



United
Women
in Faith

INSIGHT

Northern Illinois Conference

August 2025

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 2025

01 --- PN District Leadership Team, Krape Park
02 --- [Mission u one-day](#)
04 --- PS District Leadership Team
08 --- LN District Leadership Team
10 --- KUMC Praise Night at Wheeling: First KUMC
11 --- LS District Leadership Team
14 --- PC District Leadership Team

September 2025

06 --- [NIC Leadership Team](#)
12 --- LN District Leadership Team
20 --- PN District Annual Celebration
20 --- PS District Annual Celebration
20 --- PC District Annual Celebration
27 --- LN District Annual Celebration
27 --- LS District Annual Celebration

October 2025

03 --- PN District Leadership Team
09 --- PC District Leadership Team
20 --- LS District Leadership Team
20 --- PS District Leadership Team
25 --- [NIC Conference Annual Celebration](#)
25 --- [NIC NIC Leaders Training District Leaders](#)
26 --- [UWFaith Sunday at St. Mark UMC](#)

November 2025

07 --- LN District Leadership Team
09 --- Korean UMW General Assembly at Schaumburg: Salem
13 --- [NIC Conference Leadership Planning Meeting](#)
20-22 --- [NIC Leadership Development Days](#)

For More Detailed Information and Future Events:

[View the Google Calendar](#)

President's Report

By Barb Farley

Ah Summer!! United Women in Faith NIC has been involved in nurture, prayerful engagement, courageous witness, bold giving, and compassionate living! Mission u at Darien Carmelite Retreat Center last week was a time to reflect, nurture ourselves and others, a time to listen intently and pray passionately as sisters from all over our conference joined together with Korean United Methodist Women to get to know each other, learn from each other, pray, and play together. This center also hosted others during the weekend. Siobhan, on a personal retreat for discernment, joyfully joined our early morning outdoor prayer service. She shared with us that she is not a morning person, but still decided to join us! Such an unexpected gift to everyone.



All it took was a very gentle invitation and she was there! This is the way we need to



look at our individual church units. Gentle invites, smiles, and listening - I do believe these are God's gifts to us. Let us use them all the time. Getting together - we have August 2 as a one day Mission u event and September is filled with our district Annual Celebrations. Please make a point to attend you own district's and perhaps attend another one to hear and see what is happening in UWFaith NIC!

We are so excited to host our UWFaith General Secretary and CEO, Sally Vonner, at our Annual Celebration meeting on October 25 at Belvidere: First. "Love: Our Super Power" is our theme this year. Not only will Sally be with us on Saturday, but also on Sunday, 10/26, at Chicago: St. Mark for their UWFaith Sunday! We will host some of our sisters from Wisconsin and Indiana at these two events. This is a rare opportunity to be with Sally Vonner in person so be sure to look for the registration form coming soon!

As summer comes to a close, the cool air will soon usher in new, reinvigorating ideas, plans and projects as we "Practice Hope Together" to pour our love into action to change our world.

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



2025 Summer Mission u

Recap



This year's weekend summer Mission U has come and gone. Our one day is still to come on Saturday, August 2nd.

This year, we shared time with our Korean sisters. It was a day of sharing, laughing, exercising, singing, and, of course, joining in fellowship over a meal. We also enjoyed the company of Bishop Dan Schwerin and his wife, Julie. This summer's theme was Practicing Hope! The idea of hope comes from many places. If you look hard enough, hope is not difficult to find. Thanks to our study leaders, Rev. Dr.Hwa-Young Chong, Erica McIntosh, and Rev. Juyeon Jeon, for taking us on our journeys. Our plenaries and class time also looked at Luke 24 and the Walk to Emmaus, then Matthew 13 involving the mustard seed and yeast. They all showed hope! Where do you find hope?



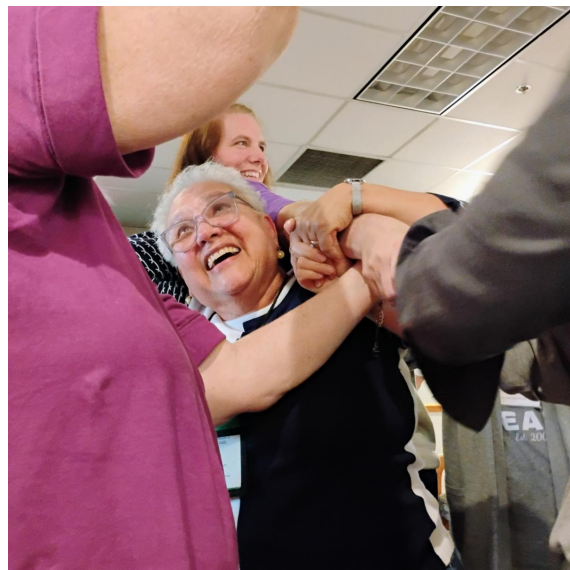
Paulette and Beth welcome you to Mission u



Morning Praise



Korean-led exercises



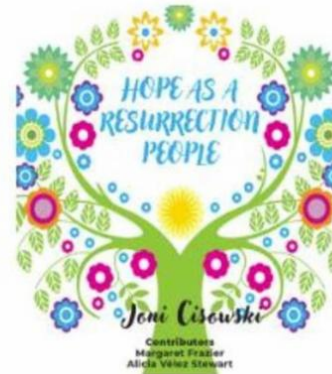
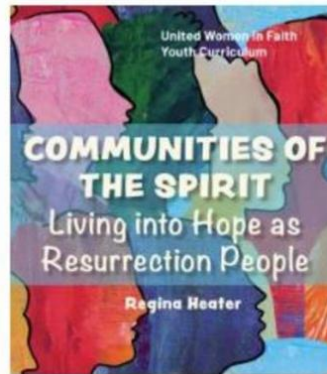
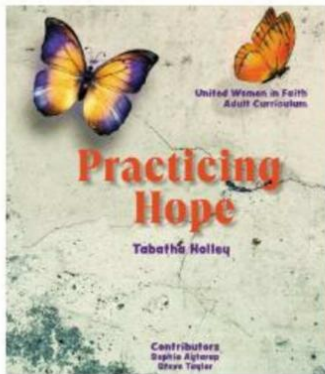
Untangling the human knot



Photos submitted by Shelly Davenport, Betty Erickson, Catherine Inserra

Program Resources

By Karen Messley



Hope-Filled Curricula for Our Time

United Women in Faith releases three exciting curricula on the theme "Practicing Hope Together" for adults, children, and youth. These curricula explore the resurrection appearances of Jesus and the example of early Christian communities to discover what it means to practice hope in God even when things seem to be falling apart.

Order your copy [HERE](#).

Treasurer

By Janeen Hamack

Scholarship for Women Pursuing Church Vocations

United Women in Faith NIC 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 NIC, demonstrate financial need, and supply a copy of their school transcript.

Applications are due Sept. 15, 2025.

Instructions and application [HERE](#).

Social Action

By Kathy Tiffin

Dear Blessed Sisters in Faith,



Here is my second report to you in regards to discussing Social Action activities for the United Women in Faith Northern Illinois Conference. Please notice there is a celebration announcement, a reference to Bishop Dan Schwerin's July Newsletter, two ways to read the INSIGHT into UWFaith NIC, a link to the Springfield, Illinois Social Action May Trip, and my perspective on the July National Zoom Meeting for Social Action Coordinators.

Read the full report [HERE](#).



CHURCH & SOCIETY

The United Methodist Church

Living**FAITH** Seeking**JUSTICE** Pursuing**PEACE**

The General Board of Church and Society is dedicated to the work of living faith, seeking justice, and pursuing peace.

See current Action Alerts [HERE](#).

View the latest Faith in Action stories [HERE](#).

District News

Lake North District

United Women in Faith Lake North District
Annual Celebration

Saturday, September 27, 2025

9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Palatine: FUMC

123 North Plum Grove Road, Palatine

Flyer and paper registration [HERE](#)

Register online [HERE](#)

Lake South District

United Women in Faith Lake South District

"Save the Date"

Annual Celebration

Saturday, September 27, 2025

9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

God's blessings to you all!

It has been a wonderful time in my life to have been able to serve alongside so many wonderful

women in the Lake South District. As my tenure winds down, I pray that another will be willing to step up and serve in my place. I had been daunted by the title of President and did not at first think that I could fulfill the needs of this office, as I am more of a "behind the scenes" and "numbers" kind of gal; however, God laughed and called me forward anyway into a position I was at first unsure of. He provided all I needed to serve in this office. God will always provide that which we need to do His work – not ours – and that is what I feel He did for me. I never

sought out this position, but was called to it, therefore, He made sure I had His strength as well as having provided me the necessary guidance through amazing mentors at the Conference Level of United Women in Faith, as well as former District Presidents who gave me the knowledge and encouragement I needed to move forward.

As we approach our Annual Celebration on Saturday, September 27, at The United Methodist Church of New Lenox, our Nominations Committee is searching for others who will be willing to allow God to use them to serve in the vacant offices of this amazing organization. You may feel uncomfortable about agreeing to serve, but God puts your name forward knowing that you are the one He is calling to serve. Will you answer His call and allow God to fill you and use you where He needs you now? He will provide you with the same mentorship as He provided me so that you will be successful in the position He is calling you to serve in. This organization needs women to become leaders for His glory, not just those who “go along for the ride” as they “watch the scenery pass before them” in the work that this organization provides for women, children and youth in need.

I am reminded of the Hymn “Spirit of the Living God” and the words “Spirit of the living God, fall

afresh on me. Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.” This is indeed what our hearts need to be crying out as we answer God’s call to serve Him where He leads us – trusting that God will never set us up for failure. Instead of backing away from His call, afraid of the work and commitment needed to further His kingdom on this earth, put your trust in God and step forward in faith to serve God today and always wherever He is calling you to serve Him. God can use anyone anywhere – even those who feel they are not qualified to do what God is asking of them. Just as Moses was called to lead God’s people despite what Moses thought were disabilities for fulfilling his call, so too are you called to lead this organization forward in the coming years. Will you be answering, “Here I am, Lord. Use me where You will!”

God’s peace be yours today and always, dear sisters in Christ!

Wendy Miller

UWFaith LS President

Prairie Central District

The United Women in Faith Prairie Central Leadership Team is excited to announce that Amy Peterson has joined our team. Amy is completing Cindy Ewert's sixth term, as she has had to step away for health reasons. We are excited that Amy has agreed to take on this role! Please update your UWFaith PC Treasurer contact information as follows:

Amy Peterson
13214 W. Essex Lane
Huntley, IL 60142
cell # 847-502-3394
email: [Amy Peterson](#)

Also, please keep Cindy and her family in your prayers.

Mark your calendar for the United Women in Faith Prairie Central District Annual Celebration, Saturday, September 20, at Elgin: Journey of Hope. Our guest speaker will be District Superintendent Wendy Hardin-Hermann. Watch for more information. Also at this meeting, we will be electing our 2026 Leadership Team. Anyone with a heart to serve is eligible for a position. Even if you have served a full eight district years, you may now choose another 2-year term, according to our 2025-2028 United Women in Faith Handbook. We have candidates for president, treasurer, and communications. Our basic openings are for secretary and nominations chairperson. We would also welcome a vice-president, spiritual growth coordinator, and social action coordinator.

Our fantastic Betty Erickson is the United Women in Faith North Central vice-president and may only have another leadership office at the local level, according to the Handbook.

Please contact [Betty](#) or [Linda](#), or [Lois](#) to volunteer ASAP. Your interim leadership team is also your interim nominations committee. Please step up to serve, even one year would help! Try a

new position or revisit what you know.

A passing to note: those of you in the (former) Elgin District may remember Lois Larson. Lois was a member of Barrington: Salem. She passed on May 24. She was a long time member of United Methodist Women/United Women in Faith, attending almost every district, conference event, and Mission u. She will be missed by those who knew her, her family, and her church family.

Prairie North District

Read the Prairie North District newsletter [HERE](#).

Jurisdiction News

United Women in Faith North Central Jurisdiction is offering a scholarship to attend Assembly 2026. Find information [HERE](#).

Read the United Women in Faith North Central Jurisdiction July newsletter [HERE](#).

Community



Shine and Worship

By Brooke Buzard Watson

We're excited to share that Katie Matthews, a shift leader in our residential program and former United Methodist youth leader, has graciously stepped into the role of Cunningham's interim Chaplain. With great enthusiasm, Katie has our youth, complete with scripture, games, prizes, and snacks. Her lessons will guide youth in growing together through compassion, kindness, humility, patience, forgiveness, and love.

"I'm not perfect at these things, and neither are you," Katie said. "But with God's help and each other's encouragement, we can learn and grow together in compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, bearing with each other, forgiveness, love, and unity. Whether you believe in God or not, these practical principles can help us all. It's going to be a fun summer!"

Read the full story [HERE](#).



Dear UW Faith Partners,

Our Back-to-School Drive is underway in order to ensure our kids begin the new academic year with new backpacks and school supplies. Today, I know Kids Above All is not the only organization or group asking for similar donations. The needs are great! However, we are the only Methodist-affiliated, child-serving organization serving 4,500 kids and families across Lake, Cook, Kane, and DuPage counties, with a foundress named Lucy Rider Meyer. She was a woman of great intelligence, ingenuity, and faith for all generations. My youngest daughter, Celia Marie Cheri, who lives in Paris, France, recently did her blind contour portrait of Lucy in watercolor. Et voila!! Thank you, in advance, for your continued care and generosity in whatever form it takes to help build better lives for our kids.

Faith in Action, Deaconess Catherine



KIDS ABOVE ALL'S

BACK TO SCHOOL

BACKPACK DRIVE

JUNE 15 - AUGUST 20

MORE INFORMATION

WWW.KIDSABOVEALL.ORG/BTS

CONTACT INFO

CATHERINE INSERRA

Manager of Faith & Community Relations

(847) 224-2870

cinserra@kidsaboveall.org

KIDS
ABOVE
ALL



Kids Above All's

DAY OF CELEBRATION AND SERVICE

KIDS
ABOVE
ALL

▲ Wednesday, August 6, 2025 | 11AM - 2PM

▲ Better Life Distribution Center, 1801 E. Oakton Street, Des Plaines, IL

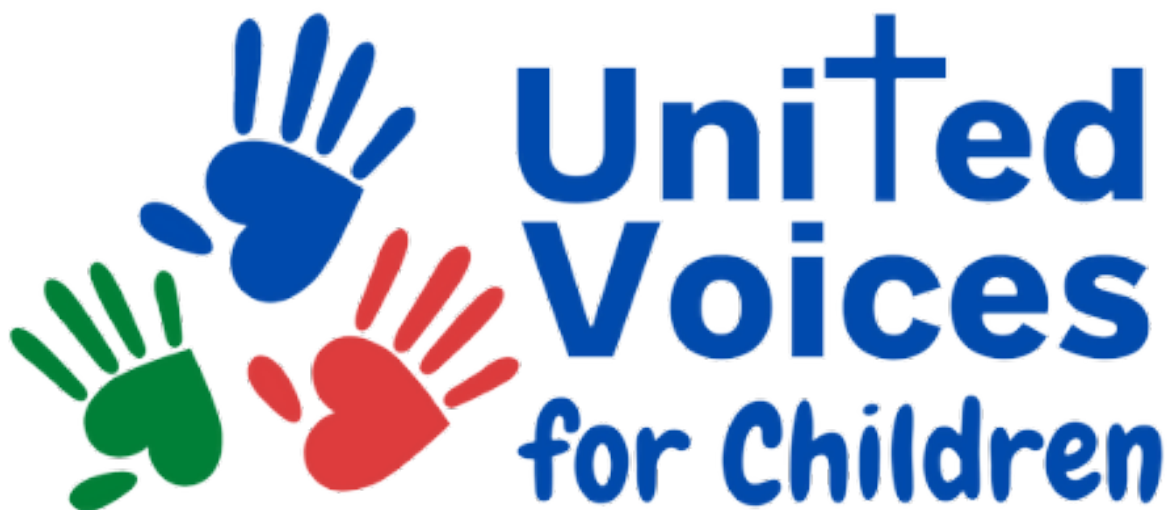
RSVP

CATHERINE INSERRA

Manager of Faith & Community Relations

(847) 224-2870

cinserra@kidsaboveall.org



2025 UVC Advocacy Focus:
YOUR MENTAL HEALTH

SEPTEMBER 18
10:00 a.m.

Flyer and registration information [HERE](#)

Legacy Endowment

NIC Legacy Team = Irma Clark, Lois Moreland-Dean, Linda Osikowicz, and Marilyn Steenyk

Many of you have requested information on the Legacy Endowment Fund.

As of June 30, 2025, the Legacy Endowment Fund is at \$50,469,466!

[We're blessed to be so close to our goal!

But, keep in mind, the fund is dependent on market fluctuations.]

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

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

[Sign up for E-News](#)

United Women in Faith of NIConference | 303 E. Wacker Dr., Suite 2020 | Chicago, IL 60601
US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!