



United  
Women  
in Faith

# INSIGHT

Northern Illinois Conference

September 2024

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### 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

### December

06 --- PN District Leadership Team  
09 --- LS District Leadership Team

For More Detailed Information and Future Events:

[View the Google Calendar](#)

## Treasurer's Report

By Janeen Hamack

Greetings from your conference treasurer, Janeen.

At this time all district pledges are a little behind in comparison to last year. By district they range from 27% paid to 55% paid.

As a conference we are 41% paid to National for our pledge of \$156,000 for 2024.

Last year, though, we did exceed out pledge to National by 50%.

So, if you are a local unit treasurer, please send your pledges, including your "end of the year cleaning the the treasury money" to your district treasurer by Dec. 1, 2024 (or whatever deadline date she has given you), so that she may send it off to me for my Dec. 10, 2024 deadline to National. And be prayerfully thinking about your budgets and pledges for 2025.

# Save the Date for NIC Annual Celebration 2024



United  
Women  
in Faith

## 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

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**.

## Mission u Recap

By Betty Erickson

### Welcome Home!

Mission u in Northern Illinois Conference was spent during two weekends learning more about the Kin-dom of God. Using the image of home to explore how living in close proximity to the Kin-dom is like making a home with God. Our first weekend (July 12-14) was in Oregon, IL. at the Stronghold Retreat Center.

The very next weekend (July 19-21) more of us spent time in Williams Bay, WI. at Wesley Woods. We were able to learn how to build healthy, welcoming communities as a result of being anchored in the abiding love of God.

We learned, we worshipped, we enjoyed fellowship making fleece blankets for the Child Advocacy Center in Joliet, and Kids Above All. We also put together not one but two jigsaw puzzles. That is when we were not painting or enjoying our surroundings.

The most exciting part of our weekend at Wesley Woods was having four young women join our group to learn and share. They brought a different perspective to our study and helped the learning and sharing go a little bit deeper.

The weekends went smoothly thanks to the incredible talent that we have in the Northern Illinois Conference: From Assistant Dean, Laura Dean Friedrich; Registrar and Tech, Beth Jayapalan; Paulette Myrie Hodge; Business Manager, Janeen Hamack; Communications, Shelly Davenport; Power Point Creator Erica McIntosh; fill in tech person, Linda Osikowicz; and the many people that helped with set up and take down. Our study leaders, Rev. Fabiola Grandon-Mayer and Dottie Priddy at Oregon, IL; Rev. Beverly Dukes and Rev. Mary Zajac in Williams Bay, WI. The study leaders also led our early morning praise sessions at 7 AM.

Until we see you again via zoom at Winter Mission u, Welcome Home!





## Photos from Stronghold Retreat Center, Oregon, Illinois

*Photos by Rev. Fabiola Grandon-Mayer*

# Reading Program

By Karen Messley

The 2025 Reading Program Catalog is now available to download [HERE](#) —English, Korean, and Spanish included in one!

United Women in Faith’s Reading Program is designed to help women of faith to achieve five key goals: lean into our spiritual growth, strengthen our leadership skills, equip ourselves for local and global mission, take faithful action for the common good, and build community in ways large and small. The books are current and cover a wide variety of topics. Participating in one of the Reading Program plans at any of the four levels, or even reading just one or two books in this catalog, can help you grow. And anyone, anywhere, can participate—whether you are a member of United Women in Faith already or just getting to know us.

This year’s Bonus Books, along with the other offerings in our 2025 Reading Program, are a powerful launching point for both personal reflection and meaningful conversation.

View a virtual page [HERE](#) where you can browse and purchase most of the 2025 Reading Program books while earning 10% back to United Women in Faith to support our work.

Look for the catalog titles in the upcoming November/December issue of [response](#).

Eligible years: For 2025, books from the 2020, 2021-2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025 Reading Program lists are all eligible for Reading Program reporting credit, if you have not previously read them.

2025  
Reading Program  
Programa De Lectura  
독서 프로그램



## District News

Lake South District

Will you prayerfully consider answering the call to a leadership position, please? Listen to the stirring in your heart and mind as you consider helping this organization (and me) in the coming year. God has plans for you. Ask God what He is truly calling YOU to do for Him, not for yourself, and then move forward with all of the strength and provisions He will make sure you have for You to be successful in the role He is calling You to serve Him in.

you whom I took from the ends of the earth,  
and called from its farthest corners,  
saying to you, 'You are my servant,  
I have chosen you and not cast you off,  
do not fear, for I am with you,  
do not be afraid, for I am your God;

I will strengthen you, I will help you,  
I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.

~ Isaiah 41:9-10

If you have not yet heard from Virginia and would like to help lead this organization, you can contact [HER](#) or call her at 773-991-5224. The available positions we are looking to fill are:

- Vice-President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Nominations - Class of 2025 and Class of 2028
- Communications Coordinator
- Membership Coordinator
- Education and Interpretation Coordinator

Read all of Wendy's report [HERE](#).

Respectfully submitted,  
Wendy Miller  
UW Faith Lake South District President

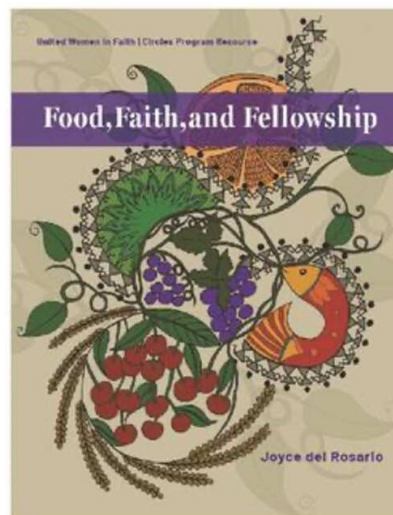
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## Lake North District

Lake North District Annual Celebration will be Saturday, September 28, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. at Trinity UMC of Mount Prospect.

[FLYER](#) and [REGISTRATION FORM](#)

[PROPOSED SLATE OF OFFICERS](#)  
[PROPOSED BUDGET](#)  
[LAKE NORTH UNIT PLEDGE FORM](#)



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## Prairie Central District

\*\*\*SAVE THE DATE\*\*\*

United Women in Faith Prairie Central District Annual Celebration will be October 12 beginning at 9:30 at Roselle UMC, 206 Rush St., Roselle.

## Prairie North District

The United Women in Faith of Rockford Grace UMC has made arrangements for us to order these very nice aprons. They were wearing their aprons at the Salad Supper, and made quite an impression. So if you want to order your very own apron, they are available from [embroidthis](https://stores.inksoft.com/uwif). The information is below or you can call them at 815-623-2200.

[HTTPS://STORES.INKSOFT.COM/UWIF](https://stores.inksoft.com/uwif)



SCAN  
HERE  
TO SHOP  
NOW



**ORDER YOUR**  
 **United  
Women  
in Faith**  
**APRONS TODAY!**

**ORGANIZED BY  
ROCKFORD GRACE UMC**



**VIEW MORE COLORS ONLINE**

Prairie North District fall meeting Saturday, September 21, 2024 at 9:30 a.m. at Shannon Bethel United Methodist Church.

# United Women in Faith National News

United Women in Faith is hiring a Digital Advocacy and Organizing Assistant (Office of Racial Justice), Consultant/Contract Role, Part-time, Remote.

See more information [HERE](#).

Deadline to apply is September 15, 2024



The graphic features a blue header bar at the top. Below it, the United Women in Faith logo (a colorful starburst) is on the left, followed by the text 'United Women in Faith'. To the right is the 'UW Faith Digital' logo, which includes the text 'UW Faith Digital' and a blue circular swirl icon. The main text in the center reads: 'Come connect with your sisters, make new friends, and experience your favorite print resources through an online digital platform.' Below this, there are two columns of bullet points. The left column is titled 'Additional Content:' and lists benefits like digital versions of resources, multimedia, downloadable PDFs, and community gatherings. The right column is titled 'Community:' and lists benefits like free access to the network, engagement opportunities, an activity feed, discussion groups, and a safe online space. At the bottom, there is a call to action: 'Go to uwfaith.org/digital to connect with the United Women in Faith community or subscribe to one of the paid resources.' The footer of the graphic has a blue background with the 'UW Faith Digital' logo and the text 'Resources and Community— in one secure space'.

**Additional Content:**

- **Digital versions** of your favorite resources, including the Program Resource, Daily Prayer Guide, and Mission u curricula
- **Multimedia** to complement your resources
- Free **downloadable PDFs** if you prefer to print your materials
- Program Resource subscribers can join **Monthly Community Gatherings** with the author to support you as a leader
- Regular **educational and inspirational content** from the Reading Program, Faith Talks, Voices From the Field, and Soul Care

**Community:**

- **Free access** to the United Women in Faith network
- **Opportunities to engage** in fellowship, networking, and community building with sisters from across the country and around the world
- Activity feed that lets you read **inspirational messages**, respond to polls, ask questions, and engage with the community
- **Discussion groups** you can join according to your interests, or groups to support your leadership roles
- Online space to share ideas in a **safe environment** created just for you

**Go to [uwfaith.org/digital](http://uwfaith.org/digital) to connect with the United Women in Faith community or subscribe to one of the paid resources.**

**UW Faith Digital**  **Resources and Community— in one secure space**

Click on the picture above to view all that is available through UW Faith digital!



## Let's Train!

*By Brooke Buzard Watson, Cunningham Children's Home*

*"I am going to run the whole thing," 17-year-old Devin, from our Girls Group Home, said.*

*"I'm going to run as fast as a cheetah," 11-year old Jamison shouted.*

Last year, Cunningham CIRCLE Academy-Vermilion's Rad Runners, a group of enthusiastic students and staff, not only met their physical goals in the Be a Hero 5K but also built a supportive community with their peers [[read last year's story here](#)]. As you see with Devin's and Jamison's comments above, this enthusiasm has now spread across multiple programs at Cunningham Children's Home, uniting youth in their pursuit of health, community and personal achievement.

Our Special Therapies team is taking our kids' enthusiasm for the 5K and launching an agency-wide running club. Just as healing and growing from past traumas takes commitment and a lot of work, so does training your body for any competition.



Read the full story [HERE](#).

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**KIDS** **▲**BOVE  
**▲**LL



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- ✓ Store bags
- ✓ Ice bags



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NextTrex.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.



INVITE YOU TO ATTEND ON SEPTEMBER 19<sup>th</sup>

RAISING OUR VOICES  
BRIDGING THE GAP:  
ADDRESSING YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH

Event Highlights



REV. DR. AUDREA  
NANABRAY,  
Lake South District  
Superintendent

- Panel of Agency Therapists Discussing Youth Mental Health and Resources
- 2024 Child Advocate Awards
- Review of advocacy techniques for legislative issues impacting children



Dr. Dana Weiner  
Senior Policy Fellow  
Chapin Hall  
University of Chicago



Thursday, September 19<sup>th</sup>  
10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
Wesley UMC



201 E. 95th Street, Chicago IL 60619



FREE TO ATTEND - PARKING AVAILABLE - LUNCH INCLUDED  
REGISTER NOW! EMAIL [NIK@UNITEDVOICESFORCHILDREN.ORG](mailto:NIK@UNITEDVOICESFORCHILDREN.ORG)



**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.



United  
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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

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