



MISSION MESSENGER

United Women in Faith of Indiana

<https://www.inumc.org/united-women-in-faith/>

AUGUST 2025

April Moss
Editor

THANK YOU , CAROLYN MARSHALL

What a wonderful celebration at the Annual Conference luncheon to honor Carolyn Marshall's legacy, not only as Executive Director at Raines, but in leadership roles in the United Women in Faith and the United Methodist Church. The room was packed with over 150 attending, and tribute after tribute was given. Then the next day, June 7th, at the open house in her honor at Raines, there was a continuous flow of previous residents, friends, and family giving their well wishes for her retirement. She was presented with a plaque, naming the upstairs gathering area as the Carolyn Marshall dining room. What an amazing



CAROLYN MARSHALL



JODIE LITTLE

two days to honor an amazing lady who has given so much.

Then on July 7th, Jodie Little was welcomed to Raines as the new Executive Director. Along with her heart for ministry, Jodie brings skills in business

management, networking, fundraising, and technology. She brings fresh ideas and a vision for the Raines ministry that is exciting. We believe that God brought her to us, and that He will guide her as she answered this call. Your donations continue to be what sustains Lucille Raines, allowing the miracle of changed lives to continue. Please prayerfully give.

"The Mission of the Lucille Raines Residence is to cultivate hope in a faith-filled, supportive community by providing an environment where individuals with substance use disorders can rebuild their lives."

Cheryl Wilson, LRR Board President

THE PRESIDENT'S POST

Did I tell you that our 2025 theme for United Women in Faith of Indiana is **Moving Forward With Hope and Grace**? Well, if not you will see it in a couple of places in the next few months. We thought that it would be fitting in the year that we prepare to reorganize into new districts. Now, as someone who has moved 21 times in 45 years and will probably move another time in the next year or so, I know all about MOVING. And FORWARD is always a good direction – I may be a historian, but I know that looking back is great if it helps you see which direction you need to be going. But the really important part of our theme is doing it WITH HOPE AND GRACE.

We are still adjusting to the changes that have occurred in the last few years – pandemic and the rearrangement of our social lives, and disaffiliation and the rearrangement of our church lives. I talked about RE in 2024 – renew, reimagine, re-energize, rework, rethink,

recommit – and I think we are doing that again with the new districts. Here is our chance to hit the restart button. New ideas to try out, new areas to explore, new sisters to get to know ... the possibilities are endless! But we all need to be engaged in the process, remembering *why* we do this UWFaith thing ... and carrying a positive attitude.

At the same time as the redistricting we are also living in to changes in the United Women in Faith Handbook. How we structure our leadership has changed but (of course!!) our *purpose remains the same*. We have a new opportunity in United Women in Faith in Indiana – we can combine what worked in the past, toss out what didn't work, and find new ways of being in mission and advocacy with women, children, and youth. (... make sure you download a free copy of the handbook, the financial information, all sorts of forms, and job descriptions -- <https://uwfaithresources.org/prodlist.cfm?catID=2199>) Watch for these

changes reflected in the 2026 conference standing rules and the standing rules for the new districts.

Be sure to attend the Annual Celebration the first weekend of October in Westfield (just north of Indianapolis) when we will formally create the new districts and you will have a chance to be in on the brainstorming to get those districts fired up! Lots of decisions to be made and you need to be there to help make those decisions. Invest in our future with your ideas. We will have elections for leadership, approve standing rules, and vote on budgets – and we will start those new districts **MOVING FORWARD WITH HOPE AND GRACE**.

Have a look at 2 Peter 3-11 ... especially in The Message for a reminder of this life in Christ!

All God's blessings, please!

La Donna Weber

United Women in Faith of Indiana,
president



United
Women
in Faith

United Women in Faith

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SOCIAL ACTION : BE AN INFORMED VOTER

The late great John Lewis said that "The Right to Vote is Precious, almost Sacred. It is the most powerful tool or instrument in a democratic society. We must use it".

Indiana's voter turnout was 58.7%, below the national average of 64.1%. The Indiana University reports that this placed Indiana at 40th among the 50 states, based on the percentage of the citizen population aged 18 and older who voted. Please take advantage and vote the next elections and encourage your friends and family to also vote.

You can vote absentee ballot with ease. [Click on this link](#) for more information.

The League of Women Voters of

Indiana has a wonderful "[Citizens' Handbook](#)" [Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy](#). The League of Women Voters of Indiana is a nonpartisan civic organization that encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Find your Legislators [here](#). This link will take you to the Indiana General Assembly web page. On the far upper right-hand corner click on "Find My Legislator." Please make it your intention to connect with your legislators to advocate for issues important to you!

Please sign up to receive Social Action notices from "National" [click on this link](#) to take you to the sign up page.

Do you have a heart for our neighbors who are struggling with eviction issues? Please [click on this link](#) to take you to Indiana Eviction Justice Network. You can sign up there for training.

Save the date for Legislation/Advocacy Day on January 15, 2026, on zoom.

Please feel free to contact me Lori Chambers at lochambers1122@gmail.com if you have any Social Action questions or concerns.

FROM THE VICE-PRESIDENTS

What's that I hear? Could it be? Yes, indeed it is! School bells are ringing everywhere once again ushering in the start of a new school year and time for yourself! Spending Summer break with family and friends is a blessing and I hope your time was wonderful, but the renewal and respite that comes with the kiddos return to school brings its own kind of reward. So now it's time to reclaim time for you.

Psalms 62:5 reminds us to find rest in God, and that our hope comes from Him. So, as you reclaim time consider how you will care for yourself; Mind, Body and Soul. In caring for our minds remember, we don't have to shoulder burdens alone, the Bible prescribes us to take our cares to God in prayer and try to incorporate some level of physical activity into your daily schedule.

At our Aug 2nd Mission u Express event in the Central District, one of the participants suggested we unplug from our electronic devices and try taking a walk listening past the usual noises and searching for 10-12 sounds you don't hear; like the sound of leaves falling, the flutter of insects, the snap of a twig, the sound the wind makes, and other sounds we so often don't hear for all of the other noise we allow in. The sounds that connect us to God's creation; the natural

world and conversely connect us to Him, which in itself is a kind of prayer and a wonderful way to care for both body and soul.

Consider reading a book in your new found time. Perhaps something from our reading program. You'll find that there are a lot of options. Join one of the many podcasts to learn about an issue of interest, or join a chat group via our digital platform and connect with others who share your interests. There is a myriad of opportunities to be blessed through our UW in Faith programming has you care for your whole self; Mind, Body and Soul.

Mark your calendars as we look toward the Fall Season for both the Annual Celebration program October 3rd and 4th and the Silent Retreat, October 31 to November 2.

The Friday program of our Annual Celebration will feature noted author and dramatic story teller, Sandra Hartlieb. Sandra will present a program; "A Courageous Sisterhood", combining a dramatization of Salome, the mother of James and John with a presentation that illustrates Salome's steadfastness in following Christ. A timely topic as we venture, perhaps with some trepidation into the work of organizing our new districts, but reminding us that God is

in the work with us to fulfil His purpose. There will be plenty of fun, fellowship and great food, which is the hallmark of the Friday evening event. We will again have the silent auction to support the Lucille Raines Residence. On Saturday we will organize and install our leadership for both the Conference and new Districts. This year we will incorporate a Pledge Service to bring us back to a remembrance of our purpose as United Women in Faith.

The Silent Retreat is an opportunity to be silent, to be still, and to know that He is God. A respite of Mind, Body, and Soul as you disconnect from external distractions and daily routines which allow for mental and emotional rejuvenation.

I hope, as you are making time for yourself you will add these opportunities to be in fellowship with your sisters. Watch for the registration form for both events. So Ladies, yes school bells are ringing everywhere signaling the start of school and I hope for you the start of some much deserved self-care that includes UW in Faith program offerings. Blessings,

Sherrae Davis and Stacey Moore,
Co-Vice Presidents



FROM THE LANGUAGE COORDINATORS

Do you think about labels? And we are not asking about food nutrition labels! We mean labeling groups of people. Sometimes we need to use labels for ease of communicating about a large group. But many times, even our well-intentioned grouping may indicate a lack of understanding. For example, we commonly use the term "Hispanic" or "Latinx" to refer to someone of Spanish or Latin ancestry. That is fine as long as we also understand that there are HUGE differences amongst people from different Hispanic or Latin countries!

Margaret's Hispanic ancestry is from Puerto Rico while Ashley's is from Mexico (with Puerto Rican influence). So, their experiences are unique, their music and food and culture are different. Even their

Spanish can be different! Think of it as similar to lumping all English-speaking countries together. Yet, we know that British English has differences from American English. Americans have different history and traditions than Irish or Canadians. So just as you take pride in being American, not just Anglo, offer the same understanding to those of Hispanic, Asian, Native, or African descent. Keep this in mind next time you are speaking with someone from a different ancestry or cultural tradition. Try to get to know them and their specific culture. You may be surprised at how much you can learn!

Language coordinators
Margaret Dennis & Ashley Flores

MISSION U RECAP **It's a Wrap!** **Mission u 2025**

In mid-June at Manchester University, we had 85 attendees - including five children, five youth, 13 first time attendees, one deaconess, and one very brave man! The theme this year was "Practicing Hope Together", we explored the definition of hope, how and where do we get hope, how do we sustain our hope during difficult seasons, with hard relationships with those we love and with-standing the oppressive systems present in our communities, our country and the world.

We tackled these transformative questions by exploring scripture, engaging in discussions and participating in activities led by our awesome plenary and study leaders- Jeanie Estep, Margaret Dennis, Penny Krug, Linda Mylet and Shannon Priddy! We enjoyed great music leadership by Beverly Kennedy and Karen Bartling! Evening programs were inviting, informative & a call to action!

Children and youth explored the theme of hope by identifying what hope means, what things, people, or institutions give them hope. Our wonderful team of youth leaders-April Bailey and Ann Bloxdorf and Children's leaders-Pauline Neal, Charlotte McGhee and Debra Poole were superstars!



Our "Express" events were attended by 96 ladies at 3 different locations on three different dates! Their study was a "sampler" version of the weekend event led by outstanding study leaders-2 returning by popular demand-Nancy Hake & Sherrae Davis !! Margaret Dennis led an express study in addition to the weekend study! Many thanks to these ladies for their leadership! Ladies were inspired and left more hopeful than when they arrived!! And much appreciation to the churches hosting these events--Plymouth Trinity, St. Mark's Bloomington, and University UMC! Of course, we enjoyed a lot of fellowship during meals and at other times throughout the events! Ladies were very generous in bringing diapers and wipes to all events for Thursday's Child located in North Manchester!

MORE MISSION U INFORMATION IS ON PAGE 18.

TINY TIDBITS

When your local United Women in Faith unit has a fund-raiser for the Lucille Raines Residence remember that the funds raised need to be sent to your district or conference UWFaith treasurer and NOT directly to the Lucille Raines Residence. This helps us keep track of how well UWFaith is doing in their support of the residence. Remember that UWFaith of Indiana owns and operates Lucille Raines Residence.

PLEASE NOTE: We use Constant Contact to send out notices from the conference and district United Women in Faith. The email address for these messages is umwin-inumc.org@shared1.ccsend.com. **If you unsubscribe to one message you will unsubscribe to ALL messages!**

Occasionally scam messages (email or text) are sent that may look like they come from a member of the United Women in Faith leadership team. These messages often ask the recipient to purchase gift cards or say the sender needs you to contact them immediately. This is not the way we do things!!

Please know that these messages are a scam and are not coming from any of us. We will never ask for gift cards or personal favors through text messages or emails. Check the email address or phone number ... is it the one listed for that person in our directory?

If you receive one of these messages:

- Do **not** respond or engage with the sender.
- Mark the message as **spam** or **junk**.
- If possible, block the number or email address to prevent further contact.

Thank you for staying alert and helping protect our organization from these types of fraudulent schemes.



FROM THE CONFERENCE SECRETARY

This has been a year of transitions for the Indiana conference and for United Women in Faith of Indiana. As you know, the conference has reorganized from 10 districts to 5. We have opted to utilize the United Women in Faith calendar year and change to the new districts at the end of 2025. As part of this realignment, district names and boundaries are changing and some churches will find themselves in a new district family. While these changes are structural, they will not change the heart of who we are and how we serve within our local units.

We remain committed to our mission to connect and nurture women through Christian spiritual formation, leadership development, creative fellowship and education so that they can inspire, influence and impact local and global communities. After all, we are a "community of women organized for mission."

To reflect our new structure and new district name, new District Standing

Rules will be presented for approval at Our Annual Meeting and Celebration. Additionally, the Conference Standing Rules are being revised for consistency with the United Women in Faith Handbook 2025 – 2028 Constitution & Bylaws and to reflect the new districts.

Calling All Leaders & Units!

It's time to update our annual United Women in Faith Indiana Conference Directory!

- In light of the redistricting, to ensure your district or unit's information is included accurately, we've made changes in the submission process.

- Fill out the form in this newsletter. Additionally, the form will be available online at <https://www.inumc.org/united-women-in-faith/>

- Deadline for submissions: December 1, 2025. Your updates help us stay connected and empower one another.

- If you are a United Women in Faith member not connected with a local unit, please contact Barb McCoy so we can include you in the directory and communications.

- If you run into any issues or have questions about the process, please contact:

- Directory Coordinator Email: Barbara McCoy, (260) 615-6807, barb.mccoy@frontier.com

Thank you for your prompt attention to this request. Your accurate and timely submissions help us maintain seamless communication across our conference.

Conference Secretary

Cathy Burris,
(317) 502-1067
cburris799@aol.com

NEWS FROM EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION

The purpose of the United Women in Faith Mission Today form is to recognize our Units' commitment to the Purpose of United Women in Faith through their Prayers, Presence, Participation and Service. As stated on the Mission Today form, we strive to:

- *Energize United Women in Faith to be involved in mission through prayer, study, and action

- * Increase contacts between local organizations and mission personnel.

- *Encourage the use of mission resources.

- * Expand our concepts of missions, including social justice.

Our Units are very active and do so much for missions locally, statewide, nationally and internationally. We want to make sure that all Units receive credit for all they do! Units will be recognized as follows:

Gold with 16 items completed including 6 asterisked items

Silver with 12 items completed including 6 asterisked items

Bronze with 8 items completed including 6 asterisked items

We will also have a participation level for those Units not quite making the Bronze level.

In January, I revised the Mission Today form but made a mistake. Thanks to Margaret Dennis for catching my mistake. Under the section marked "Gifts" for 2025, there was a change in the Member Askings for 2025 in the 2025 Standing Rules.

At the October, 2024 United Women in Faith Annual Meeting, it was voted to increase the Member Askings to \$18 per member when it is not the year before Assembly. Raines was increased to \$15,

Mission u stayed at \$2, Youth and Young Adult Scholarship remained at \$1 for a total of \$18 per member when it is not the year before Assembly. The year before Assembly, an extra \$1 will be added for Assembly expenses. This will be included the year prior to Assembly only. Since Assembly occurs in 2026, the extra \$1 would be included in the Askings for 2025.

I have revised the form and it will be included in this Mission Messenger issue. I salute all of our Units in the ways they are demonstrating our purpose every day! Please contact me with any questions or changes you feel need to be made at raewallis@comcast.net or by my cell phone at 317-625-2523.

Blessings,

Rae Wallis, Indiana Conference
Education and Interpretation
Coordinator





Indiana United Methodist Bicentennial 2000 - 2001

South Indiana Conference
United Methodist Bicentennial Coordinating Committee

Historical Bulletin Insert No. 51

LUCILLE RAINES RESIDENCE

The Lucille Raines Residence is an outgrowth of Esther Hall, once located at 1241 North New Jersey Street in Indianapolis. Esther Hall was purchased in 1938 as a “home away from home” for young women and was first operated by the Deaconess Board of the Indiana Conference of the Methodist Church, then later by the Woman’s Society of Christian Service. With a maximum capacity of 20, it had become too small for the needs of the community, so a joint committee of the WSCS of the Indiana, North Indiana, and Northwest Indiana conferences was appointed to consider the location and financing of a new residence. The first meeting of its board of directors was held on October 30, 1967, and at that time the name Esther Hall, Inc. was adopted.

Because of the staggering cost of a new building, construction was delayed until 1969, when the old Nottingham Hotel at 947 North Pennsylvania Street was purchased and renovated. Expansion included a large recreation area, dining area, and new kitchen, which along with the original 55 guest rooms made the new facility an excellent one. Construction was completed in 1970 with a total cost, including purchase and furnishings, of \$630,000.



Funds for the home came first from the women of the Indiana Conference, the National Division of the Board of Global Ministries, the Women’s Division of the Boards of Missions, Bishop Richard and Lucille Raines, and individual contributions. A loan was secured and preparation was made to change the name to Lucille Raines Residence in honor of Mrs. Raines and her family.

On May 2, 1970 Lucille Raines Residence officially opened with this purpose: “To provide a home away from home with no restrictions as to race, creed or national origin for young women of college age (17 to 30) who are away from home to attend school or to work. Every attempt is made to create an atmosphere of Christian love and concern

Some hard truths about home ownership

You know that United Women in Faith of Indiana are the owners of the Lucille Raines Residence, right? And as the owners we have bills to pay – must keep the lights on, the staff paid, the appliances operating ... all the stuff that comes with ownership of this particular home.

We (UWFaith of Indiana) have budgeted \$8,500 per month to keep this ministry running.

Which means we need to have the local units send in their askings (the annual amount we ask for PER MEMBER) to their district treasurer in a timely manner – don’t wait until the end of the year! And be aware that the askings do not cover the total so we need the creative thinkers out there to find ways to top up their donations. And remember that your first choice when emptying the treasury at the end of the year should be Lucille Raines Residence.

Tea with Lucille? How about a charcuterie board auction before the World Series? Casserole sale on the Sunday before school starts? What other ideas can you come up with?



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[UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH LOVE IN ACTION https://uwfaith.org/](https://uwfaith.org/)

in which residents will be given a measure of supervision and guidance. The program in the residence will reflect the efforts of young women working together to develop their own meaningful activities..." Violet E. Carleson was appointed its first director, room and board was set at \$100 a month for a double room, and full occupancy (81) was reached by September.

But "the times they were a changin'." By 1976 with Susan Gindelberger as its director, the home was in financial trouble, though through no fault of Ms. Gindelberger's. The three main problems that it faced were (1) difficulty in keeping it at full occupancy, which was a direct result of (2) the changing lifestyles of young women and their unwillingness to live in a structured group home, and (3) rising operating costs. So the board of directors of the home recommended that it be closed as of December 31, 1976.

Yet even at this, its darkest hour, work was already in motion to save the home. Through the joint sponsorship of the Indiana Area United Methodist Women and the Salvation Army, the Lucille Raines Residence reopened in May 1977 as a Community Involvement Center. It was to be used by persons completing substance abuse programs, persons in treatment with the mental health system, and women in crisis as a phase between institutional and independent living. Though staffed and run by the Salvation Army Social Center, it still remained the property of the Indiana United Methodist Women, who continued responsibility for its ultimate welfare.

From 1977 to the present the mission of the Lucille Raines Residence has remained much the same, with the addition of those requiring sightless training and those prisoners on work release to its residents. With a \$4 per member donation the UMW of the North and the South Indiana conferences continue their support by providing half of its operating expenses. Funding, however, is always a problem, particularly with the steady decline in the number of United Methodist Women.

Carolyn Marshall, its current executive director, has been actively involved in its welfare for the past 25 years and is largely responsible for its continued operation. The best testimony of its worth is in the words of one of the thousands that it has helped over the years: "...From nothing emerged something, chaos was transformed to order, from nobody came somebody and from nowhere I was definitely somewhere..."

prepared by John R. Riggs, Archives Researcher, Archives of DePauw University and Indiana United Methodism

PROGRAM RESOURCES

Hello Everyone.

I hope everyone is doing well after all this terribly humid and hot summer. Boy has it been miserable down here in the Southwest part of this state.

Hopefully you have been staying cool in the house out of the heat or by the pool trying to cool off. Either one of these places would be a great place to be reading. I just finished a great book named "All that is Secret " by Patricia Raymon.

It is a mystery with a love story about a young woman named Annalee Spain. She is a theologian from Chicago . She takes off to Denver to search and find who had killed her father. She runs into many interesting and disturbing people

along the way. She did meet one person that became very important to her. She does get herself in some precarious situations. Some of the situations took my breath as I read. Sometimes wondering how she is going to get out of it.

She works with another maid to get in the house of a prestigious family in Denver and finds out many things pertaining to her father's death. Many people that she tries to talk to were too scared to talk to her or had been paid to not talk to her.

I think you will really enjoy the twists and turns in the book. It definitely keeps you guessing because there are so many possible suspects. A good mystery.

Faith Community to Hold Prayer Vigil for Immigrant Community at Miami Correctional Facility

Clergy, church leaders, and people of faith will gather outside Miami Correctional Facility on Monday, August 25 at 2:00 p.m. for a public prayer vigil in support of the immigrant community and in lament for the immigrant detention system.

According to the CATO Institute, "65 percent of people taken by IC had no convictions, 93 percent no violent convictions." The language being used related to the use of the Miami Correctional Facility for immigrant detainees is deeply troubling. We also pray and urge our elected leaders to pursue transparency, accountability, and policies rooted in compassion and justice.

Leaders from The Indiana Conference of The United Methodist Church are hosting this vigil, which will welcome other faith traditions. The gathering will include Scripture readings, songs, and prayer calling for compassion, dignity, and justice for immigrants and refugees. Those in attendance will stand in prayerful solidarity with the immigrant communities and call attention to the urgent need for humane treatment of all people.

Bishop Tracy Smith Malone of the Indiana United Methodist Church recently wrote, "Many in our [Indiana] Conference have expressed deep concerns about what such facilities would mean for justice, compassion, and the God-given dignity of every person—especially those who are most vulnerable among us. As the body of Christ, we must not remain silent in the face of language or policy that diminishes human dignity."

We will gather to pray for those who are detained, for their families, and for a system that better reflects mercy, justice, and love.

Community members, people of all faiths, and the public are invited to attend. Clergy are invited to wear clergy collars and red stoles. For more information contact Rev. Chris Lantz at chris.lantz@inumc.org or Rev. Matt Landry at matt.landry@inumc.org



United Women in Faith of Indiana

District Teams Talent Bank / Volunteer Form

2025 for 2026



Tell us about you (please print or type)— you can print off this form and fill it out OR you can type right on the form using Word.

Name _____

Mailing address _____

Email address _____ Are you able to use Zoom? _____

Telephone number(s) _____

Is it a cell phone? _____ Do you text? _____

I am ... Chose one:

- ☐ A member of a local unit
 - ☐ Name of church
 - ☐ District (old) (new)
 - ☐ County church is located in
- ☐ A member of a district unit (not affiliated with a local church)
 - ☐ Location
 - ☐ District (old) (new)
- ☐ A district member
 - ☐ County of residence
 - ☐ Church affiliation
 - ☐ County church is located in

Now tell us a little about yourself:

- ☐ Some demographic information
 - ☐ Racial/ethnic identity
 - ☐ Languages spoken
 - ☐ Employed or retired





**Be Inspired, Be Empowered
Be Aware, Be the Change!**

Legislative/Advocacy Day Zoom Event

**Thursday, January 15, 2026
9:30am-Noon**



 **Diversity, Missions, and Justice Ministries**
of the United Methodist Churches of Indiana



United
Women
in Faith



CREATING A LEGACY



STEWARDSHIP

Planned Giving: Giving that transforms lives

Love for others is at the heart of gifts accumulated over a lifetime that transform the lives of women children and youth around the world

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH (UMW)

Why give to the **Legacy** Fund

The **Legacy** Fund was created to insure that ministry for women youth and children would continue.

STEWARDSHIP

Giving that transforms lives

As part of your long-term estate planning, consider making a gift to the **Legacy** Fund



STEWARDSHIP

Simple capital funding solutions for United Women in Faith to grow and maintain our mission.

Whether you are experiencing donor fatigue or trying to find creative ways to give toward a God-sized vision, these ideas will help United Women in Faith grow.

THE POWER OF A SMILE

Every single one of us can put Faith, Hope, and Love into action by one simple, yet powerful gesture—a smile. A smile requires that you make eye contact with people. It says, “I see you, you matter to me”. Not only does it uplift the recipient but cheers the giver as well. When you smile at someone, you can’t help but feel the love of God going to that person. Each smile is a silent prayer for God to bless. At Brenda Crawford’s memorial service, it was shared again and again the power of her smile to make an individual feel welcomed and loved.

We all agree that the problems in this world are overwhelming, and beyond our individual scope to make much of a difference. Yet, we can all be kind to others around us, share our smiles, and trust that God will cause the ripple effect to spread far and wide. What better way to put Faith, Hope, and Love into action!

If you have never attended a silent retreat, I challenge you to do so this Fall. The focus scripture will be from Isaiah 30:15.

“In quietness and trust is your strength”

The experience will be an amazing gift to yourself and the best soul care you can ever receive! Look for the flyer in this issue.

Cheryl Wilson, Spiritual Growth
Cheryl47354@yahoo.com

WANT TO ACTIVATE A UNIT?

An information packet including forms for women who would like to activate a local UWF unit will be sent to you personally if you send a request to:

Carol Tiller
MNO Coordinator for IN UWF Conference
csa5305@gmail.com

Also, a request for a packet will be sent to those who are inquiring about deactivating an unit.



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UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH LOVE IN ACTION <https://uwfaith.org/>

UPCOMING EVENTS

ALL TIMES ARE
EASTERN

**Annual
Celebration**
Oct. 3-4
Christ UMC,
Westfield

Silent Retreat
Oct. 31-Nov. 2
Sarto House
Evansville

**Leadership
Development
and Officer
Training**
Nov 8
Virtual Meeting

**Dream it!
Believe it!
Do it!**

Assembly 2026

What's Assembly 2026 all about?

It's a celebration of who we are and what we can achieve together. Assembly is our chance to unite, recharge, and deepen our faith.

What you can expect:

INSPIRING SPEAKERS: Hear from women leaders who will spark your passion and energize your purpose.

POWERFUL WORSHIPS: Experience deep reflection, renewal, and connection in faith.

WORKSHOPS: Gain tools to create meaningful change in your life and your community.

SISTERHOOD: Connect with women from around the world who share your commitment to justice and Soul Care.

It's time to talk, time to dream, and time to build because when women of faith put our love into action, we are unstoppable.

Come be transformed at Assembly 2026!

For more information contact:

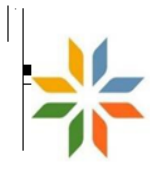
Stacey Moore at 317-253-7001 or sam510@att.net



United Women in Faith

ASSEMBLY 2026
May 15-17, 2026
Indianapolis, Indiana
uwfaith.org/assembly

**Dream it!
Believe it!
Do it!**



United Women in Faith demonstrate their commitment to the PURPOSE through their Prayers, Presence, Participation, Gifts and Service.

PRAYERS

Used the Prayer Guide at each meeting to pray for mission personnel and projects. *

Communicated with at least 5 persons listed in the Prayer Guide during the year.

Held a mini-Spiritual Growth Retreat.

PRESENCE

At least two members were added to the membership roll.

At least one member (not a conference or district officer) attended Mission U.*

At least two members (not a conference or district officer) attended a district or conference annual meeting. This could include attendance to districts/conference events such as: district spiritual enrichment day, district Mini Mission u, district officer training, or conference annual spiritual growth retreat., etc. *

PARTICIPATION

At least two members subscribed to and/or read *response* magazine (including online articles). *

Used at least two programs from a UWF Program Book during the year. *

Conducted at least one Mission u study during the year. *

At least one member is a member of the UWF's Action Network to receive Action Alerts and share with members.

Told a mission story at meetings through sharing "member support" articles (identified by the Mission Giving logo—see other side) from *Response*.

Included a book review/report on a Reading Program book during a meeting.

At least two members completed one of the Reading Program Plans. *

Initiated a new or expanded an already-existing Local Ministry Program which benefits women, children and/or youth. *

At least two members watch or listen to at least 2 "Faith Talks" or "Voices from the Field", live or recorded on UWF website.

Attended a "Tour-Talk-Lunch" ("TTL") at Lucille Raines Residence or gave in-kind or monetary support beyond the conference asking.*

GIFTS

Made and met its Pledge to Mission. *

Remitted the Conference Asking of \$18 per member, plus Assembly asking of \$1 the year prior to Assembly. *

Received Five Star recognition by contributing to all five channels of Mission Giving by unit and/or member(s). *

Legacy Fund donation made by unit and/or member(s).

SERVICE

Implemented the Charter for Racial Justice in at least one way during the year. *

Invited a district or conference officer (not a member) to one meeting during the year.

Pledged to care for God's creation by becoming a "Green" local organization.

Participated in at least two events/activities during the year which focused on Current Justice issues.

WHY? The purpose of Mission Today is to fulfill the PURPOSE of United Women in Faith by:

- **Energizing** United Women in Faith to be more involved in mission through prayer, study and action;
- **Increasing** contacts between local organizations and mission personnel and projects enabling a better understanding of where Mission Giving dollars go;
- **Encouraging** the use of a variety of mission resources;
- **Expanding** concepts of mission, including social justice as mission.

WHO? Every local organization is encouraged to strive for Mission Today status by completing 8 or more suggested criteria as noted to the right.

Find suggestions and ideas for activities below.

CATEGORY NUMBER OF ITEMS TO BE COMPLETED

Bronze	8 (including 4 asterisked items)
Silver	12 (including 6 asterisked items)
Gold	16 (including 6 asterisked items)



Mission Giving Logo

Read *response*, the magazine for Women in Mission, through a subscription or online: [response Magazine | United Women in Faith \(uwfaith.org\)](http://responseMagazine|UnitedWomeninFaith(uwfaith.org)) The Mission Giving logo found in *response* identifies a program and/or person supported by United Methodist Women's Mission Giving.

Find the Charter for Racial Justice online: [Racial Justice | United Women in Faith \(uwfaith.org\)](http://RacialJustice|UnitedWomeninFaith(uwfaith.org))



Racial Justice Logo



Current Justice Issues may be found online: [Serve & Advocate | United Women in Faith \(uwfaith.org\)](http://Serve&Advocate|UnitedWomeninFaith(uwfaith.org))

Go to [Climate Justice | United Women in Faith \(uwfaith.org\)](http://ClimateJustice|UnitedWomeninFaith(uwfaith.org)) for *13 Steps to Sustainability*; ideas for Be Just. Be Green.; and other ways to get involved in UMW's environmental work.



WHEN? Receive recognition for **2025**, by returning your completed checklist by **January 15, 2026** to:

Your District's Mission Coordinator for Education & Interpretation or District President

Return completed form (front & back) to:

Deadline for reporting: January 15, 2026

Local Organization

District:

Reporting Officer Name & Position:

Email or postal address:

Phone:

Mission Today Report Revised



United
Women
in Faith

Join us as at our 17th Annual
Celebration as together we are
**MOVING FORWARD WITH HOPE
AND GRACE**

Friday-Saturday, October 3-4, 2025

Christ United Methodist Church
318 N Union St.
Westfield, IN 46033

All times are EDT

Friday Oct 3rd

5:00pm Registration

5:15pm Dinner

6:00-8:00pm Program, Fellowship,
& Activity (*special guest Sandra Hartlieb*)

Saturday Oct 4th

9:00am Check In

9:45am Music, Greetings, Announcements Celebration,

10:00am Business Meeting, Elections

12:00pm Lunch and Fellowship

1:00pm Recognitions, New District Breakout sessions,
Pledge Service, Offering, Communion and
Conference and District Officer Installations

3:30pm Closing

Event Highlights

- Hands-On Support to HamCo Love and Student Impact (*i.e. Individual size snack packs - chips, crackers, gummy bears, cookies, etc, pads, tampons, multi packs of women's underwear (all sizes), Leggings or sweatpants (all sizes girls and womens)*)
- Friday Night Program "A Courageous Sisterhood" presented by noted author and dramatic story teller Sandra Hartlieb
- FUNraiser silent auction of "themed baskets" and more! Proceeds to Lucille Raines Residence.
- Bring your used books for the book swap.

Nearby Hotel Information:

SpringHill Suites 19317 Westmore Ln. Westfield, IN 46074

2-Queen Beds (\$179.00 rate) Oct 3 check-in

(317) 763-2088 Mention United Women in Faith Annual Celebration

Hotel Reservation Deadline September 2nd
There is a cancellation fee after September 2nd.



⁵⁸Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain. ·

1 Corinthians 15:58 NIV

Registration Form: (please print legibly)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email/Phone _____

Church: _____

New District: _____

District Officer? 2025 _____ 2026 _____

Friday \$17 check if attending _____

Saturday \$16 check if attending _____

Total Payment \$ _____ VANCO? Yes No

Note Dietary Restrictions _____

***Do you need childcare? Please indicate how many children and their age(s). Please send a sack lunch/drink for children.*

(please nothing requiring reheating)

Friday _____ Ages _____

Saturday _____ Ages _____

Emergency Contact _____
Phone _____

Send registration and payment by Sept. 17th to

Sarah Spearman
3530 Watson Rd
Indianapolis, 46205-3546
sjspearman@ameritech.net
(317) 938-7710

**Make checks payable to: UWF of Indiana
OR**

Use the QR Code or link below for VANCO.

https://secure.myvanco.com/L-YZ57/campaign/C-16090?access=tile_direct



Pictures and video may be captured during the event by conference representatives for news and promotional use including social media. Registering for the event gives permission for one's image to be used. Names of children and youth will not be used with photos.



United
Women
in Faith

2025 August Mission Messenger

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH LOVE IN ACTION <https://uwfaith.org/>

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United Women in Faith Conference Directory Information Form

(To be completed by District and Local Unit Secretaries)

Submission Instructions

Please return this completed form by December 1, 2025 to:

Conference Secretary

Cathy Burris, 8923 Branch View Dr., Indianapolis, IN 46234-2901, (317) 502-1067,
cburris799@aol.com

Conference Directory Coordinator

Barbara McCoy, 1025 Brandon Way, Fort Wayne, IN 46845-2390 (260) 615-6807.
barb.mccoy@frontier.com

For questions or assistance, contact: Barbara McCoy

SECTION 1: GENERAL INFORMATION

District/Local Unit Name: _____

Type: ☐ District ☐ Local Unit

☐ District unit

☐ District member (complete Section 1 only)

Number of members _____

For each position below, please furnish:

- Full Name
- Mailing Address • Street • City, State, **ZIP+4**
- Phone
- Email Address

Submitted By (Name): _____

Role (e.g., Secretary): _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____



SECTION 2: OFFICER INFORMATION

*Required positions

President*

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Secretary*

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Treasurer*

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Communications Coordinator*

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Nominations Chair*

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

.....



Additional Leadership Positions

Vice President/Program Coordinator

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Spiritual Growth Coordinator

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Social Action Coordinator

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Education & Interpretation Coordinator

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Membership Nurture & Outreach Coordinator

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Program Resources Coordinator

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____



Additional Officers (Specify)

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

2025 CONFERENCE OFFICERS

President

La Donna Weber (24-25)
8300 Sawyer Brown Road S303
Nashville, TN 37221-7687
260-444-8036 (C)
ladonnarw@aol.com

Treasurer

Carla Gillespie (25-26)
3245 Glen Hills Drive
Richmond 47374-2552
937-414-8173
ct.25.cgillespie@gmail.com

L. Janenne Stuber (Class of 2026)
761 South Park Drive
Chesterton 46304-2941
219-929-1935
stuberm@pnw.edu

Co Vice-Presidents

Sherrae Davis (22-25)
809 Stockbridge Drive
Westfield 46074-8870
317-710-2413 (C)
sherrae.davis@gotown.net

Spiritual Growth

Cheryl Wilson (22-25)
8463 S 1000 W
Losantville 47354-9436
765-465-0083 (C)
cheryl47354@yahoo.com

Edna May (Class of 2028)
6926 Bluff Ridge Place
Indianapolis 46278-1898
317-291-6926
emjmay42@gmail.com

Stacey Moore (24-25)
2540 Lincoln Lane
Indianapolis 46228-1135
317-253-7001
sam510@att.net

Committee on Nominations

Sarah Spearman (Class of 2025)
3530 Watson Road
Indianapolis 46205-3546
317-938-7710
sjspearman@ameritech.net

Mary Ann Pollard (Class of 2028)
585 East Main Street
Hagerstown 47346-1421
765-994-1614
m.a.pollard@comcat.net

Secretary

Cathy Burris (24-25)
8923 Branch View Drive
Indianapolis 46234-2901
317-502-1067 (C)
cburris799@aol.com

Kathy Byerly (Class of 2026)
8314 Cherub Place
Indianapolis 46256-2925
812-767-1611
kjpyberly54@yahoo.com

Robin Hatton (Class of 2028)
2709 North Virginia Avenue
Muncie 47303-1796
765-212-8253
rhatten@bsu.edu

Cyndi Slaboski (Class of 2028)
8332 White Oak Avenue
Munster 46321-1921
219-201-5232
cslaboski@gmail.com



Social Action

Lori Chambers (24-25)
16529 Owen Drive
Westfield 46074-0460
317-696-5965 (C)
lochambers1122@gmail.com

Education and Interpretation

Rae Wallis (25-26)
9431 English Oak Drive
Indianapolis 46235-1147
317-625-2523
raewallis@comcast.net

Membership Nurture and Outreach

Carol Tiller (24-25)
5305 Alameda Road
Indianapolis 46228-2402
317-313-9376 (C)
csa5305@gmail.com

Program Resource Coordinator

Sara Mayes (23-26)
7766 Camp Brosend Road Apt. 0
Newburgh 47630-2885
270-577-9003 (C)
skma092362@aol.com

Communications Coordinator

April Moss (24-25)
1019 Ashland Avenue
New Whitland 46184-1046
317-258-1171
ammoss10@gmail.com

Chairperson, Committee on Nominations

Rita Gaither-Gant (25-26)
4102 North Dequincy Street
Indianapolis 46226-4563
317-549-3574
gaitrgantm@aol.com

Appointed Leaders

Language Coordinator
Margaret Dennis (25-26)
6500 Blue Spruce Drive
Newburgh 47630-1969
812-604-5995
margdenn@att.net

Ashley Flores (25-26)
3245 Glen Hills Drive
Richmond 47374-2552
937-689-9744
ashley@richmondcumc.com

Music Coordinator
Beverly Kennedy (24-25)
4713 N Camelot Drive
Muncie 47304-6212
765-273-0658
auntbev@gmail.com

Dean, Mission u

Lori St. Pierre (24-25)
760 Lana Oaks Drive
Chesterton 46304-3269
219-728-9816
lastpierre56@gmail.com

Legacy Coordinator

Rita Gaither-Gant
4102 North Dequincy Street
Indianapolis 46226-4563
317-549-3574
gaitrgantm@aol.com

Technology Specialist

Jacki Moore
5134 Pike Creek Lane
Indianapolis 46254-5784
317-413-3927
jacqueh6@yahoo.com

MISSION U WRAP UP CONTINUED



Thank you to Conference Leaders AND Mission u officers for ALL their dedicated work on these events: Trisha Staneart, Assistant Dean, Barbara King, Registrar, Lora Ward, Business Manager, District Rep's Judy Moore-NE, Joan Lawrence-SE
Lori St Pierre, Dean, Mission u

All teachings and explorations pointing to our Hope in Jesus Christ !
Lead this study at your church- Facilitator books still available for \$ 15

