



United
Women
in Faith

INSIGHT

Northern Illinois Conference

August 2024

UPCOMING EVENTS

August

02 --- PN District Leadership Team
07 --- PS District Leadership Team
08 --- PC District Leadership Team
11 --- KUMC Praise Night, Wheeling, First Korean
12 --- LS District Leadership Team
16 --- LN District Leadership Team
16 --- PC Trip to Northcott Neighborhood Center, Milwaukee, WI

September

07 --- [NIC Leadership Team](#)
21 --- PS District Annual Celebration, Sycamore UMC, Sycamore, IL.
21 --- PN District Annual Celebration, Bethel UMC, Shannon, IL.
28 --- LN District Annual Celebration, Trinity UMC, Mount Prospect, IL.
28 --- LS District Annual Celebration, First UMC, Lockport, IL.

October

04 --- PN District Leadership Team
12 --- PC District Annual Celebration, Roselle UMC
18 --- LN District Leadership Team
21 --- LS District Leadership Team
[26 --- NIC Annual Celebration and District Leadership Training, First UMC, Arlington Heights, IL.](#)
28 --- PS District Leadership Team

November

07 --- PC District Leadership Team
10 --- K General Assembly, Mt. Prospect: Sam Mool Korean
[14 --- NIC Conference Leadership Team](#)
15 - LN District Leadership Team
[21-23 --- NIC Leadership Development Days - 2025 NIC LT](#)

For More Detailed Information and Future Events:

[View the Google Calendar](#)

President's Report

By Barb Farley

Summer is quickly passing and I know members of United Women in Faith are as busy as usual, so I will make this short! Listening, learning, engaging, dreaming, singing, worshiping, and working on projects were all happening at Mission u in Oregon, IL. and Williams Bay, WI! What a wonderful experience! If you have never enjoyed a Mission u, please consider attending the Winter Mission u in January or next summer in Darien. The curriculum, "Welcome Home", presented an experiential invitation to walk with God. Glimpses of the Kin-dom of heaven on an everyday level can be beautiful and also daunting as we recalled our personal memories of "home". This is a powerful study and I hope each of us will have the opportunity to experience this one! With one foot in front of the other, we are walking with one



another led by God's love.

Secretary's Report

By Lois Voss

A few United Women in Faith NIC 2024 Yearbook & Directory booklets are still available for sale. Order yours [HERE](#).

This is a good time to review your leadership contact information and your membership rosters. Report any changes to [Lois Voss](#).

Mission u at Wesley Woods and Stronghold

Photos by Catherine Inserra and Beth Jayapalan



Cheerful Mission u attendees at Wesley Woods!



Several members made no sew fleece blankets for Kids Above All



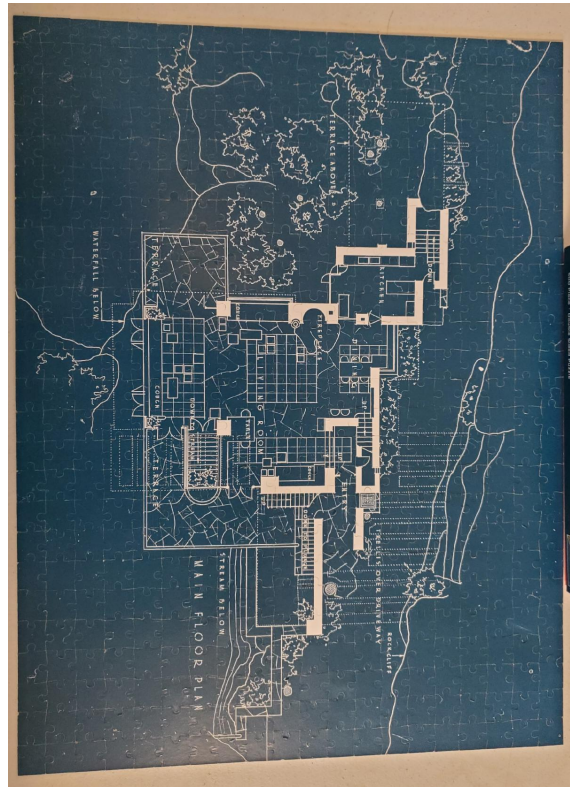
Sharing many meals together



Morning praise



Many puzzles put together



Save the Date for NIC Annual Celebration 2024



United
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SAVE THE DATE!

2024 Annual Celebration



Date: **Saturday, October 26, 2024**

Location: **First United Methodist Church**
1903 E. Euclid Ave
Arlington Heights, IL. 60004



Time: Registration opens 8:30

Annual Celebration and Business Meeting: 9:00 - 12:00

Theme: **"Bind Us Together in Love"**

Scripture: Colossians 3:12-14

Lunch: 12:00

Leadership Training: After lunch

Registration details to follow

Begin gathering your car pool members and plan to join in the celebration!

Scholarship for Women Pursuing Church Vocations

Scholarship application [HERE](#)

Northern Illinois Conference United Women in Faith offers a scholarship for women pursuing a church-related vocation, whether in ordained or lay ministry. Applicants must be accepted by an accredited graduate school, reside in the Northern Illinois Conference, demonstrate financial need, and supply a copy of their school transcript. Applications are due **September 15**.

Rejuvenate Clusters

By Betty Erickson

The United Women in Faith Purpose states that we are a community of women.

Unfortunately, our community seems to be getting older, reducing in numbers, and needing help. We are in a new era and looking to find new answers. Possibly an old answer could help. Do any of you remember clusters? The Northern Illinois Conference many years ago created clusters so our churches could have closer relationships with those close to them. United Methodist Women took advantage of the clusters and created their own relationships among the women's groups.

In the middle of the Prairie Central District a cluster is still going. We started with five churches. We meet once a year for a luncheon and a program. While together we share what we are doing within our community and share dates of upcoming events. Recently we expanded our original five churches and have invited surrounding churches. We have found that we are experiencing the same issues, and yet we continue to come up with ideas to make our groups interesting.

Possibly it is time that we rejuvenate this old concept and bring clusters back. This is a tool that brings us outside of our buildings but is not as scary as being in a district or conference setting. It could be the small step that we need to take. An easy way to bring us together without the fear of making a commitment. And communicating with one another to offer support with activities, fundraisers, and fellowship.

District News

Lake South District

I recently was blessed to spend the weekend with some of my UW Faith sisters from across the district at Mission u in Oregon, IL. We learned about the "Kin-dom" of God and how we identify with God, ourselves and others and how we need to work to come together to make God's "Kin-dom" here on earth a reality. While I was the only one of two commuting in the evenings/mornings (the other commuting sister had contracted a bad case of poison ivy, so ended up not attending at all), I was able to spend some of my free time assisting others as we worked at putting a puzzle together. We only got just over halfway done, but the determination of those participating was remarked on again and again. If we could just use that same sort of concentration and determination in working to unite God's Kin-dom on earth now, what would our world be like? Better, I am sure.

The recent attempt on former President Trump while we were in class was shocking. The amount of hate and fear people have come to – partly due to media hype, partly due to conspiracy theorists and the like - is absolutely disgraceful in the eyes of God. There is no place in God's Kin-dom for such actions against one another, no matter how much we may disagree with the philosophies and actions of the other. If one was to say, "too bad he missed", they are just as bad as the one having pulled the trigger, for there is no room in God's Kin-dom for hate and murder.

We have heard of the father/volunteer fire fighter who died shielding his wife and daughter from the shooter, as well as others who were injured during this recent act of violence. We have also heard of the death of the shooter himself. Some may say "he deserved it", however, who are we to judge the actions of others? God says, "vengeance is mine". That doesn't mean we are to retaliate on our own against those doing wrong, and praising the death of this shooter is as bad as having retaliated and killed him in place of the actual person who had to end his life in order to protect those at this rally from further danger. Instead, we must pray for those injured and killed as well as for their families – the family of the shooter in particular, who will more than likely come against much judgement from society and blame them as much as the deceased shooter. It was not the actions of the family that caused this, but the choice of their son. We must remember not to persecute those who were not at fault, however, we do know society is not yet at the "Kin-dom" stage we hope for it to

be. We must also give prayers of thanksgiving to God for having protected the greater majority of those in attendance during this horrific display of hatred and violence.

As we move forward toward the election of our next president, let us continue to be in prayer for those who choose to run for office, their families, those protecting them and those attending these rallies in the weeks between now and then. May God place a hedge of protection around them all so that we do not continue to have such displays of hatred against our brothers and sisters within this country we love and live in. Remember, we can agree to disagree on many levels, but we must also choose to love one another as we love ourselves, despite our many differences, because God loves each and every one of us.

Respectfully submitted,
Wendy Miller
UW Faith Lake South District President

Prairie Central District

Prairie Central August 16 event is another field trip!

You are invited to visit Northcott Neighborhood House, a United Women in Faith National Mission Institution (NMI), on Friday, Aug. 16. We will carpool to 2460 N 6th St, Milwaukee, WI, arriving at 10:00 to view their facility and have a tour. The House provides education, employment opportunities and basic necessities to youth, families, and senior citizens in the Milwaukee area. Following the visit, those who wish will have lunch at a nearby restaurant. There is no charge for this event. Carpooling will be arranged when attendance is known. Please email [Betty Erickson](#) if you plan to attend and for carpool information or if you have questions.

Please include the the following information:

1. Name and address
2. Email, phone number
3. Home church (including city name)
4. Emergency contact name, relationship, contact phone number

View the flyer [HERE](#).

United Women in Faith National News

United Women in Faith announced the names of its new 25-member board of directors and a new Program Advisory Group for the 2024-2028 quadrennium.

Conference United Women in Faith delegates elected 20 new directors to represent their respective areas in recent jurisdiction meetings. Five additional directors were selected by the extended governance committee of the outgoing board to enhance age and racial diversity of the board.

See who your respresentitives are [HERE](#).

Community

At Cunningham Children's Home, each youth's journey to hope and healing is unique. Our staff employ a "trauma-informed care" approach, recognizing the impact of early trauma on brain development and emotional health. Youth work with a dedicated team of therapists, social workers, health care professionals, special education teachers, coaches, counselors, and mentors who cater to diverse behavioral health needs.

The end of this academic year marks a time of natural transition for our kids at Cunningham, and we are excited for you to learn about several of our young people who have recently taken the next step in their journey.

Read their stories [HERE](#).



Heather at her Going Away Party with Angelica, a Cunningham Staff Member

KIDS **▲** ABOVE **▲** ALL



West Side Early Childhood Staff are grateful for FUMCAH support

Inspire

I am inspired by you, UWFaith of NIC! When I reflect on Bishop Schwerin's Episcopal Address during the 185th annual conference recounting the Battle of Dunkirk as an analogy for living into the post general conference UMC, I think of you. Bishop Schwerin with holy conviction directed us to 'get on a boat' for the Gospel! He emphasized the theme to freely and heartily yield to the newness God can bring. He emphasized the churches being experiments for the Gospel that cannot lose this generation!

UWFaith, you are the boat I want to be in during these times. As a Deaconess committed to ministries of love, service, and justice, and marking 5.5 years serving with Kids Above All which is marking its 130th year of building better lives for kids, the UWFaith boat is steady, sacred and strong. In 1894, when six orphaned children were 'welcomed home' by deaconesses to a



West Side HIPPY received special Graduation Back Packs paid and assembled by UWFaith FUMCAH



I joined UWFaith Prairie Central at SCARCE

Photos by Catherine Inserra

small cottage in Lake Bluff, the word 'trauma' was not a word yet that was used to describe their suffering. Sadly, today it is. We are healers, so we respond in faith and with love.

UWFaith, receiving the monthly UWFaith NIC *INSIGHT* is right up there with getting the **response** magazine and the Daily Prayer Guide in the mail (my preference) or digitally! Special Shout Out to Shelly Davenport for her remarkable ministry of sharing the work and purpose of UWFaith across the Northern Illinois Conference through communications and marketing with a spirit of Love in Action! *INSIGHT* is an inspiring resource for these times where our stories, our collective learning, and our dynamic mission opportunities inspire us. Let us be about inspiring one another to be our best and blessed selves in order to inspire others and the world!

May it be so.

[Deaconess Catherine Inserra](#), Manager of Faith & Community Relations, Kids Above All.

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- ✓ Store bags
- ✓ Ice bags



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- ✓ Cereal box liners
- ✓ Case overwrap
- ✓ Bread bags



FROM YOUR FRONT DOOR



- ✓ Newspaper sleeves
- ✓ Dry cleaning bags
- ✓ Bubble wrap
- ✓ Plastic e-commerce mailers

Plastics must be clean, dry and free of food and organic residue



NexTrex
NexTrex.com 540-542-6930



Pliable Plastic Donations Continue in 2024

Kids Above All is still collecting Pliable Plastic for another bench for their new Distribution Center. Please donate clean plastic you can stretch or push your finger through: newspaper wrap, grocery bags, wrapping for paper goods, bubble wrap, etc. Please remove paper receipts and cut off paper shipping labels/urls. Donations may be brought to Catherine Inserra at anytime.



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

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