



United
Women
in Faith

INSIGHT

Northern Illinois Conference

January 2025

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 2025

04 --- NIC Conference Leadership Team
05 --- Winter Mission u Opening Worship
06 --- PS District Leadership Team
09 --- PC District Leadership Team
13 --- LS District Leadership Team
19 --- Winter Mission u Closing Worship

February 2025

01 --- LS District Learning Event
01 --- LN District Learning Event
08 --- UMC NIC Laity Convocation
13 --- PC, PN, PS Districts Planning
22 --- PC, PN, PS Districts Sharing and Learning Event

March 2025

01 --- NIC Conference Leadership Team
03 --- PS District Leadership Team
07 --- World Day of Prayer - Church Women United
08 --- World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women - Chicago
10 --- LS District Leadership Team
13 --- PC District Leadership Team
22 --- NIC Spiritual Growth Retreat
23 --- Day of Giving - Legacy Fund

April 2025

05 --- LS District Spiritual Growth Event
20 --- HAPPY EASTER!
26 --- PS District Spiritual Growth Event

For More Detailed Information and Future Events:

[View the Google Calendar](#)

Our 2025 Leadership Team



President - Barb Farley (PC)
Vice President - Peggy Hansen (PC)
Secretary - Lois Voss (PC)
Treasurer - Janeen Hamack (PC)
Communications Coor. - Shelly Davenport (LS)
Spiritual Growth Coor. - Catherine Inserra (LN)
Membership Coor. - Tania Barrett-Smith (LN)
Mission Resources - Karen Messley (PN)

Chairperson of Nominations - Robbie Moultrie (LS)
Historian - Marilyn Steenwyk (PC)

Committee on Nominations:

June Neumann (LN)
Vivian Green (LN)
Rita L. Smith (LS)
Phyllis Pepiot (PC)

President's Report

By Barb Farley

I am writing this in excited anticipation of the New Year! Looking back on 2024, we have so very much for which to be grateful! Once again, United Women in Faith Northern Illinois Conference, have exceeded our pledge to National by at least 26%! We have worked to help transform our communities. Speaking for fair wages, a cleaner environment, and more just and equitable laws, we have boldly made our voices heard. We are always on the move. I look forward to a year of collaboration with our Korean and Spanish speaking sisters, learning new things, and helping women, youth, and children near and far.



UW Faith NIC Conference Spiritual Growth Retreat on March 22 and also our Mission u events in January and July will nurture, strengthen, and inspire each of us. Thank you all for a very fruitful year. May God, who strengthens, blesses, and gives us hope, prepare our way ahead as we proceed in love, one foot in front of the other.

Treasurer's Report

By Janeen Hamack

Greetings from your Conference Treasurer, Janeen Hamack,

The last remittances from the NIC Conference have been sent to National UW Faith. We have again exceeded our pledge to National. We have paid \$161,500 on our pledge of \$126,360. We have exceeded our pledge by 28%.

Thank you to all the districts and the local units who contributed.

Blessings to all!

Secretary's Report

By Lois Voss

Happy January 2025! May you continue to lead our sisters with grace.

I am working on our United Women in Faith Northern Illinois Conference 2025 Yearbook and Directory. This is a book of many resources to help you in your leadership role. I will share more details later this month.

Please mark your calendars now with our NIC team Zoom meetings so you can avoid conflicts: 9 a.m. on January 4, March 1, May 3, September 6, and our one evening on November 13 at 7 pm. NIC Spiritual Renewal Retreat is March 22, NIC Mission u is July 18-20, and NIC Annual Celebration is October 25.

Remember to follow our "Brand" guidelines and keep United Women in Faith first in writing our name at all levels. We are United Women in Faith Northern Illinois Conference or United Women in Faith NIC or UW Faith NIC. An example of a district name is United Women in Faith Prairie North District or United Women in Faith PN District or UW Faith PN. 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.

I am using a new email: nicuwfaith.secy25@gmail.com
My cell/text # is 847-409-6013.

Please remember to send me any changes in contact information or events.

Spiritual Growth Retreat

By Catherine Inserra

SAVE THE DATE

United Women in Faith Northern Illinois Conference Spiritual Growth Retreat

Date: Saturday, March 22, 2025

Location: This is yet to be confirmed, but FUMC in Park Ridge will likely be the most accessible and spacious site.

Time: 9 AM to 3 PM; doors open at 8:15 am

Theme: Our Sacred Breath

Featuring: Deaconess, Martha Lundgren, member at Renewed Hope UMC Chicago

The cost per person will most likely be \$25 all-inclusive.

REMAINING DETAILS ARE IN THE PLANNING STAGE. Watch for more information in the February INSIGHT and from UWFaith leadership. All who attend this gathering will experience a deeper sense of the holy, and receive time and space for breathing, including movement and quiet spaces. Refreshments and lunch will be included.

Plan to carpool. Inviting other young adult women and friends for this meaningful and timely experience during Lent is wonderful.



Martha Lundgren is a United Methodist deaconess who responded to a call to provide faithful care to dying persons. She is a spiritual care volunteer at Aperion Wesley Place and Chicago Methodist Senior Services Hartwell Place where she leads weekly prayer services for residents with dementia and practices the ministry of presence. She also volunteers with the Modern Widows Club, a women's health organization serving widows seeking to understand their experience and focus on growth. Martha is pictured here with the plaque at Wesley Place that honors Isabelle Reeve, first licensed deaconess and trained by Lucy Rider Meyer.

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 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



United
Women
in Faith

District News

Lake South District

Registration form [HERE](#)



United
Women
in Faith

Lake South District
2025 LEARNING EVENT AND MEMBERSHIP
WORKSHOP

Saturday, February 1 2025

First United Methodist Church of Oak Lawn

10000 Central Avenue
OAK LAWN, IL 60453
9:00 A.M. – 1:00P.M.

PARKING is available in the church's parking lot.

REGISTRATION/CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST/ PROGRAM RESOURCES

8:00 A.M. - 9:00 A.M.

DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION: January 25, 2025

Mail/ Email Completed Registration Form & Fee (\$5) to:

Wendy Miller
United Methodist Church of New Lenox
PO Box 1289
New Lenox , IL 60451

Make checks payable to: UWFaith/LSD

This event is for all women who want to know more about the organization of the United Women in Faith - our history, our future, local unit/district/and conference structure. Please do not hesitate to pose your questions or offer comments during the Q and A, or on the Evaluation Form. Your input and ideas are critical to the continued improvement of our programs.

Prairie Central, North, and South Districts

The Prairie Central, North, and South Districts will be having a joint winter event on Saturday, February 22 at 9:00 am via Zoom. "Helping You ~ Helping Others" will be the topic for the morning. We are excited to announce that Praveena Balasundaram from the National office will be sharing tips on how to navigate through the United Women in Faith website. Vanessa and Tony from Northcott Neighborhood House, a National Mission Institution in Milwaukee, explain how United Women in Faith helps their programming.

[FLYER AND REGISTRATION HERE](#)

National Network of Korean -American United Methodist Women

Support our Korean sisters!
Read their December newsletter [HERE](#).
Read their January newsletter [HERE](#).

KIDS ABOVE ALL

RECYCLE BEYOND THE BAG

Recycle your household bags & wrap into Trex's Earth-friendly composite decking and railing!



FROM THE STORE

✓ Produce bags

✓ Store bags

✓ Ice bags



FROM YOUR PANTRY

✓ Ziploc® & other reclosable bags

✓ 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 Continues

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.

National

Thank you for joining us in advocacy through United Women in Faith. We are grateful for your efforts to put love in action for children, women, and youth. We have recently changed our online advocacy platform! We will be sharing more links to take action in the new year. Here are three current actions to take and share now.

1. Join United Women in Faith in the [Micah 6:8 Pledge](#) to love kindness, do justice, and walk humbly with God.
<https://win.newmode.net/unitedwomeninfaith/todojusticetolovekindnesstowalkhumblywithgod>
2. [Email](#) and [call](#) your legislators and urge for a ceasefire in Gaza and just and lasting peace in the Middle East.
<https://win.newmode.net/unitedwomeninfaith/unitedwomeninfaithcallforanimmediateceasefireingaza>

To find more actions and resources related to United Women in Faith's social action campaigns, you can visit the [Just Energy for All](#) and [Interrupt the School-to-Prison Pipeline](#) resource webpages.

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

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

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