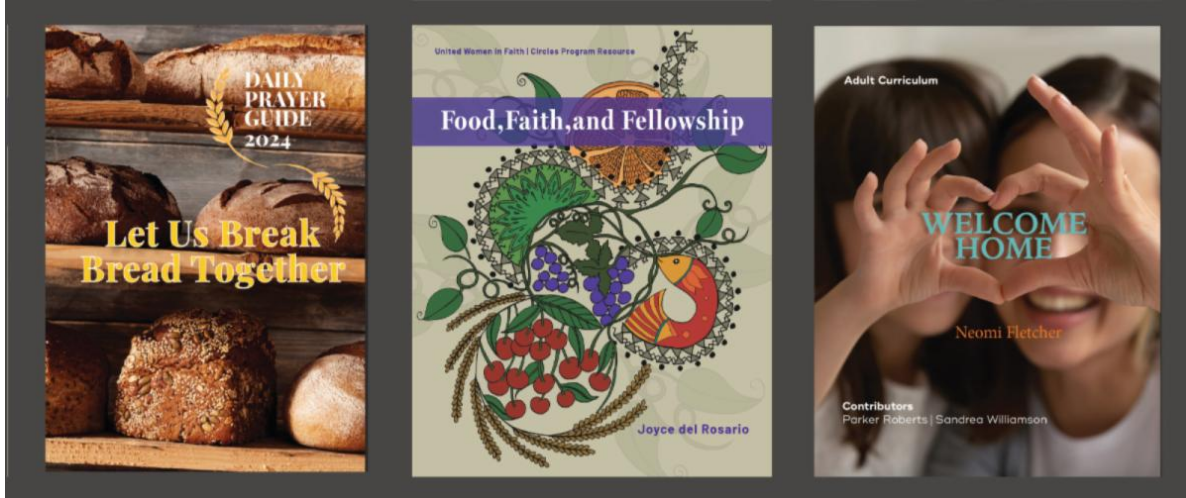
at General Conference 2024

What General Conference is this again?

Did you know that the General Conference scheduled for April 23 to May 3, 2024, is actually the 2020 General Conference? Dan Hurlbert and Paul Gomez of the Desert Southwest Conference explain in this [VIDEO](#) from their 2023 annual conference.

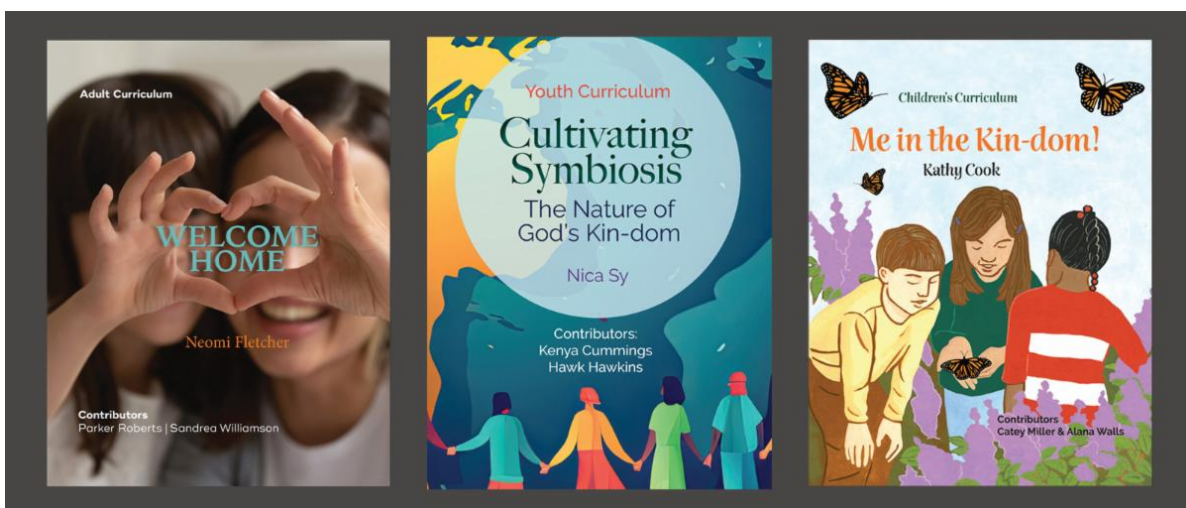
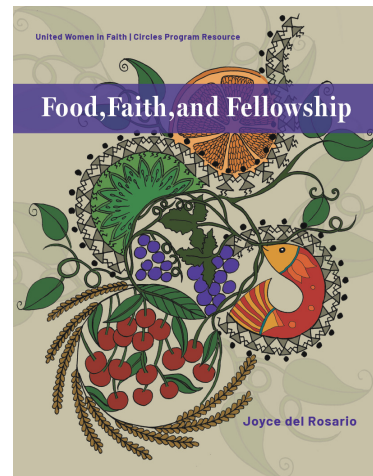
Learn more about General Conference and United Women in Faith, learn about member delegates, and sign up to receive more information [HERE.](#)

2024 Program Resources



This year's theme, "Let Us Break Bread Together," calls to mind that we are created to be in community and welcome all to God's table. The [Daily Prayer Guide](#) connects us to our larger family, uplifting the work and impact of the worldwide outreach of [United Women in Faith and Global Ministries](#). Daily prayers and devotionals are reminders of the steadfast love of God and invite us to the table, encouraging a deeper connection with God and one another in community. (You can find a digital-only version of the Daily Prayer Guide on the [digital platform](#).)

The 2024 United Women in Faith *Program Resource* invites all to join God's banquet table at monthly gatherings. Explore through Scripture and hands-on activities what it means to be a community – not just within our circle, but with all of creation – embarking together on a journey about food, spiritual practices, and God who welcomes us. Get your free Program Resource [promotional poster](#) and share the excitement and information about your upcoming program! (Experience this resource and be part of the community with monthly gatherings on our online platform via [Mighty Networks](#).)



Introducing the summer Mission u studies!

[Welcome Home](#) is an adult curriculum that explores how we can know God as an intimate friend who welcomes all — encouraging us to open our hearts to embrace God's power and presence.

The explorations lead participants outward, expanding to welcome others to join us in our work as co-creators establishing God's kin-dom on earth. The sessions include Scripture explorations, discussions, activities to apply what is being learned, and two intergenerational sessions. By author Neomi Fletcher.

[*Cultivating Symbiosis: The Nature of God's Kin-dom*](#), the youth curriculum, uses the idea of symbiosis to explore relationships with others and with God. Youth will examine different kinds of relationships, understanding them as an ongoing journey — including relationships and God's kin-dom, looking at economic injustice, and how they can collectively work toward social justice. By author Nica Sy.

[*Me in the Kin-dom!*](#) is the children's curriculum that helps children explore the kin-dom of God through the lens of the Lord's Prayer. Children will experience how they are unique members of God's kin-dom and learn they are also part of a larger community that welcomes all of God's children. By author Kathy Cook.

[Click HERE for 2024 Print Resources](#)

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!

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 November/December 2023 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 free downloadable [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>.

Bereavement Announcement

January 29, 2024

United Women in Faith sisters are grieving the death of Henry Webb Manatu-ki-Surva 'Isama'u on Wednesday, January 24, 2024, following a brief illness. Henry was the husband of our National President 'Ainise 'Isama'u and the father of Polyana.

Our General Secretary/CEO Sally Vonner shared, “It was heartbreaking to receive this news. We thank God for Henry’s life witness, gifts, and love that he shared with his family, community, work colleagues, and all who will deeply miss his presence. May God, who knows our sorrows, surround ‘Ainise and Polyana with love, peace, and comfort at this difficult time.”

“Please join our leaders and me in praying for ‘Ainise, Polyana, and their entire family. May we show our love and support for them as we grieve alongside them following this tremendous and unexpected loss,” said Cynthia Rives, vice president of the board of directors.

Gift in Memory cards can be purchased through your local United Women in Faith treasurer. You may also [click here](#) to make a Gift in Memory online.

May God’s comfort bring ‘Ainise and her family peace and support in the days ahead.

Get Together

North Central Jurisdiction Quadrennial Event

SEE MORE INFORMATION [HERE](#)

[Visit the UWFaithNCJ Website](#)

**REGISTER
HERE**

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.

WHY YOU SHOULD REGISTER

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

FULL WEEKEND EXPERIENCE

- Inspiring worships
- Engaging workshops
- Riveting and motivating speakers
- Renewing soul care

PRICE

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.

FEATURING

M. Garlinda Burton, Keynote Speaker
Amanda Powell, Music Director
Optional May 30th Experience:
Pre-Conference Soul Care Retreat

**TOGETHER we can do more. TOGETHER we can be more
TOGETHER the power of love in action can change the world.**

Community



I Hold Great-Gratitude

By Brooke Buzard Watson, Cunningham Children's Home

Imagine the surprise when Ginger Mills, the Director of Advancement at Cunningham, discovered a carefully handwritten envelope addressed to her in bright pink ink, in her office mailbox. Inquisitively, she opened it and by the time she read the last word, big tears were welling up in her eyes. It read:

DEAR GINGER, I HOLD GREAT – GRATITUDE TO SAY THANK YOU FOR YOUR TOUR OF CUP OF HOPE & THE FREE DRINK + DID YOU NOT ONLY GIVE ME THAT YOU ALSO GAVE ME A SEAT NEXT TO YOU.
THANK YOU SO SO MUCH,
SINCERLY, RICKY

Read Ricky's journey [HERE](#)

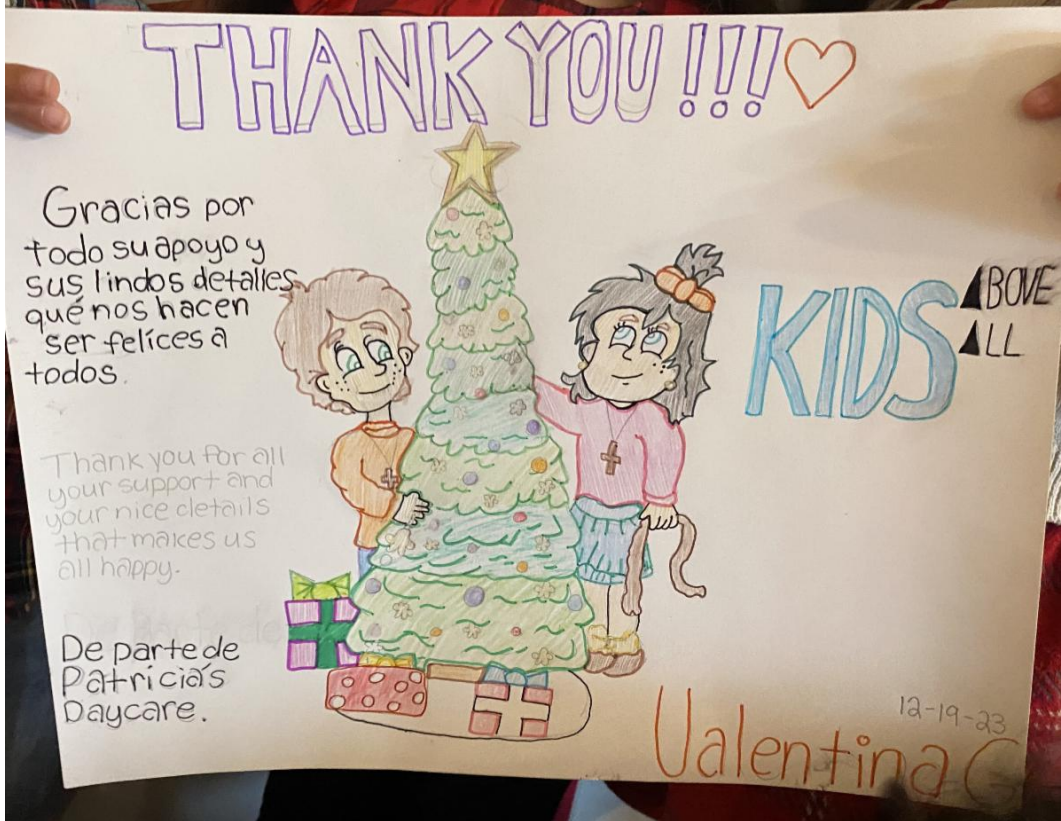
KIDS ABOVE ALL

KIDS ABOVE ALL HOLIDAY GIFT DRIVE

1,603

kids and youth
received gifts this
holiday season!





Photos submitted by Deaconess Catherine Inserra

World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women

Observance Day

Download registration form [HERE](#)

Register online [HERE](#)



World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women

OBSERVANCE DAY

Poverty, Hunger and Education: Focusing on developing sustainable women empowerment programs

Saturday, March 9, 2024

Wesley United Methodist Church

201 E 95th St

Chicago, Illinois 60619

8:30 a.m. – Registration/Light Breakfast

9:00 a.m. Program

\$15.00 per person (includes lunch and materials)

Deadline: March 1, 2024

Make checks payable to: Chicago Wesley United Women in Faith

Mail to: Paulette Myrie-Hodge
1516 S. Wabash Ave., #302
Chicago, IL 60605

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

TELEPHONE: _____ Email: _____

LOCAL CHURCH: _____

Please circle one: AME AMEZ CME UMC Other

Please indicate special food needs (circle): Gluten-free Vegetarian

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____



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

UWFaith 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.



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Connect with United Women in Faith
NIConference:



Connect with United Women in Faith
Globally:



Submission deadline: 15th of the month
Send to: Shelly Davenport, Communications Coordinator
sdavenportarch@gmail.com

United Women in Faith NIC [email](#) | United Women in Faith NIC [website](#) |
United Women in Faith [website](#)

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