



United
Women
in Faith

INSIGHT

Northern Illinois Conference

May 2025

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 2025

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

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

Easter blessings to all! We are Easter people and are showing our strength and loving spirit as we reach out to our legislators in Springfield and Washington to voice our opinions and grave concerns regarding policy decisions that threaten individuals and whole communities - especially those of communities of color. Deeply disturbing are the blatant attempts to roll back civil rights protections for students, increasing criminalization of communities of color and the undoing of advances in climate justice! As United Women in Faith, we pray for guidance and direction as we look to the Holy Spirit's guidance. Please be active and attentive to what is happening around you and abroad. We are a formidable organization and I know we have the ability to have our voices heard.



If you are a member to Annual Conference in June, the vote regarding the constitutional amendments which were passed in 2024 to promote gender and racial equity within the United Methodist Church is crucial. Talk to your units and those at your place of worship so that all can be informed.

There is so much to be thankful for! We have wonderful Mission u sessions coming up in July and August. We will be singing with our Korean sisters in August and we will celebrate in person with our General Secretary/CEO, Sally Vonner, in October with our UWFaith sisters from Wisconsin and Indiana and beyond! I have not even mentioned all that is happening in your local units! By putting one foot in front of the other and leading with love, we will learn and advocate together with a Pentecost Spirit!

July 18-20 – Weekend

July 19 – Korean One-Day

Aug 2 – One-Day



All are welcome to join us at Mission u as we explore what it means to practice hope as followers of Christ.

* How do we understand hope in the midst of so many hard realities?

* Is hope merely optimism?

We will study the resurrection appearances of Jesus and the example of early Christian communities to explore what it means to practice hope in God even when things seem to be falling apart.

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.

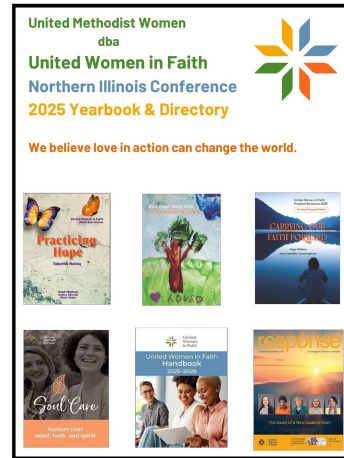
When? Now!

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 click 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. nicuwwfaith.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 nicuwwfaith.secy25@gmail.com.

The Errata sheet for the 2025 Yearbook and Directory is [HERE](#).

Social Action

By Kathy Tiffin

Dear Blessed Sisters in Faith,

Here is my first ever deliberate email to you regarding Social Action activities for the United Women in Faith.

There are two activities that I would like to bring to your attention.

The first one is easy-peasy! Please click on [this link](#) which will show you what the United Women in Faith is actively doing for Climate Justice.

The second is this website calling to:

“Join United Women in Faith’s Lenten Action for Justice”

This activity is a ‘whole-body’ experience! This is not for everyone, but give it some thought. On Wednesday, May 7, 2025, a group of about 40 “Faith Action” people will be traveling to Springfield, Illinois, to talk with our Illinois State Representatives. We will focus on racial justice and equity in regard to:

- 1) Education and Schools
- 2) Environmental Justice
- 3) Immigration

If you are interested in joining us, we have two buses going this year. Please let me know quickly. We only have a few bus seats left. The buses leave the Chicagoland area at about 6:00 AM, and we return at about 7:00 PM. A delicious lunch is provided by the Douglas Ave UMC in Springfield. Also, we all promise to “Present my best self in engaging with others. This includes my fellow travelers, legislators, as well as others I come in contact with.”

Annual Conference

By Peggy Hansen

The 2025 Annual Conference for the Northern Illinois Conference is rapidly approaching! This year United Women in Faith have a new opportunity to get together and make our presence known! The Annual Conference Planning Team has created a new event, “Lunch and Learn” and United Women in Faith is joining with Global Ministries to host one of the sessions on Tuesday at noon.

Please plan to join us on Tuesday at noon. There are at least three ways you can participate in Annual Conference:

- 1) Lay delegate from your local church;
- 2) By virtue of office (member of a conference committee or conference position);
- 3) Equalizing delegate (this means you have been appointed by your DS to fill one of the positions used to equalize the representation between clergy and laity, discuss with your DS)



The registration fee this year includes a box lunch for the Tuesday “Lunch and Learn” sessions. Select the session hosted by Global Ministries and United Women in Faith when you register, pick up your box lunch and join the session! Our president, Barb Farley, will be one of the speakers!

Questions? Peggy Hansen, VP, 630 248-9819

Lunch and Learn with United Women in Faith at Annual Conference

You are invited to our Board of Global Ministries and United Women in Faith Luncheon on Tuesday, June 10th at 12:00 p.m. Join us for a delicious meal as we reflect on the ways we’ve come together to serve, support, and uplift those in need, both near and far. You’ll hear powerful stories of impact, learn more about the missions we support, and discover ways to

get involved. This year, we are honored to welcome two incredible speakers who are making a profound impact through their ministry and service. Rev. Ronny Pulgar Hughes, the District Superintendent of the Austral District of the Methodist Church in Chile, will share powerful insights into the transformative work taking place within his community, where faith is a guiding light in the daily lives of those living in one of the most remote and rugged regions of the world—Patagonia. Joining him is Chantel Corrie, the Executive Director of the Midwest Mission Distribution Center, who will speak about the vital role of disaster relief, humanitarian aid, and the church's mission to serve people in crisis around the world. Their stories and experiences will inspire us all to continue being the hands and feet of Christ in our communities and beyond.

In Memoriam

In Loving Memory of Jane Hackett

April 23rd - A Day of Remembrance

On April 23rd, we lovingly remembered Jane Hackett, one of our modern-day matriarchs whose life was a shining example of faith, joy, and devotion. A long-time faithful member of United Methodist Women, now known as United Women in Faith, Jane was known for her unwavering commitment to God, her family, friends, and community.

Jane radiated happiness and was always ready to respond to life's call with the words, "Here I am, Lord!" Her spiritual strength and joyful heart left a lasting impression on all who knew her.



Jane served faithfully as Vice President of the United Methodist Women (UMW) Northern Illinois Conference in 1999 and 2000. Her leadership and passion were felt deeply at the conference level and within her local unit at Morris United Methodist Church, where she was an energetic and devoted member. Throughout the 1980s and 1990s, Jane was a vibrant part of the Aurora District, contributing her time and talents to a variety of initiatives. She was especially known for her creative and impactful skits promoting racial justice, using drama and storytelling to inspire awareness and change. Jane also played an important role in the collection of Campbell's soup labels to support the Marcy Newberry Center, a beloved mission project in those years. Her dedication to service and justice left a lasting impression on all who worked alongside her.

Beyond her faith, Jane lived an active and fulfilling life. She was athletic, enjoying tennis and swimming, and she loved playing bridge with friends. She shared over 50 beautiful years of marriage with her beloved husband, and she found joy in the music of John Denver — a fitting soundtrack for a life well-lived, full of warmth and connection.

Jane Hackett's memory continues to inspire and uplift. She will be deeply missed but never forgotten.

District News

Lake North District

Change in Pill Bottle Collection

Beginning May 15, 2025, the Park Ridge unit of United Women in Faith will no longer accept pill bottles for recycling. If you currently have donations, please bring them to First United Methodist Church Park Ridge before May 15. (418 Touhy Ave., Park Ridge, IL) The pill

bottles must have labels removed and be clean of all sticky residue. Thank you for supporting this mission for the past several years. Please contact [Andrea Thomas](#) if you have donations.

Spring Celebration

Our Spring Celebration will be held Saturday, May 31 at Kingswood UMC, 401 West Dundee Road, Buffalo Grove from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Find the flyer [HERE](#).

Find the printed registration form [HERE](#).

Online registration [HERE](#).

Lake South District

Dear Sisters in Christ,

Our UWFaith Lake South District Day of Spiritual Renewal was held Saturday, April 6, 2025 at St. Mark UMC in Chicago, IL. There were a wonderful number of women who were in attendance. They were blessed to hear our guest speaker, Rev. Allyson Cressie Talbert. Rev. Talbert, who gave a spirit-filled message which was uplifting and renewing to the soul. This day also held a time of remembrance for 33 of our faithful women who have gone on to glory and have now claimed their room which our Lord and Savior had prepared for them. I wish to extend a heartfelt and much deserved "thank you" to Rev. Allyson Cressie Talbert for being our speaker; the United Women in Faith of St. Mark UMC for hosting this amazing event; to our Vice-President, Felicia Gaines, who arranged and prepared this beautiful day of renewing our spirits and souls; to Alison Jenkins, who created a beautiful booklet for the occasion; and last, but not least, to my wonderful leadership team who covered for me in my absence, as I was unable to attend due to a prior commitment out of state for another UMC organization that I had missed putting on my calendar last year, so that I was unknowingly double-booked when planning the 2025 UWFaith Lake South District calendar of events.

We are looking forward to the upcoming Summer Mission u, which will be held July 18-20, 2025 at the Carmelite Spiritual Center, 8419 Bailey Road, Darien, IL 60561. More information will be made available for registration by the UWFaith NIC Mission u Committee. We hope and pray that we have a wonderful number of women from Lake South District who will attend this very worth-while time of learning, soul-enrichment and fellowship with other UWFaith women from across our Conference.

Be sure to mark your calendar to SAVE THE DATE for our UW Faith Lake South District Annual Celebration, which will be held Saturday, September 27, 2025. The location is still to be determined, but if your unit would like to host this event, please contact me or Felicia Gaines, UW Faith Lake South District Vice President. We would love to hear from you.

In faithful service,
Wendy A. Miller
UWFaith Lake South District President

Community



**Lots of Love From the UWFaith NIC
for the Festival of Quilts**

By Brooke Buzard Watson



Peggy Hansen and friend



Betty Erickson and Kim Starr

We are delighted to announce that the 21st Annual Festival of Quilts brought in **\$81,487** in total proceeds! Thank you for over 20 years of unwavering support for this treasured tradition. Your generosity, enthusiasm and love have helped this event grow into a cherished tradition that continues to warm hearts and change lives. All proceeds from this signature fundraiser support Cunningham youth and families.

Read more about the 2025 Festival of Quilts [HERE](#).



Dear UWFaith NIC,

Alleluia! Jesus has risen yet again! As Easter people building the Kin-dom, we are called to embrace our purpose with renewed hope - that of being *a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.*

Thank you very much for your supportive fellowship, loving care of our kids and families in so many ways for countless years. For now, please know we at Kids Above All are deeply grateful for your faith in action. The photo shows UWFaith from the Prairie Central District when I shared about how we are building better lives for kids in March. Now, the summer is approaching, as is our annual Back to School Drive to support our kids with new backpacks and supplies.

As you find good prices and opportunities to buy items, please keep us in mind. This year, more than ever, we want to ensure the safety, well-being, and education above all else for our kids.

Thank you for your faith, Deaconess Catherine



Photo submitted by Catherine Inserra

KIDS ABOVE ALL'S
BACK TO SCHOOL
 BACKPACK DRIVE
 JUNE 15 - AUGUST 20

.....

MORE INFORMATION
WWW.KIDSABOVEALL.ORG/BTS-DRIVE

CONTACT INFO

Catherine Inserra
 Kids Above All's Manager of Faith & Community Relations
 (847) 224-2870
cinserra@kidsaboveall.org

KIDS
 ABOVE
 ALL

Skokie: Central is hosting this fabulous concert to benefit Kids Above All

Marvin Gayatgay will sing classic American songs and Filipino Songs. Our church's own Millete Silverio will be the pianist for the night. (Millete was a member of the Madrigal Singers, Worldwide Award Winners.)

Mark Your Calendar! Stay tuned for more exciting information.

SKOKIE CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
A benefit concert for Kids Above All



Featuring
Marvin Gayatgay

Baritone
Philippine Madrigal Singers Alumnus
*"An affable man with pleasant presence - so pleasant
that is impossible not to like him"*
Broadway World

Millete Silverio

Pianist
Philippine Madrigal Singers Alumna

Back from a sold-out concert series in the Philippines!

My Way : A Musical Tapestry

**Tickets \$20 General Admission
\$10 Students and under 18 y.o.**

DATE: MAY 16, 2025

TIME: 7:30 PM

**VENUE: CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
8237 Kenton Avenue, Skokie, Illinois 60076**

847-673-1311 • www.skokiecentralumc.org • centralchurch@skokiecentralumc.org

Interested in Learning Tai Chi?
It benefits You and Kids Above All

Sign up for a six-week class on Monday evenings in the Log Cabin at Central United Methodist Church in Skokie, from May 5 through June 9, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

A suggested donation of \$10 per class will help support Kids Above All.

Classes are taught by certified instructors, Jas and Jo Faber. This slow, meditative exercise is designed to improve energy, relaxation, balance, and overall health.

More information [HERE](#).

National



Put Assembly 2026 on your calendar!

Come be transformed at Assembly 2026!
Visit UWFaith.org/Assembly to learn more!

United Women in Faith is excited to announce that the website for Assembly 2026 is now open! This year's Assembly, themed "Dream it! Believe it! Do it!" will take place in Indianapolis, May 15-17, 2026. Registration opens September 1, 2025.

What awaits you at this empowering event? Be nurtured by deep Soul Care experiences. Be equipped through cutting-edge workshops. Be inspired by top women experts in their field. Become influencers through networking connections. Make an impact through action for justice.

Now is the time to start promoting Assembly with your circles, friends, and neighbors. Marketing materials are available on the site to help members invite persons to register.

The more sisters we gather, the bigger we can Dream it! Believe it! Do it!

Tips for Writing and Speaking 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

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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United Women in Faith [website](#)

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