



United
Women
in Faith

INSIGHT

Northern Illinois Conference

March 2025

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

June 2025

- 07 --- PC District Labyrinth Experience
- 9-10-11 - UMC NIC Annual Conference, Schaumburg Renaissance Center
- 18 --- PN District Salad Supper and Awards

**For More Detailed Information and
Future Events:**

[View the Google Calendar](#)

President's Report

By Barb Farley

One foot in front of the other and casting our eyes forward! These are two phrases that have kept me going these last few months! Setting aside, for the moment, personal challenges in my life, I am laser-focused on our UWFaith future! I am so excited to announce to you that our General Secretary and CEO of UWFaith, Sally Vonner, will be our guest speaker for our UWFaith NIC Annual Celebration on October 25 at Belvidere First UMC and the guest speaker at St. Mark UMC the very next day, 10/26, for their UWFaith Celebration! We are anticipating many sisters attending these events from all our districts and from the

Wisconsin and Indiana Conferences! "Save the Date" will be coming out shortly, so please pass it along to all your units and friends. This is a rare opportunity not to be missed!



Casting our eyes forward also reminds us to remember our foremothers' journeys. I want to lift up Rev. Gladys King Lucas, who passed and will be celebrated this Saturday. She was a member of UMW and worked at Marcy Newberry. Rev. Lucas served on the Jurisdiction before becoming a minister. I am so grateful for those who have come before us, trailblazing the way for us for this exact moment in time! Coming into the Season of Lent, let us reflect upon those who have shown us the way to put love into action! One wonderful way to contemplate our Lenten journey is to join the UW Faith NIC Spiritual Retreat on March 22 at First United Methodist Church in Park Ridge. "Sacred Breath: Contemplating Mortality as an Act of Devotion" is the topic presented by our own Deaconess Martha Lundgren. Looking toward the future, putting Love into action!

Save the DATE

United Women in Faith
Northern Illinois Conference

Two-Day Celebration

Join us for this wonderful two-day event as we welcome in person, speaking to us for the first time, General Secretary/CEO Sally Vonner!

October 25-26, 2025

Saturday, October 25

UWFaithNIC Annual Meeting
Belvidere FUMC
610 Bonus Ave., Belvidere, Il. 61008

Sunday, October 26

UWFaith Sunday
St. Mark UMC
8441 S. Saint Lawrence Ave., Chicago, Il. 60619



Secretary's Report

By Lois Voss

What? The United Women in Faith Northern Illinois Conference 2025 Yearbook & Directory is complete.

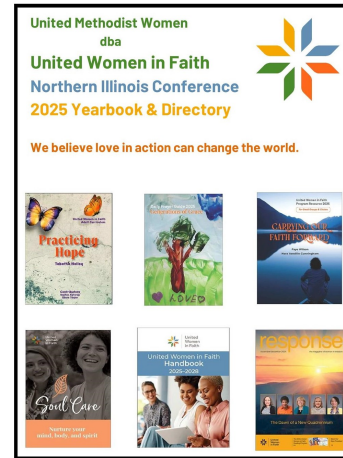
When? Now!

Why? It is our 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, deaconesses, and directory. Our cover focus is on the UWFaith resources available in 2025.

Where? Order on Cheddar Up for paper copy. \$6.70 mailed or \$4.11 picked up

Use the QR code or pick on the image



How? Pay by credit card on [Cheddar Up](#), or pay by check (payable to UWFaith NIC) and send to our conference treasurer:

Janeen Hamack, Barrington UMC, 98 Algonquin Rd., Barrington IL 60010
or email your order to Lois Voss and pick up your paper copy at 401 Crest Dr., Cary, IL 60013. nicuwfaith.secy25@gmail.com or 847-409-6013 (cell)

Note: If you are part of the conference or a district leadership team or a local president, you will receive an email from Lois with the way to access our digital copy on uwfaithnic.org

This year, UWFaith NIC is sending a complimentary paper copy to every local president for her team as a resource for all the changes we have survived since 2020.

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, at nicuwfaith.secy25@gmail.com.

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

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: \$15 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.

District News

Prairie Central District

Every day is a good day for Earth Day!

United Women in Faith Prairie Central District invite all to an informative evening featuring a presentation from Citizens Utility Board (CUB) on decarbonizing your home. We will gather via Zoom, 7:00-8:00 pm on Wednesday, April 30. Yes, it is a bit after the official Earth Day, but it's never too late to learn how we can do our part. CUB will dive into ways homeowners and renters can access energy efficiency and cost savings programs to decarbonize. Put the date on your calendar!

Register [HERE](#).

Decarbonizing Your Home

Wednesday, April 30th, 2025

7-8 PM

Register below for Zoom link



JOIN CITIZENS UTILITY BOARD AND
UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH PRAIRIE
CENTRAL DISTRICT FOR A
PRESENTATION ON DECARBONIZING
YOUR HOME!

CUB WILL DIVE INTO WAYS
HOMEOWNERS CAN ACCESS ENERGY
EFFICIENCY AND COST-SAVING
PROGRAMS TO DECARBONIZE



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RSVP: bit.ly/barrington_decarb OR
Contact Lmosikowicz@comcast.net

Community



Izzy's Special Quilt

By Brooke Buzard Watson

Throughout Cunningham's 130-year history, there have always been two constants. The first is carrying on the tradition first started in 1895 by United Women in Faith and quilters from across Illinois who have made quilts for our kids. While they rarely know who the

recipients of their quilts will be, they do know what the quilts represent: the warmth, safety, and love our youth find at Cunningham.

The other constant is how your contributions meet the evolving needs of kids facing difficult life circumstances.



This reminds me of Izzy, a who lives in our Girls Group Home. 2024 was a year of milestones for Izzy – she turned 18 years old, graduated from high school and was preparing for her transition from Cunningham to a group home for young adults in northern Illinois. To celebrate, as is tradition, she got one-on-one time with Chaplain Anne Fuquay in the “Special Quilt Closet.” Here we lovingly store the collection of quilts that are given by supporters to be gifted to our youth. As they prepare to leave, the youth gets to make their own selection of a new quilt to take with them when they go.

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

Leave a Legacy

By Marilyn Steenwyk, Legact Liason

[Days of Giving 2025 - Sunday, March 23, 2025](#)

Day of Giving 2025 is just a few weeks away, and we are so excited to share the attached toolkit with you. To support your celebrations and fundraising efforts, the toolkit includes stories of impact, worship resources, Bible verses for reflection, and ways to give.

To view the live-streamed Day of Giving Event on Sunday, March 23rd, at Noon Central Time [1 pm ET], go to the webpage at <https://uwfaith.org/dayofgiving/>.

Encourage individuals and Units to contribute and help to reach the Day of Giving goal of \$450,000.

Flyer [HERE](#).

Toolkit [HERE](#).

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

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

National

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](#).

Tips on Using Our Name United Women in Faith

TIPS for ... writing about churches ... for charts, registrations, directories ... our name

- Write church names with the location first... omit UMC
- If the church name includes the location name with UMC, then we simply write the location without the UMC. Example: Cary UMC would appear as Cary
- If there is more than one church in a location, then use a colon before the church identification. Example: Barrington UMC would appear as Barrington: Barrington, and Salem UMC would appear as Barrington: Salem
- Many UMC churches are First or Wesley. Their name would be location colon unique name. Example: First Church of Crystal Lake would appear Crystal Lake: First, and Wesley UMC in Chicago would be Chicago: Wesley
- Note that the annual directory for our Northern Illinois Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church uses the formats above. You may have noticed this in registration forms. We are using this format in our own annual yearbook and directory. (It saves space.)

TIPS for ... writing our organization's name ...

- This is the order for writing our name to avoid confusing it with a district name...our organization...location (from largest to smallest, if more than one)...event or person... year United Women in Faith Northern Illinois Conference Prairie Central president Lois Lane
- UWFaith NIC leadership team 2025 UWFaith PC secretary Betty White
- United Women in Faith NIC Spiritual Growth Retreat 2025 at Park Ridge: First

Note there is no “of” or extra “in”. Note there is no 3 letter abbreviation, please use UWFaith. The district abbreviation is only 2 letters: LN, LS, PC, PN, or PS.

Our National office recommends using our full name first in written documents. Then later in the text you could use UWFaith.

Happy writing! UWFaith NIC secretary, Lois Voss



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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