



United
Women
in Faith

INSIGHT

Northern Illinois Conference

February 2025

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 2025

01 --- LS District Learning Event
02 --- KUMW Dedication Service
07 --- LN District Leadership Team
08 --- UMC NIC Laity Convocation
13 --- PC, PN, PS Districts Planning
22 --- PC, PN, PS Districts Sharing and Learning Event
22 --- LN District Leadership Team

March 2025

01 --- [NIC Conference Leadership Team](#)
03 --- PS District Leadership Team
07 --- PN District Leadership Team
07 --- World Day of Prayer - Church Women United
08 --- World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women - 6930 S. Cottage Grove Ave., Chicago
10 --- LS District Leadership Team
13 --- PC District Leadership Team
14 --- LN District Leadership Team
22 --- [NIC Spiritual Growth Retreat](#)
23 --- [Day of Giving - Legacy Fund](#)

April 2025

04 --- LN District Leadership Team
05 --- PS District Spring Gathering
05 --- LS District Day of Spiritual Renewal
20 --- HAPPY EASTER!
26 --- PN District Spring Event
26 --- LN District Spring Event
30 --- PC District Citizen's Utility Board Presentation

May 2025

02 --- PN District Leadership Team
03 --- [NIC Conference Leadership Team](#)
05 --- PS District Leadership Team
08 --- PC District Leadership Team
09 --- LN District Leadership Team
12 --- LS District Leadership Team

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 Coord. - Shelly Davenport (LS)

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

Committee on Nominations:

June Neumann (LN)

2025 Winter Mission u Recap

By Betty Erickson

Before I start recapping all that has happened in the last two weeks, I want to thank the people involved with making our winter Mission u a success. Winter Dean, Marta Rodriguez, Beth Jayapalan who went above and beyond acting as tech and more, Paulette Myrie-Hodge as registrar, and Erica McIntosh and all her tech magic. Of course, our study leaders led us to know better what “Welcome Home” means. Rev. Mary Zajac and Rev. Doug Clement. And Laura Dean Frederick brings us to and through the Missionary Conferences of the United Methodist Church.

During the “Welcome Home” study the following items struck a chord with me.

- Father, how were we raised by our earthly father? Authoritarian, Authoritative, Permissive, Uninvolved. How do we classify God our Father in these categories?
- What is Home? In one session home was described as “the place that when you go there, we have to let them in.”
- How do we see people, especially people who do not look, sound, or talk like we do? We need not look at all people just with our eyes, but like Jesus does with our hearts.

Having said this I want to insert a portion of the prayer that came from the Bishop for Martin Luther King’s birthday:

Grant us a neighborliness that heals all that divides us. Make us eager to look for your image in the face of those with whom we may differ and those who live in fear and want. Remind us today of the vision of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., “that the universe is on the side of justice” and that “all life is interrelated.”

During the ‘Missionary Conferences’ Study the following items were focused on. There are three conferences, in varying parts of the country but having similar reasons for being formed. All three of these conferences are serving the oppressed, those with geographic isolation, exploitation be it by nature, or government with cultural and language differences. There are three principles of Mission work: Radical Welcome, Mutual Respect, and Partnership. The sad reality of this study that came from 2017-2018 is that not much has changed. So, who needs to be part of the change? WE ALL DO! As a group, we were able to come up with resources that as individuals or possibly units and districts we can make change.

A list of ways to be part of the solution is included [HERE](#).

United Women in Faith Unit Survey

By Tania Smith

The 2023 Unit Survey is open!

Survey period: October 18, 2024, until March 31, 2025.

The survey is intended to be completed by Unit Presidents and/or All Access Group Convenors. The survey should not take more than 10-15 minutes to complete.

This year’s questions focus on membership engagement and growth, leadership development, and program awareness and participation, as we aim to support our new organizational vision of expanding our membership, increasing annual revenue, and

strengthening our legacy funding.

Feedback is crucial and responses do matter—not just for understanding current progress, but for guiding our next steps toward continued growth. We also want to be able to celebrate all the work you are doing on behalf of women, children, and youth around the globe.

To Access the Survey: Please click [Unit/Group Survey for 2023](#)

As a reminder, the survey closing date is **March 31, 2025**.

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: FUMC in Park Ridge will likely be the most accessible and spacious site.

Time: 9 AM to 2 PM; doors open at 8:15 AM

Theme: *Our Sacred Breath*

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

Cost: \$20 per person - includes refreshments and a lite lunch

All who attend this gathering will experience the following:

- 1) a deeper sense of the holy
- 2) time and space for breathing
- 3) opportunities for movement and conversations
- 4) fellowship and sisterhood

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

Flyer [HERE](#)

Registration form [HERE](#)



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.

Social Action

By Kathy Tiffin

I am writing to you about heat, water, and people because all three are important. It is too easy to forget about one of these elements in your life. I have been involved in a large remodeling and upgrade project which was done for people. I overlooked the heating and water aspect because it was not in the scope of the project. Now I know that a maintenance program for the heating systems is needed. Please have a maintenance program for your heating and cooling systems, both at home and at church. Remember to check your heat, water, and people; they are all important parts of your personal life and your church life, they are important all year long!

MAKE THAT PHONE CALL!

Reading Program



YOU'RE INVITED

2025 Reading Program

Serve as a Volunteer Evaluator with the Reading Program

Did you ever wonder what goes into shaping the [United Women in Faith Reading Program](#) each year? At the heart of the Reading Program is the work of numerous volunteer evaluators who read and review a list of assigned books, offering careful and candid feedback regarding the books' overall quality and alignment with our mission. In 2025, we will be evaluating potential books for the 2027 Reading Program, again relying on the extraordinary work of a great team of volunteer evaluators.

Are you interested in serving as a volunteer evaluator for the Reading Program this year? If so, please take 10 minutes to [complete the 2025 interest form](#). Both new and returning volunteers should use this form.

We will consider interest forms on a rolling basis throughout the year, but completion by **February 15th** is preferred, as it allows us to plan appropriately for the spring cycle book assignments.

Peace, Emily

Emily Jones
Executive for Racial Justice
United Women in Faith

District News

Lake South District

Eternal and everlasting God, who art the Father of all mankind, as we turn aside from the hurly-burly of everyday living, may our hearts and souls, yea our very spirits, be lifted upward to Thee, for it is from Thee that all blessing cometh. Keep us ever mindful of our dependence upon Thee, for without Thee our efforts are but naught. We pray for Thy divine guidance as we travel the highways of life. We pray for more courage. We pray for more faith and above all we pray for more love. May we somehow come to understand the true meaning of Thy love as revealed to us in the life, death



and resurrection of Thy son and our Lord and Master, Jesus Christ.

May the Cross ever remind us of Thy great love, for greater love no man hath given. This is our supreme example, O God. May we be constrained to follow in the name and spirit of Jesus, we pray. *Coretta Scott King: "A Public Prayer for Divine Perspective"*

Prairie Central, North, and South Districts Helping You ~ Helping Others



Praveena Balasundaram

Have you ever visited the United Women in Faith website (uwfaith.org) searching for something and haven't found it?

Have you ever been asked where some of the money given to mission goes?

The Prairie Districts have planned something for you! All are invited to join our Prairie Central, North, and South Districts learning event on Feb. 22, 9:00-11:00 am via Zoom. 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, will also tell us more about their programs. It will be an informative morning and we hope to "see" you there! The easiest way to let us know you plan to join is to reply via this [Google form](#). You may also email [Linda Osikowicz](#). See the attached flyer. The Zoom link will be emailed to you as well as your district treasurer's information if you would like to make an offering to Northcott Neighborhood House or to your district's pledge. There is no fee for the event.

[FLYER AND REGISTRATION HERE](#)

National Network of Korean -American United Methodist Women

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Support our Korean sisters!
Read their February 2025 newsletter [HERE](#).

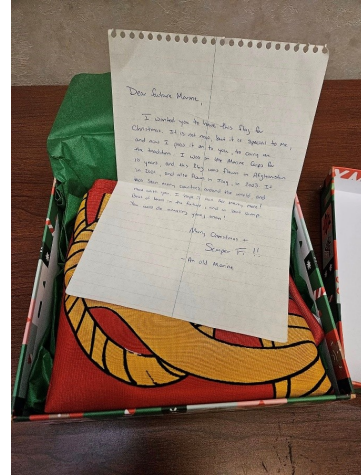
Community



A Marine's Gift: Alan's Christmas Wish Comes True

By Brooke Buzard Watson

Last school year, Cunningham Children's Home's CIRCLE Academy Vermilion (CAV) Vocational program hosted armed forces recruiters, inspiring Alan to pursue enlistment after graduation. CAV is Cunningham's therapeutic day school that provides a supportive and structured learning environment for students who live in Vermilion County (an hour east of Urbana) facing emotional, behavioral and academic challenges. Through individualized education and therapeutic services, CAV teachers and staff help students build the skills and confidence they need to succeed.



Only a junior, but captivated by the opportunity to serve, Alan has stayed in touch with a recruiter, participating in physical training sessions to prepare for enlistment. His dedication is evident in his academic success and eagerness to join the Marines after he graduates in May! But Alan's passion goes beyond preparation—it showed up at the top of his Christmas wish list this year - a Marine Corps flag.

Read Alan's full story [HERE](#).

KIDS **▲** **ABOVE**
▲ **ALL**



UNITED VOICES FOR CHILDREN IN PARTNERSHIP WITH CHILDREN'S ADVOCATES FOR CHANGE
INVITE YOU TO

ADVOCACY TRAINING FOR GREATER ACTION IMPACT ADDRESSING YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH AND ACCESSIBILITY

February 10th, 6:30 p.m. to 7:45 p.m.
Virtual Meeting

Event Details

- Equip community workers, mental health professionals, UMC laity and clergy, school administrators, teachers, and others with the tools and knowledge to effectively advocate for children and youth facing mental health challenges
- Meet Illinois Legislators and Special Guest Advocates
- Earn 1.25 CEUs



FOR LINK AND TO REGISTER NOW
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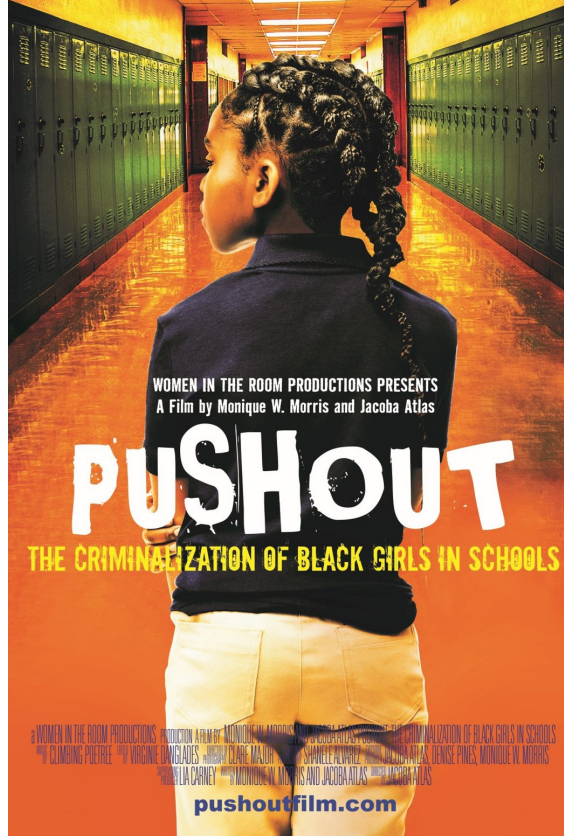
National

Join United Women in Faith on February 6 at 7:00 pm ET for a special screening of *Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools*. The film screening will be followed by a small group discussion open to all and an information-sharing session for those interested in offering a similar program in their local context.

About the Film: *Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools* is a feature length documentary which takes a

close look at the educational, judicial, and societal disparities facing African American girls. The documentary is based on Dr. Monique W. Morris' groundbreaking book of the same name and confronts the ways in which the misunderstanding of Black girlhood has led to excessive punitive discipline which in turn disrupts one of the most important factors in their lives – education.

This event is hosted by United Women in Faith. There is no cost to participate. All are welcome.



Register [HERE](#).

[Assembly 2026 workshop proposals](#)

United Women in Faith is excited to announce that the Call for Workshop Proposals for Assembly 2026 is now open! The 2026 Assembly, themed “Dream it, Believe it, Do it!” will take place in Indianapolis, Indiana, May 15-17, 2026. The deadline for submitting workshop proposals is March 3, 2025.

Find more information [HERE](#).

[Save the Date: Sunday, March 23, 2025](#)

For Generations to Come - By uniting our hearts and hands, we are building a future filled with hope and support for women, children, and youth. Every gift you make, regardless of size, **will make an impact for generations to come**. Give to The Legacy Endowment Fund on (near) the Day of Giving, March 23rd!

WAYS TO GIVE:

- Online at: uwfaith.org/dayofgiving
- By phone: 800-278-7771 (8 am - 5 pm Eastern Time, Mon - Fri)
- Text: "Future" to **20503**
- By check (write 'Day of Giving' on the memo line):
United Women in Faith
Attention: Legacy
Church Center for the United Nations
777 United Nations Plaza, 11th Floor
New York, NY 10017

Together, we are building our legacy for generations to come!

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](#) |
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