



United
Women
in Faith

INSIGHT

Northern Illinois Conference

July 2025

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 2025

18-19-20 --- Summer Mission u, Carmelite Center, Darien, Illinois
19 --- KUMC Mission u, Carmelite Center, Darien, Illinois

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

For More Detailed Information and Future Events:

[View the Google Calendar](#)

President's Report

By Barb Farley

With the United Methodist Northern Illinois Annual Conference now behind us, UWFaith NIC has much work to do! There have been many a time that I have been told I am too aggressive, too unreasonable in my questions for fairness, and too bold in my answers. Be more gentle, more quiet, don't make a scene, I am told when I give my opinion of what is happening in our world and with our climate. I believe that now is exactly the time for us, sisters of United Women in Faith, to express our total dissatisfaction with the violent and hateful language and actions that we hear and see from leaders of our states and country.



Let's continue to educate ourselves and be vocal advocates for those oppressed and thrown aside with special attention to women, youth, and children in our towns, districts, states, country, and the world beyond our borders.

This year's Mission u offers a wonderful opportunity to engage in prayerful and grace-filled

education. Consider saving July 18-20 for refreshing, challenging, and meaningful dialoging and sharing in Darien, IL at the Carmelite Retreat Center. You will find the registration form in this issue of the newsletter. Also, I want to highlight our UWFaith NIC Annual Meeting October 25 at Belvidere: First. Our very own General Secretary/CEO, Sally Vonner, will grace our meeting in person as our guest speaker! The very next day, October 26, Sally will speak at Chicago: St. Mark's Sunday service celebration of UWFaith. Invitations are being sent out to our sisters in Wisconsin and Indiana for these events. Please encourage your units to attend these very special opportunities to worship, learn, be inspired and invigorated! We know love in action can change the world.

One step in front of the other is how we do it!

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



Registration is open!

Mission u

July 18-20 – Weekend
July 19 – Korean One-Day
Aug 2 – Spanish One-Day



All Are Welcome
Join us as we explore
what it means to
practice hope as
followers of Christ.

- * How do we understand hope in the midst of hard realities?
- * Is hope merely optimism?

We will study Jesus' resurrection appearances 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.



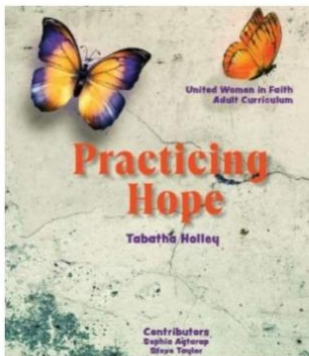
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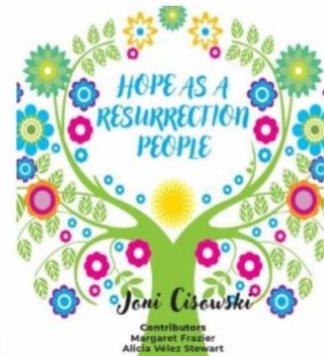
United
Women
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Questions:

nilumw.registrar@gmail.com



This year's mission project is an example of practicing hope. We will meet Saturday, July 19, after dinner, ending no later than 8:30 PM. Our project will be cutting, assembling, and possibly sewing reusable feminine pads for Midwest Mission. Distribution will go to those locally who use them as an eco-friendly alternative and around the world, enabling girls to go to school and women to get out of their home. Donations/offering will go toward supporting this project, for supplies we provide, etc.



Register early, as deadlines will be firm:

Weekend & Korean Language Day:

Register by - July 6 (for mailing), Midnight on July 9 (online or email)

One-Day (Spanish/English/Children):

Register by - July 25 (for mailing), Midnight on July 30 (online or email)

Once deadline has past you must reach out to the Registrar and will be charged a 10% late fee, to cover additional costs; if there are leftover funds, we will add it to the UWFaith NIC Pledge to Mission.

Struggling with the QR code, click [HERE](#) to register.
Or, contact the [Registrar](#) for a printable Registration Form.

United Women in Faith
Northern Illinois Conference
MISSION U - SUMMER 2025

JULY 18-20, 2025 at CARMELITE SPIRITUAL CENTER

English weekend

8419 Bailey Rd, Darien, IL 60561

JULY 19, 2025 at CARMELITE SPIRITUAL CENTER

Korean one-day

8419 Bailey Rd, Darien, IL 60561

AUGUST 2, 2025 at MORGAN PARK UMC

Spanish, English, children one-day

11030 Longwood Dr, Chicago, IL 60643

**For additional information, contact Dean Betty Erickson via text/call
(630) 701-5672 or email n9yfc@aol.com**

Secretary's Report

By Lois Voss

Dear United Women in Faith Sisters,

We are nearing the halfway mark of 2025. Do you have any changes for our big file of leadership? Please ask your members if any of their contact information has changed, and have them see if what is listed in the yearbook is indeed correct. Forward changes to [Lois Voss](#) and [Shelly Davenport](#).

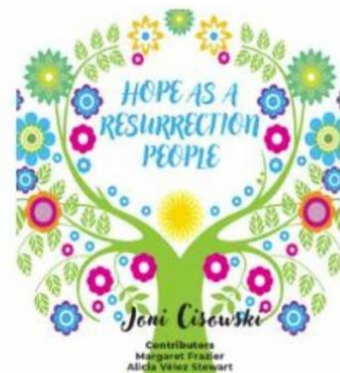
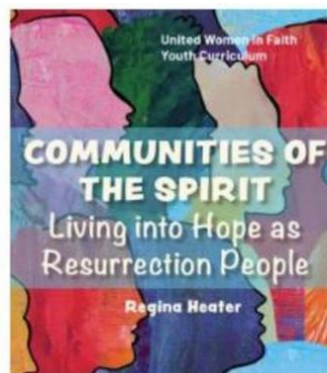
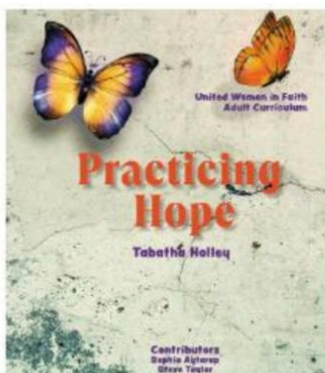
Several of us are completing our tenure in our current positions. It is our responsibility to organize the materials we will be passing on to our successor. Plus, we have completed a quadrennium, 2020-2024, which should be archived for your local, district, or conference unit. Keep the leadership team minutes, yearbooks, the audits, and any creative ideas for events. You do not need to keep materials our national has published.

Finally, I remind you to say or print United Women in Faith first before your local, district, or conference name. Our preferred abbreviation is UWFaith with no spaces or the word in. Always have a second set of eyes check whatever you are publishing for the public (flyers, news announcements, photos). Thank you for your attention to using our "brand". You can read about it in our United Women in Faith Handbook.

Yours in faith, hope, and love! Lois Voss

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

Treasurer's Report

Greetings from your Conference Treasurer, Janeen,

Below you will find the UWFaith Northern Illinois Conference Grant application for 2025. This is for a first time applicant and for a woman pursuing a career in ministry.

Our pledge to UWFaith National is at 29% at this time. I know that most monies come in by the end of the year, but please, local units, send money in to your district treasurers as you can.

Also, Mission u is coming up – and scholarships (for first-time attendees) are available through your district treasurer first, then through the conference. So, be sure to look into this soon, if needed.

Contact [me](#) if you need assistance.

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](#).

District News

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.

Prairie Central District

A small group gathered on June 7 to walk

the labyrinth at the Wheaton Theosophical Society in Wheaton. Charlotte Wyncoop prepared a labyrinth florilegium to guide our walk. A florilegium is a "quiet walk through the scriptures with our Lord. Not intense studies, simply looking for something beautiful to cherish and ponder." For our walk, the scripture and meditations traced "the story of salvation from God's eternal plan to the restoration of all things."



There was much to ponder, and the discussion that followed enriched our morning. Thank you, Charlotte, for guiding us in a morning that enriched our faith!

Serve Again with Love by Lois Voss

United Women in Faith Prairie Central District will elect their 2026 Leadership Team at their Annual Celebration on September 20. 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 a candidate 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 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.

**We would like to invite you to the United Women in Faith Annual
Rummage Sale at Cary United Methodist Church!**

United Women in Faith Cary UMC

Annual Rummage Sale 2025

9:00am-5:00pm, Thursday, July 24

9:00am-4:00pm, Friday, July 25

8:00am-12:00pm, Saturday, July 26

Cary United Methodist Church
500 North First Street, Cary, IL



\$10 BROWN BAG SALE

Thursday & Friday

Larger items priced
separately!

(Bags will be provided)

SATURDAY ONLY

BARGAIN BAG SALE!

Fill 1 bag for \$5

Fill each additional bag for \$1.

Larger items will be 1/2 price.

Shop for:

Gently used clothes/shoes

Household items/furniture

Small kitchen appliances

Games, books, crafts, tools

Proceeds of the Rummage Sale

Benefit United Women in Faith,

Community Mission Giving



United
Women
in Faith



Community



In Ms. Rohn's Office . .

.

By Brooke Buzard Watson

Step into Gerber Principal Jen Rohn's office, and you will instantly feel the warmth and

comfort that defines Cunningham and our Gerber Education Program. Flexible seating on a wobble stool welcomes you to settle in, and a basket of sensory tools—squishy stress balls, dinosaurs, magic putty, pop-its, and grippy balls—offers a quiet way to keep hands busy and minds calm during conversations.

"At Cunningham and Gerber, supporting students' sensory needs is part of who we are," Ms. Rohn shares. "Every classroom has wobble stools, fidgets, or stuffies so each youth can discover what helps them feel comfortable and focused."

Read the full story [HERE](#).



Earlier this month, Manager of Faith and Community Relations, Catherine Inserra, attended and had a table for Kids Above All (KAA) at the Northern Illinois Conference's 186th Annual Conference. At this multi-day event, Catherine connected with current and potential faith partners, talking about our mission and expressing our appreciation for the continued support of our amazing UMC friends.

Catherine also took the stage to talk about her experiences as a deaconess and how her role at KAA helps ensure that our kids and families have the resources they need to achieve their full potential. Many members of the United Women in Faith also connected with Catherine and our mission of building better lives for families at a special luncheon she helped to coordinate.

Photo 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's
DAY OF CELEBRATION AND SERVICE



▲ **Wednesday, August 6, 2025**

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

This event will host two shifts for assembling backpacks, an award ceremony, and a lunch at noon. Participants may choose to stay for one of the two shifts. The shifts are:

1. 10:00am - 1:00pm
2. 12:00pm - 2:30pm

RSVP BY THURSDAY, JULY 30

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



National

Dear Friends,

With hearts full of gratitude, we are thrilled to share the incredible news that, thanks to your efforts, we raised a total of \$553,826 for Day of Giving 2025! Not only did we surpass our goal of \$450,000, but together, we've raised even more to support women, children, and youth for generations to come.

Your passion and commitment as Legacy Team members have been nothing short of inspiring.

The latest balance for the Legacy Endowment Fund is \$49,169,311.

Thank you for your incredible contributions and for being a beacon of faith, love, and hope in this important mission. Together, we are building a future filled with promise and possibility.

Blessings,

UWFaith Legacy Endowment Fund Development Team: Suzanne, Kenya, Christi, Shannon, Julissa



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](#)

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