Voices of Purpose

September 2024

Quarterly Newsletter of the Greater New Jersey United Women

President's Message

Greater New Jersey Ladies:

Please join me for a wonderful **Mission U** on July 18-20, 2025 at Centenary University in Hackettstown, NJ.

The book we will be using for adults is <u>Practicing Hope</u> by Tabatha Holley. We will be practicing hope together through this study. To order the book use https://uwfaithresources.org.

We always have a fabulous time and meet lovely ladies at this event. Just want to let you know if you haven't been to Centenary University that each person has their own bedroom with a shared kitchen and living room and two bathrooms with shower/tub. No need to run down the hall. You will however need to bring sheets for a single bed and pillows.

We will learn so much together! Hope to see you there!!

Holly Cyrus
GNJ UWFaith President



Issue Highlights

- Voting in America
- Finish Strong
- Environmental Advocacy
- National UWF News
- AmeriCorps Support
- Social Media Pros & Cons
- District News





September 2024

Inside this issue:

President's Message	1, 5
Inside this Issue	2-3
Welcome Statement	4
Partnering with AmeriCorps	5 & 17
Your Right to Vote – Here's How	6-8
The Interfaith Call for Climate Justice	9-10
UWFaith News and Legacy Fund	11
Motivations to Finish Strong	12-14
Worthwhile Goal Motivations	14
GNJUWF Fall Meeting – Climate Justice	15
Who Is My Keeper	16
(continued on page 3)	

Women in Faith

September 2024 Inside this issue (continued) **District News** 17 **Church Women United News** 18 Social Media – The Good, Bad, and Ugly 19 20 **UWFaith Events** Mission u - 202521 GNJUWF 2024-25 Calendar, Recordings, Resources 22-26 Voices of Purpose Deadlines/Distribution **GNJUWF Website Blog Plans** 27 **GNJUWF Leadership Team** 28-29 Social Action Resources & GNJUWF Standing Rules 30 NJ Voter Registration Application (pages 1 and 2) 31-32 NJ Vote-by-Mail Application (pages 1 and 2) 33-34

Editor: Joyce Pratt
GNJUWF Communications Coordinator



September 2024

Greater New Jersey United Women in Faith

Welcome Statement

GNJ United Women in Faith affirms that the grace of God is extended to all God's children without exception.

United Women in Faith seeks to connect and nurture women through Christian spiritual formation, leadership development, creative fellowship, and education so they can inspire, influence and impact local and global communities.

We are committed to the inclusion of people of every gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation as well as people of every age, ethnicity, physical and mental ability, level of education, and family structure, and of every economic, immigration, marital, and social status.

We make a bold choice to work for intersectional peace with justice and to create inclusive communities that respect the dignity and sacred worth of all God's children, and honor our shared, common humanity.



Partnering with AmeriCorps



https://www.nj.gov/state/volunteer-americorps-2020-0929.shtml

AmeriCorps, officially the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), is an independent agency of the United States government that engages more than five million Americans in service through a variety of stipend volunteer work programs and funding in many sectors.

These programs include AmeriCorps VISTA, AmeriCorps NCCC, AmeriCorps State and National, AmeriCorps Seniors, the Volunteer Generation Fund, and other national service initiatives.

AmeriCorps' mission is "to improve lives, strengthen communities, and foster civic engagement through service and volunteering." It was created by the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993 and rebranded itself in September 2020 as AmeriCorps maintaining its official name (CNCS). [Wikipedia]

Bringing Out the Best of America. AmeriCorps members and AmeriCorpsSeniors volunteers serve directly with nonprofit, faith-based, and community organizations to tackle our nation's most pressing challenges. Every year, more than 200,000 individuals are enrolled to serve organizations making a difference in communities across America. This support is offered by providing people power and grants to empower organizations to develop and expand their impact.

The Impact of Partnering with AmeriCorps. AmeriCorps is the only federal agency dedicated to national service and volunteerism. Partnering with AmeriCorps means joining a vast network of volunteers committed to strengthening communities and receiving crucial funding and people power for assistance.

(continued on page 18)



Your Right to Vote - Here's How

Often, Americans take their right to vote as happenstance, meaning it happened because of certain circumstances but was not planned by anyone. But just the opposite is true. While voting seems necessary in a democracy, voting rights in the United States (U.S.) have long been contentious. The U.S. Constitution does not stipulate who can vote and leaves the decision to our states, who have often tried to limit voting.

Our voting timeline began initially when states allowed only a select few to cast a ballot. Then, voters were almost all landowning white Protestant males (1789), property demands for white men dropped (1856), religion tests were no longer required (1828), voting rights for African Americans were secured with the Fifteenth Amendment (1870) although their vote was suppressed by Southern states through intimidation and other measures, the woman suffrage movement progressed and gave women the right to vote via the Nineteenth Amendment (1920), other groups such as Native Americans gained universal suffrage (1957), and the Voting Rights Act banned racial discrimination (1965) although African American voting suppression efforts continue today. ¹

It is extremely dangerous when Americans take their hard-won voting rights as a guaranteed given that go with U.S. citizenship and they can use it or abuse it. Not exercising your right to vote could backfire, with permanent loss such as deevolution (reverting to a more primitive species over time), when it could be avoided by selecting the best candidate to represent your special interests.

Non-voting citizens create this challenge when they surrender to defeat by default. Failure to vote constitutes implied consent to governance by the incumbents, forfeiture of the right to voice complaints about government, and equals inexcusable neglect of public and private affairs. Voting rights are mandatory responsibilities for both naturalized and native citizens, ensures taxation with representation, and offers a means of speaking your mind without talking loud enough to be heard. "Your vote is your voice."²

(continued on page 7.



¹ "Voting in the U.S.A.," www.britannica.com/story/voting-in-the-usa.

² Civics-Online, <u>www.civics-online.org/voting-rights/exercising-the-right-to-vote-is-essential-to-being-a-good-citizen</u>.

Your Right to Vote – Here's How (continued from page 6)

Now that you have been reminded of your responsible rights as a voting citizen of the United States of America, the following are New Jersey options to exercise your vote.

Voter Registration

Voter registration (or enrollment) is usually a prerequisite for being entitled or permitted to vote. The rules governing registration vary between jurisdictions. In the United States, states generally require voter registration, with North Dakota being the only state which has no registration requirement.

Voting Options

- Register to Vote. Voter registration deadline for the General Election in New Jersey is October 15, 2024. Options are online voter registration or complete a one-page voter registration application. Details can be found at: https://voter.svrs.nj.gov/register.
- 2. Vote by Mail. Registered voters can apply for a vote-by-mail ballot by following the instructions found at <u>VOTE.NJ.GOV</u> or contacting their County Clerk. ³ Unlike the former "absentee ballot," you do not need to indicate your reason to Vote by Mail. Once you are registered, your ballot arrives in the mail at the address you designated, and you can then complete the ballot and mail it as instructed.
- 3. In-Person Early Voting in New Jersey. Early voting in New Jersey as established in 2023 to make our state even more voter-friendly and strengthen our democracy. Registered voters can cast their ballot in person, using a voting machine. Every county will designate in-person early voting locations that will be open from October 26, 2024 through November 3, 2024.⁴

(continued on page 8)



³ "3 Ways to Vote in New Jersey." https://nj.gov/state/elections/vote-early-voting.shtml.

⁴ "Ibid. See back pages for applications.

Your Right to Vote – Here's How (continued from page 7)

Voting Options (continued)

4. At Your Polling Place on Election Day. Vote in person at your polling place from 6am to 8pm on Election Day. General Election Day is November 5, 2024.5

In addition to online access to voting forms mentioned above, you can visit your "County Clerk" office for information and copies of the necessary forms or ask me!

Remember, "Citizens have a responsibility to participate in the political process by registering and voting in elections." We are a democracy and fought extremely hard to exercise our right to have a say in how our government operates. We now wish to move forward not backwards!

Submitted by Joyce Pratt

Romans 13:1: "Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God."

Deuteronomy 1:13: "Choose some wise, understanding and respected men from each of your tribes, and I will set them over you."

Proverbs 29:2 NIV: When the righteous thrive, the people rejoice; when the wicked rule, the people groan.

Titus 3:1-2, 9 NIV: **1** Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good, **2** to slander no one, to be peaceable and considerate, and always to be gentle toward everyone. **9** But avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and arguments and quarrels about the law, because these are unprofitable and useless.



⁵ "3 Ways to Vote in New Jersey." <u>https://nj.gov/state/elections/vote-early-voting.shtml</u>. See back pages for applications.

The Interfaith Call for Climate Justice

By Zakaria Din September 30, 2024

In a world increasingly burdened by the effects of climate change, such as extreme weather and rising sea levels, faith plays a crucial role in the fight for climate justice. Faith traditions across the world have long spoken that the call to care for creation and protect our vulnerable populations is abundantly clear. Faith and environmental action, when combined, offer a strong argument in favor of climate justice. In viewing environmental action through the lens of faith traditions, one may be compelled to view solving the climate crisis as a moral imperative. A person of faith has a crucial position in the coming climate crisis, as we need people with strong moral convictions to lead by example and inspire meaningful action rooted in compassion and care for creation.

One of the most notable calls to action found within several religious traditions is the concept of stewardship, or the belief that humanity has been entrusted with care of the Earth. Within Christianity, this concept of stewardship may be found in The Book of Genesis. Genesis teaches that humans were placed in the Garden of Eden "to work it and take care of it" (Genesis 2:15, New International Version). Genesis outlines that we each have a duty to protect and cultivate the world we live in. In contemporary times, this idea has evolved into a broader call for creation care, or the idea that human beings are co-creators with God and must preserve the natural world. Although humanity has the privilege of consuming and enjoying the planet's resources, humanity must also ensure that these resources are preserved for future generations. Additionally, the United Methodist Church's Book of Discipline teaches that human actions have greatly harmed the Earth, a creation of God, and its numerous close, interdependent ecosystems (Social Principles: Community of All Creation, n.d.).

The concept of stewardship is also taught and deeply rooted in Judaism. Jewish environmental ethics has been long informed by the principle of Bal Tashchit, a commandment that prohibits the wasteful destruction of fruit-bearing trees in times of war, as crucial resources must be preserved in even the most desperate circumstances (Deuteronomy 20:19-20). This principle has since been interpreted by faith-based organizations as a call to not just avoid further waste and harm to trees, but to avoid inflicting environmental harm in any form. Judaism also teaches the concept of repairing the world, called Tikkun Olam, where we need to heal and protect the planet. In Judaism, one's call for environmental stewardship is framed as a faithful, deep expression of religious values, such as honoring God's creation, repairing the world,

(continued on page 10)



The Interfaith Call for Climate Justice

(continued from page 9)

and as responsible stewards of the resources entrusted to humanity (My Jewish Learning, 2018).

Similarly, an Islamic perspective on climate justice holds that the natural world is a gift from God, which was entrusted to humans for caretaking. In discussing how God created the world for humanity's care, the Qur'an states, "It is He who made you successors of the Earth" (Qur'an 35:39). With this, humanity was given the responsibility of stewardship. Prophet Muhammed also teaches the idea of stewardship by saying, "If a Muslim plants a tree or sows seeds, and then a bird, or a person, or an animal eats from it, it is regarded as a charitable gift". In Islam, actions which benefit the environment are seen as acts of charity, as they contribute to the well-being of humanity and our future generations. Furthermore, Islamic scholars condemn wastefulness and overconsumption, instead advocating for moderation in use of the resources given to us. According to the Qur'ran, "And do not waste, for God does not love the wasteful" (Qur'an 7:31). This lesson is applicable to the concept of stewardship, as Muslims are encouraged to adopt sustainable practices in their daily lives. These can include limiting water usage, food consumption, and energy use as an expression of gratitude for God's blessings (Wisconsin Muslim Journal, 2024).

While the teachings of each faith may differ in specific language, they all point to a shared moral obligation for the care of creation and pursuit of justice for all beings, human and nonhuman alike. Our faith calls us to assess our overconsumption and look beyond ourselves. We have to ask ourselves whether we are properly fulfilling our duty as caretakers of the Earth. One of the most impactful methods to fulfill this calling is through collective engagement and advocacy. United by a shared commitment to stewardship, our communities can play pivotal roles in pushing for stronger climate policies which address the various causes of the climate crisis. This includes calling elected representatives to push for impactful legislation which promotes sustainable development, holds corporations accountable for environmental damage, and reduces carbon emissions. The time to heed the call of stewardship outlined in religious tradition is now, as people across faith traditions must work together to create a more just and sustainable future for the Earth.

References:

Deuteronomy 20:19-20 (NIV). (n.d.). Bible Gateway.

https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Deuteronomy%2020%3A19-20

&version=NIV



UWFaith News

Sally Vonner, UWFaith General Secretary and CEO

On July 29, 2023, Sally Vonner celebrated her new position during an installation service at Lovers Lane United Methodist Church in Dallas, Texas. She reported visits with more than 2,000 United Women in Faith (UWFaith) members at their meetings, at worship services, online, and onsite in the National Mission Institutions and other places where women are carrying out their mission of love in action. Discover more at: https://uwfaith.org/news/latest-news/.

2025 Reading Program

UWFaith considers the Reading Program a cherished tradition bringing together members to explore, share and discuss books. The Reading Program is available for adults, youth, and children with enlightening subjects in diverse genres. The books are current and cover a wide variety of topics and anyone, anywhere, can participate. Visit the following link for the 2025 Reading Program Catalog: https://uwfaith.org/resources/reading-program/.

Leadership Development Days 2024

Leadership Development Days (LDD) will take place virtually November 21-23, 2024 with the title Revive and Lead Empowered by Resurrection. This annual event is designed for UWFaith members to strengthen their leadership skills, network, worship, and fellowship together. Details are available at: https://uwfaith.org/events/leadership-development-days/.

Legacy Fund

Created in 2014, the Legacy Fund serves as a permanent invested endowment and will be an ongoing source of income providing the assurance that UWFaith work can aways continue. Giving to the Legacy Fund will support UWFaith in perpetuity as a vital way to sustain and grow our capacity to serve and advocate.

Donors wishing to make a planned gift can become a member of the UWFaith 1869 Society, in recognition of the year of our founding in honor of those who have named United Women in Faith as a beneficiary of a will, trust, retirement plan, or life insurance policy.

For sister by sister, story by story, and ways of giving, visit https://uwfaith.org/give/legacy-fund/.



Motivations to Finish Strong

Yesterday, I attended a scheduled community food distribution event with my professional group who volunteered to distribute and answer questions about voting registration in New Jersey. One of our volunteers had brought books his wife had read and wished to share with the community. As he encouraged my group to take whatever books of interest, I noticed and asked for the book <u>Finish Strong</u> by Dan Green.¹ With only 115 pages, many of which were photographs, I was surprised how much the messages related to my current activities and those of my peers, answered many of my personal questions, and even more so the spiritual basis of the messages.

Thus, I decided to share these experiences that so resembled my own but first research the motivational message. Checking out even the most intriguing topics is what I do. I discovered that the message "finish strong" was abundant on the Internet and in books, many with spiritual connotations, and a few with inspiring life stories. Every article promoted the concept that "starting strong is good but finishing strong is epic." So, with all our "strong" efforts this year to inspire Americans to register to vote under America's motto: "land of the free," I share with you tips by various authors on how to finish strong their inspiring worthwhile goal motivations, all with links for your easy reading.

This is my belief gift to you for what it means to belong to and fight for our communities as a team – *It Takes a Village*. It's what UWFaith does, so let's finish strong!

First, we have Dan Green. In his book introduction for **Finish Strong**, Green shares that the phrase *finish strong* has become a driving force in his life for more than ten years, even though he did not always get the results he wanted. Green pleads that for a sense of accomplishment and satisfaction knowing that you gave it all you had, make it your own personal goal to finish strong and "do all things as unto the Lord" (Colossians 3:17). Have a read for you will not be disappointed.

Raise Your Sword. A Call to Action Raising God's Word Above All Else by Erin is next. It's a "site that encourages women to take the sword of the Spirit, the living Word of God, and grip it with sincere faith above all things." The archived article entitled **Powerful Finish Strong Bible Verses** shared "13 Finish Strong Bible Verses" and a few are copied in this article for your reading. The article begins with the message that when it comes to finishing strong, we need bible verses to spur us on. Some days it hits like a wave when we want to give up or we're struggling to keep pushing forward. But readers are encouraged to "run with endurance so we may have the grace to finish strong."²

(continued on page 13



¹ Finish Strong, More Than a Statement...It's an Attitude by Dan Green.

² "Raise Your Sword A Call to Action Raising God's Word above all else." https://raiseyoursword.com.

Motivations to Finish Strong (continued from page 12)

Another writer is Scott Savage. He believes self-awareness can help all of us become consistent finishers and not simply enthusiastic starters. He shares in his article "How to Finish Strong: The Secret You Already Know," that finishing is much more difficult than starting. Savage proclaims using the power of self-awareness to finish strong allows you to accept your weaknesses while focusing all your attention on your strengths for things to change. And he shares what he learned about himself after years of not finishing his goals by performing an autopsy on those areas of his life. He challenges you to finish strong by answering five questions about yourself as to your needed structure, encouragement, accountability, mindset-shift, and reallocation of time, energy, or other resources to empower a final push. He ends with "We're cheering for you!"³

"Charles Darwin was afraid. By 1859, he had spent 22 years traveling the world, making observations, and connecting the dots on the origins of our species. You certainly can't wait 22 years to complete your next project, no matter how unconventional it may seem." This is the beginning of a guest post in <u>Psychology Today</u> by Paul Jun in "The Importance of Finishing What you Start." Jun discusses being ready vs. being prepared; the need for perfection vs expecting issues while shipping your ideas; and fearing criticism vs learning something meaningful to help your project move forward. Jun explains how not to let the greatest obstacle known to block what you start (your fears, anxieties, and doubts) delay your finish. Another inspiring and thoughtful article to finish strong.

Leon Ho in his article "6 Ways to Finish Strong (When Your Momentum is Low)" begins that there are times in your life when you will have to define a path to achieve your goals. These are moments to decide how you will push through to finish strong. Will you give up or give it all that it takes? Ho gives three fun facts for why you need to push through the end: Most of the points scored in football occur a few minutes before the game ends; the last second in a race determines who wins as every runner wants to give the most effort; and you work harder when there are deadlines to meet. As proof of why the finish is highly significant, Ho states people rate the quality of life higher when it ends better, not minding if it was short. He also promotes self-awareness and as a bonus tip adds "It is not enough to be an enthusiastic starter; you must also be an optimistic finisher."

(continued on page 14)



Motivations to Finish Strong (continued from page 13)

Have a read of the above articles for detailed tips, especially Ho's five proven steps to enable you to finish strong for those goals you may wish to accomplish. You will not be disappointed!

Submitted by Joyce Pratt

Worthwhile Goal Motivations

Believe and act as if it was impossible to fail.
--Charles F. Kettering

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. —2 Timothy 4:7

I realized the secret to success is finishing! And not just finishing but finishing strong! --Eric Thomas

Many will start fast; few will finish strong. - Gary Ryan Blair

No matter who you are or what you do, embrace the challenge to first start with the goal to finish strong. --Andy Andrews, New York Times bestselling author.

Regardless of what came before or what is yet to come, what matters most right now is how I choose to respond to the challenge before me. Will I lie down, or will I fight? The choice is mine, and I choose to finish strong. --Dan Green

Stand firm against him and be strong in your faith. Remember that your family of believers all over the world is going through the same kind of suffering you are. –1 Peter 5:9

Starting strong is good, finishing strong is epic. -Robin Sharma

There are better starters than me but I'm a strong finisher. –Usain Bolt, Wisdom Fighters

Well done, good servant. --Luke 19:17



³ "How to Finish Strong: The Secret You Already Know" by Scott Savage. [https://www.thindifference.com/2017/10/how-to-finish-strong/]

⁴ "The Importance of Finishing What You Start," Guest Post by Paul Jun, Post by Gregory Ciotti, Habits, Not Hacks; in Psychology Today, February 2016. https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/habits-not-hacks/201602/the-importance-finishing-what-you-start.

⁵ "6 Ways to Finish Strong (When Your Momentum is Low" by Leon Ho, Founder & CEO of Lifehack. https://www.lifehack.org/879927/finish-strong.



Greater New Jersey Conference United Women in Faith Fall Meeting

Presenter

Joseph Chiarell on Climate Justice

October 26, 2024 Breakfast from 9-9:45am

Program - Workshops - Meeting 10am-2:30pm

Cost (includes breakfast and lunch) for in-person attendance \$25

GNJUMC Conference Mission Center 205 Jumping Brook Rd, Neptune Township, NJ

Register by: October 15, 2024

Offering will be for Just Energy 4 All

Offering links are listed below

In-Gathering - The Neighborhood Center in Camden

GNJUWF 2024 Fall Meeting Registration Online Form (jotform.com)



Who Is My Keeper

by Virgie Williams CAD President

So much can happen during the course of a week, a few days, or even one day. I was talking with my brother a couple of days ago. I had called him to see if he and his wife were all right. They live in Western North Carolina, and we know that Hurricane Helene wreaked havoc on states from Florida through the Carolinas. Even here in New Jersey we were impacted by rain for several days.



My brother said that he and his wife were safe yet experiencing many challenges. No electricity, that means no lights, no air conditioning, no heat, even if you have natural gas the thermostats are electric. However, some homes have propane energy. I called him on his cell phone, and he said they were doing okay. A neighbor had given him a tarp to put on his roof to cover a hole compliments of Hurricane Helene. We talked about two minutes as he was unable to charge his cell phone because of no electricity, and he wanted to be able to use his phone in case of another emergency.

We take so much for granted, yet a storm can come into our lives and the results leaves us breathless and wondering if our neighbors are all right – is there something that they essentially need at this moment, am I my sister's keeper or my brother's keeper? There is little that I can do from New Jersey to assist them. Yet I can keep them in my prayers, perhaps wire them some money, or encourage some of my children's generation to go and help them with cleanup and restoring. I am hopeful that emergency centers have been established that are providing food, sleeping areas, and temporary bathing facilities.

I've started all this to say at this moment that CAD (Cape Atlantic District) is having their Fall Meeting, and our speaker is Shelley Hadac and she will be speaking about UMCOR and what that organization does when a natural disaster occurs. My Sisters, Look at God, He is always working around us and preparing us to assist with the many that need our help. Our CAD theme, **Shades of Fall—Shades of God's Mercy**, has literally laid God's Hands on us to be our Sisters' and Brothers' keepers for such a time as this...our scripture, **Peacemakers who sow in peace, reap a harvest of righteousness. James 3:18**

We are working to fulfil a need to the needy, to be a friend when times are challenging, and always taking our cue from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.



District News





Peacemakers who sow in peace, reap a harvest of righteousness. James 3:18

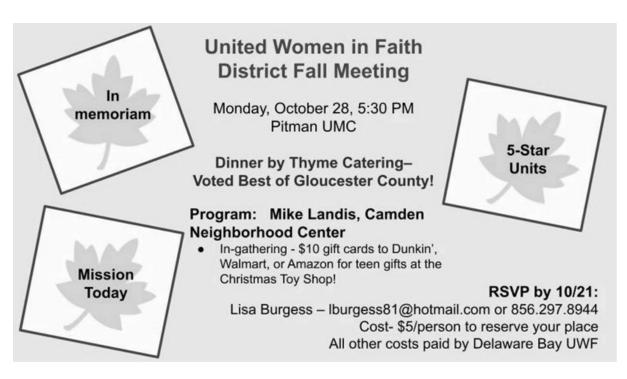
Cape Atlantic District United Women in Faith Annual Business Meeting and Communion Saturday, October 5, 2024

9:30 AM Registration Pastor: Rev. David Yun UWF President: Holly Cyrus Central United Methodist Church 5 Marvin Avenue Linwood, NJ 08221 (609) 927-4882



Keynote Presenter: Shelley Hodac – Good Shepherd UMC Missions Chair / HUB Facilitator "Let us learn about UMCOR."

Theme: Shades of Fall - Shades of God's Mercy.





Partnering with AmeriCorps

(continued from page 5)

2025 AmeriCorps State and National Funding Priorities. For this funding opportunity, AmeriCorps will prioritize consideration from organization proposed programs for which a significant focus and intended outcome serves communities, benefit AmeriCorps members, use AmeriCorps Evidence Exchange, are faith-based, or affiliates with the American Climate Corps (ACC) that trains young people for the clean energy and climate resilience workforce. Single-state applicants must apply through their state.

Application Deadline. The New Jersey Commission on National and Community Service is offering the opportunity to compete for a three-year cycle of Competitive AmeriCorps programs. Awards from this Competitive NOFO will implement the first year of the program which runs from September 1, 2024 to August 31, 2025. Current applications are due by Wednesday, November 8, 2024 by 4pm. Deadline dates are available.

Technical Assistance Information and Webinars. Applicants with technical difficulties can contact AmeriCorps hotline at 800-942-2677, application questions can be directed to AmeriCorps.gov, and webinars are available about funding opportunity and eGrants on September 16, 18, and 25, 2024 and October 3, 2024.

Source: https://americorps.gov/, a website of the United States government. 9/1/24

Church Women United - New Jersey (CWU-NJ)

Fall Gathering

Topic: Solutions to Hunger and Homelessness

When: Saturday, October 19, 2024, 10:00am – 2:30pm. **Where:** First United Methodist Church, Toms River, NJ

Focus: "Marketing the Movement: How Women Won the Vote"

World Community Day Celebration

Topic: To Walk Humbly with God

When: Friday, October 25, 2024, 10:00am

Where: First United Methodist Church, Moorestown, NJ

Focus: MEND, Inc. (Moorestown Ecumenical Neighborhood Development

Visit CWU-NJ website for other events, past and future, at

https://www.churchwomenunited.net.



Social Media The Good, Bad, and Ugly

In an article for Social Group, Yachika Yadav, a sociology, post graduate student at Banasthali Vidyapith in India, discusses her research on the pros and cons of social media.

Nowadays, social media is so popular among the young, children, and adults. Each of us uses social media to be updated, to entertain ourselves, to communicate with others, to explore new things, and to connect with the world. Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp, YouTube, etc. are examples of social media. Social media is a part of our lives today, and consciously or unconsciously, it is becoming our habit to continuously go through it and check the notifications.

Social media is a platform where we can communicate with a large number of people, make connections, and interact with them. It operates on the internet. A user usually creates an account on such a platform and allows interaction with the millions of other users available on it according to their preferences and choices. Apart from the interaction, it also allows users to share information, chat with other people, share their opinions, create content, and embrace their differences.

In today's world, social media is an important part of young people's lives, determining and shaping their perspectives. The youth typically adopt and pursue social media trends; for example, in dressing styles, the youth adopt dresses and styles that are promoted as trends by social media.

Social media not only allows people to share their opinions, but it also shapes the opinions of its users. Social media have an impact on their users as well as society as a whole, both positive and negative.

Excerpts from "10 Positive and Negative Effects of Social Media on Society," 1-20-23. https://www.sociologygroup.com/pros-cons-social-media/#:~:text=Positive%20impact%20of%20social.





UWFaith Events



Mission u. Each year, United Women in Faith develops three justice-focused Biblical curricula for adults, youth, and children, all on a common theme. In 2025, our theme is Practicing Hope Together. In 2026, our theme will be Experiencing Emmanuel. Our focus on developing three curricula around one common theme means that Mission u offers a unique opportunity for faith communities to create powerful intergenerational learning experiences.

Revive and Lead

Empowered by Resurrection

Leadership Development Days 2024 will take place virtually November 21-23, 2024. An annual event, Leadership Development Days, or LDD, is designed for members of United Women in Faith to strengthen their leadership skills, network, worship, and fellowship together. All conference officers who will be leading in 2025 are invited to join.



UWFaith is now offering soul care retreats tailored uniquely to women of different ages, interests and cultures. This new event is for member enrichment and is also a pathway to connect with new women focused on giving care to your whole person – mind, body and spirit.

Visit UWFaith website for details and other events: https://uwfaith.org/.





Mission u 2025: Practicing Hope Together

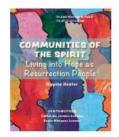
Join us at **Mission u** as we explore the theme, Practicing Hope Together. Mission u participants will study the resurrection appearances of Jesus and the example of early Christian communities to explore what it means to practice hope in God even when things seem to be falling apart.

Mission u 2025 offers three exciting curricula on this theme. Order your copy here: <u>uwfaithresources.org</u>



Adult— Practicing Hope by Tabatha Holley

Practicing Hope is a biblical curriculum that explores hope particularly when hope seems hard to find, asking questions such as: How does Christ teach us to embody hope when our backs are against the wall? Participants will find ways to allow all of our communities to cultivate hope that is honest about our current conditions (refugia), restorative when everything feels urgent (rest), and possible even when we transgress (repair).



Youth— Communities of the Spirit: Living into Hope as Resurrection People by Regina Heater

Communities of the Spirit is a youth curriculum examining the hope we find in early post-resurrection Christian communities and how they kept hope alive in the most difficult times. Youth will be asked to consider what they believe are important components of a Community of the Spirit, hoping they will identify what they need in a community to help them continue to become the people God calls them to be.



Children— Hope as a Resurrection People by Joni Cisowski

Hope as a Resurrection People intends to help children build trust in Jesus to bring comfort and support as they find courageous hope in the face of uncertainty. Through each session, children will develop their understanding of hope by reflecting on important people, communities, places, activities, personal goals, and desires for the future. Then, they will look for ways to build communal hope to be the change our world needs today.

JOIN US dates/times: [Enter your Mission u events date here.] RSVP: [Include your url/link to the event, if any, here.]

July 18-20, 2025

Centenary University, Hackettstown, NJ

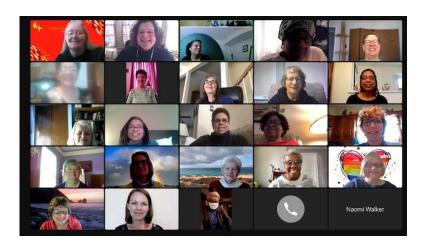
Come learn together for the transformation of the world!





GNJ United Women in Faith Calendar of Events 2024-2025

2024-GNJ-UWF-Leadership-Team



2024

April 18-21 NE Jurisdiction Event in Providence, RI

April 27 Spring Celebration: "Native American Resilience and Healing"

with Carol Lakota Eastin, 9:30am-noon, Location: Medford

UMC or hybrid/Zoom

http://tinyurl.com/FlyerSpring2024

May 11 Micro Retreat, 10-10:45AM

Meeting ID 848 9332 4533, Passcode: 1208

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84893324533?pwd=eGM1NWtRQ2NndnVhYjl6Nmd2YUNadz09

May 19-21 GNJ Annual Conference, Wildwood

June 1 Program Planning Committee, 10-11:30am

June 8 & 9 Annual Pow-Wow, Salem County Fairgrounds,

Grand Entrance at noon. Saturday bake sale for St. John UMC

VBS.

July 12-14 Mission U 3-day at Centenary University



2024 (GNJUWF Calendar continued)

August 3 Treasurers'/Finance Committee meeting followed by

Leadership Team, 9:30am-noon.

October 26 Fall Annual Meeting: 9:30 Gathering, 10am start, at GNJ

Mission Resource Center, Neptune. Suggested donation

toward cost of meal(s) - \$10.00.

November 2 Program Planning Committee, 10-11:30am

November 21-23 Leadership Development Days 2024 will take place virtually

through National

2025

January 11 Leadership Development on Zoom, followed by Leadership

Team, 9:30am-12:30pm

April 5 Spring Celebration

Retreat Recordings

March 21 Virtual Retreat Click here to View Passcode: S!K&qjj1

August 21 Virtual Click here to View Passcode: xvX^a7t\$

Nov. 21 Virtual Retreat Click here to View Passcode: 5+MAN89=

April 22 Virtual Retreat Click to View Passcode: cV=&8v+&

June 22 Virtual Retreat Recording Click to View Passcode: 19Ua5.KN



Retreat Recordings (continued from page 23)

Sept.22 Virtual Retreat Recording Click Here Passcode: 4Ctct8+K

Nov. 22 Virtual Retreat Recording Click Here Passcode: 7q&r\$Vdr

March 13 Micro-retreat, LT & Legislative Task Force: Click to View Passcode: b2Qck7@%

Sept. 23 Micro-retreat Click to View Passcode: 53Cn?N?N

Nov. 4 Micro-retreat Click to View Passcode: z@6mrvTv

Feb. 2024 Micro-retreat Click to View Passcode: qTR&?xv8

Recordings of Previous Meetings

2024

Jan. 20 Leadership Development & Team Meeting
Link to slides and resources http://tinyurl.com/LD24Slides

Recording: http://tinyurl.com/LeadershipDevel24
Passcode: 3Rw^hc?^

2023

October 21 Fall Celebration,

"Teaching Resilience: Healthy Perspectives for Children (and all!),
Recording at https://tinyurl.com/Oct21st-Recording-Resilience, Passcode:
@8D9gFAv. Evaluation https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8235XKF

September 23 Finance & Leadership Team https://tinyurl.com/Fin-LTeam. Passcode: BYzz7^4p

August 26

https://tinyurl.com/Legislative-Action-Training. Passcode: eE4+0kGw



Recordings of Previous Meetings

2023 (continued)

May 6 <u>Leadership Team Recording</u> Passcode: FXc@B2YD

Apr. 15 Spring Celebration: Welcoming the Stranger Recording:

https://www.facebook.com/1387822282/videos/965672264426804/

April 1 Development Recording . Passcode: qC.7%d0%

Jan 14 Native American Breakout Session Recording: https://youtu.be/DfGlfpd4hHs

2022

Recording Jan. 15, 2022
Passcode: *D=3fzOd

Recording Leadership Team Meeting March 5, 2022
Passcode: 6sz%V7en

Recording Recipes for Success Training Jun 4, 2022
Access Passcode: m0wqd!Y6

Justice for Indigenous Children Sept. 30,22
Passcode: 6oqLFQ%p

Oct. 15 Program Mark Miller: bridgewaterumc.org/mark-miller

Fall Annual Meeting Oct. 15, 22
Passcode:K1HpS+az

Nov. 5 Know Your Neighbor in the LGBTQIA Community
Passcode: XZhLV\$E5

https://tinyurl.com/Nov22-KnowYourNeighbor-LGBTQ Passcode: d87N*zrA



Recordings of Previous Meetings

2021

- March 6 Leadership Team Meeting March 6 Leadership Recording Passcode: x2nC&%=B
- April 25 3PM GNJ Spring Meeting Rev. Luana Scott CLICK HERE TO VIEW PASSCODE: z!u@cj6g
- June 5 Leadership Team Meeting Click here to View Passcode: ^22GcBuv
- Aug. 7 Recording Treasurer's & Leadership Team Click Here to View Passcode: ^81@0+?L
- Aug. 7 Recording Leadership Team Click here to View Passcode: ^81@0+?L
- Sept 11 Recording of 9/11 Know Your Neighbor in the Muslim Community

 <u>Click here to View</u> Passcode: #*skzy4q
- Oct. 9 Recording Oct. 9 Know Your Neighbor in the AAPI Community Click here to View Passcode: ^5agp7ZX
- Oct. 16 Recording GNJ UMW Fall Meeting, Oct. 16, 2021 Click here to View Passcode: R=LZmh6&
- Nov. Recording Nov. Know Your Neighbor in Indigenous Communities

 Click here to View Passcode: ?P96%G%M

GNJ UWF Resources and Actions https://tinyurl.com/ResourcesGNJUWF

UWF National Events

New Brand Resources

https://uwfaith.org/events/calendar/

https://umwmissionresources.org/

United Women in Faith YouTube

https://m.youtube.com/c/uwomenfaith



Voices of Purpose Newsletter Deadlines & Distribution

	Deadline for			
Newsletter Issue	Articles	Distribution		
Spring 2024 (January – March)	April 4, 2024	April 8, 2024		
Summer 2024 (April – June)	July 4, 2024	July 8, 2024		
Fall 2024 (July – September)	October 3, 2024	October 7, 2024		
Winter 2024 (October – December)	January 3, 2025	January 7, 2025		

Visit GNJUWF website for previous published newsletters: www.gnjumw.org/news.

GNJUWF Website Blog Plans

GNJUWF has been researching ideas for a website "Conversational Blog" for members to express their feelings, seek suggestions for district and chapter initiatives, and obtain ideas on short issues, what remedies others took, what else can be done, to name just a few.

Our initial plans are to create three categories such as:



Your help is needed to create a blog that will be useful to most if not all of us and can be amended as required. Please send us your ideas via our website CONTACT page at https://www.gnjumw.org or via email.

We cannot wait to hear from you!



Greater New Jersey United Women in Faith LEADERSHIP TEAM 2023-2024

President VPres/Program Coordinator Secretary

Holly Cyrus ('24) Pat Schutz ('24) Linda Wilson (24)

Membership, Nurture and

TREASURER SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT ADVISOR OUTREACH CHAIR

Carol Bloch ('24) Barbara Miller ('24) Holly Cyrus ('23)

CHRISTIAN SOCIAL ACTIONS

ADVOCATE PROGRAM RESOURCES STANDING RULES CHAIR

Sherri Shumate ('23) Grace Rapp ('25) Grace Rapp

COMMUNICATIONS

PHOTOGRAPHER COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES REP.

Lou Hyson ('23) Joyce Pratt ('23) Leslie Bivins

LGBTQ Representative

Open GNJUWF Website: www.gnjumw.org

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS

NOMINATIONS CHAIRCLASS OF 2024CLASS OF 2024CLASS OF 2024CLASS OF 2024CLASS OF 2025OpenCynthia LydonIvy DanielsRosa Lee McNairKathy Schulz

<u>Class of 2027</u> <u>Class of 2027</u>

Rosa Williams Jill Morrow

APPOINTED

Legacy Fund Committee

Chair: Yvonne Bouknight

Members: Sherri Shumate

CHARTER FOR RACIAL JUSTICE

Chair: Sue Zahorbenski

Members: Leslie Bivins, Joyce Pratt

Carolyn Pendleton, Millie Grey Mary Bland, Sherri Shumate,

Barbara Miller

(continued on page 29)



LEADERSHIP TEAM - 2023-2024

(continued from page 28)

DISTRICT PRESIDENTS

COASTAL PLAINS

<u>Cape Atlantic</u> <u>Central</u> <u>Delaware Bay</u> ('25)

Virgil Williams ('22) Debbie Campion ('25) Staci Sheetz

METRO HIGHLANDS

MEADOWLANDS RARITAN SHORE SKYLANDS

Tracy Carroll ('25) OPEN Elizabeth (Liz) Steen ('26)

Tia Swanson ('25)

ELECTED BY OTHER GROUPS

KOREAN NETWORK PRESIDENT KOREAN LANGUAGE COORDINATOR KOREAN LANGUAGE COORDINATOR

Kyungmee Kim OPEN OPEN

HISPANIC NETWORK PRESIDENT HISPANIC LANGUAGE COORDINATOR CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

OPEN OPEN Sara Joslin

OTHER LEADERSHIP TEAMS

<u>IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT</u> <u>ALTERNATE NATIONAL DIRECTOR</u> <u>DEAN MISSION "U"</u>

Kathleen Schulz Yvonne Bouknight Elizabeth Vaneekhoven

ASSISTANT DEAN MISSION "U" NORTHEASTERN JURISDICTION VICE PRESIDENT

Bernadette Cataline Sue Zahorbenski

<u>UMW NE Jurisdiction Mission Advocate</u>
<u>UMW National Director/Secretary</u>

REBECCA PARSONS BETHANY AMEY-SUTTON

GNJUMC PRESIDING BISHOP

Rev John R. Schol

CONFERENCE UMW WEBSITE: www.gnjumw.org



Social Action Resources

Greater New Jersey United Women in Faith Website

www.gnjumw.org.

National Human Trafficking Prevention Month

www.state.gov/national-human-trafficking-prevention-month/

New Jersey Assembly Bills Pending

https://legiscan.com/NJ/pending/ssembly-state-local-government-committee/id/3085.

New Jersey Legislature

List of all New Jersey legislators in alphabetical order showing, party, hose, and district. Legislators can also be found by municipality/city. Click on "Members" and then "Legislative Roster." https://njleg.state.nj.us/legislative-roster.

United States House of Representatives

Directory of U.S. Representatives (also referred to as congressmen or congresswomen) showing district name, party office, phone, and committee assignment. https://www.house.gov/representatives.

United States Senate

Listing of all U.S. senators alphabetically by name, showing state, party, office room and phone. https://www.senate.gov/senators/.

United Women in Faith Website

https://uwfaith.org.

United States Congress

Meeting sessions and links for House of Representatives and Senate and current bills search. https://congress.gov.

Standing Rules – GNJUWF of GNJ Conference 2023

GNJUWF revised Standing Rules approved at the 2023 Annual Fall Meeting can be accessed at www.gnjumw.org, under "Rules & Regulations.





New Jersey Voter Registration Application Please print clearly in ink. All information is required unless marked optional.

68

L	☐ Address Change			□ Name Change □ Signature Upo		☐ Political Pa		lation	FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
2	Are you a U.S. Citizen? ☐I Yes (If No, DO NOT complete this for		Are you (If No,	u at least 17 years DO NOT compl	of age' ete this	P ☐ Yes ☐ form)	No		Clerk
4	Last Name	First I	Vame	Mi	ddle Na	ame or Initial	Suffix ('Jr., Sr., III)	Registration #
5	Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY)	1 1		6 Gender (O)	otional) Female	☐ Male		Office Time Stamp
7	NJ Driver's License Number or MVC N	lon-driver ID Nu	ımber	If you DO NOT have ID, provide the last 4					
"I swear or affirm that I DO NOT have a NJ Driver's License, MVC Non-driver ID or a Social Security Number."									
8	Home Address (DO NOT use PO Box,			Municipality (City	(Town)	County		Zip Code	
9	Mailing Address (If different from Horn	ne Address)	Apt.	Municipality (City	/Town)	County	State	Zip Code	□ by mail □ in person
10	Last Address Registered to Vote (DO)	NOT use PO Box)	Apt.	Municipality (City	(Town)	County	State	Zip Code	Muni Code #
11	Former Name if Making Name Cl	hange	12 [Day Phone Numbe	er (Opti	onal)			Party
			E	E-Mail Address (O)	otional)			Ward
13	Do you wish to declare a political pa	arty affiliation	? □ Ye	s, the party nam	e is	597 NO BO 1025			District
8	(Optional)		□No	, I do not wish to	be aff	liated with any	politica	al party.	
 14 Request for Mail-In Ballot for all future elections (<i>Optional</i>) ☐ I wish to receive a Mail-In Ballot for all future elections until I request otherwise in writing to the County Clerk's office. ☐ Mail my ballot to the following address if different from Mailing Address above. 									
	Mailing Address if different from a	above			Apt.	Municipality	(City/Tow	n) Sta	ate Zip Code
•	eclaration - I swear or affirm that: I am a U.S. Citizen I live at the above home address I am at least 17 years old, and understathat I may not vote until reaching the ag	and a	t least 30 am not se s the resu ffense un	resided in the State days before the nearly sentence of the following a sentence of the days of the laws of this the United States.	ext elect of incarc of any in	ion re eration to dictable b	egistratio 5 \$15,00	n may subject	alse or fraudulent me to a fine of up ent up to 5 years, or 9:34-1
Signature of Registrant: Sign or mark and date on lines below If applicant is unable to complete this form, name and address of individual who comp									
					100000000000	ne			
	,		Det	~ / /	1000 01 00	(MM/DD/YYY			
	· ·		Dat	e <u> </u>	- Add	ress			
	portant Instructions for section	_ 2 2 24	921 81 8	(IMINI / DD / TTTT)					





NO POSTAGE NECESSARY IF MAILED IN THE UNITED STATES

BUSINESS REPLY MAIL FIRST-CLASS MAIL PERMIT NO 206 TRENTON NJ

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE

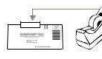
DIVISION OF ELECTIONS PO BOX 304 TRENTON NJ 08625-9983











Page 2 Page 32

APPLICATION FOR VOTE BY MAIL BALLOT

Please type or print clearly in ink. All information required unless marked optional.

1	I hereby apply for a Mail-In Ballot for: (CHECK ONLY ONE) □ ALL FUTURE ELECTIONS, until I request otherwise in writing. Or for ONLY ONE of the following: □ General (November) □ Primary (June) □ Municipal □ School □ Fire □ Special □ To be held on / / (Specify) PLEASE NOTE: Your ballot can only be sent to the mail if your mailing address changes, you must notify the Color	
2	Last Name Trans First Name Trans	Middle Name or Initial Suffix (Jr., Sr., III)
3	Address at which you are registered to vote: Street Address or RD# Apt. Municipality (DN/Town) State Zip	Mail my ballot to the following address: Same Address as Section 3 Please include any PO Box, ROB, State/Province, Zlp/Postal Code & Country (if outside US)
5	Date of Birth (MM DD / YYYY) 6 Day Time Phone Numb	7 E-Mail Address oncerning the acceptance or rejection of your ballot and how you may cure a defect.
10	Assistor: Any person providing assistance to the Name of Assistor (Type or Print)	SECTIONS 10 OR 11 IF APPLICABLE voter in completing this application must complete this section. Date (MM/DD/YYYY)
11	member or a registered voter of this County. No Authorized requesting a Mail-In Ballot or (2) serve as messenger for m messenger or bearer may serve as such for up to five qual residing in the same household as the messenger or bearer I designate	to be my Authorized Messenger.
	X S10P Authorized Messenger must sign application and st in the presence of the County Clerk or County Clerk "I do hereby certify that I will deliver the Mail-In Ballot and no other person, under penalty of its Signature of Messenger X	now photo ID office USE ONLY designee.

See also: https://nj.gov/state/elections/assets/pdf/guidelines/2024-0502-guide-board-of-elections-ballot-review.pdf.

Fill out application.

- Print and sign your name where indicated.

Mail or Deliver application to the County Clerk

Unless you are a Military or Overseas Voter DO NOT FAX OR E-MAIL

VOTING INFORMATION

- You will receive instructions with your ballot. Once you apply for a Mail-In Ballot, you will not be permitted You must be a registered voter in order to apply for a to vote by machine at your polling place in the same election.
- 4. If returning your Mail-In Ballot in person it must be received after the time for the closing of the polls of the election. the county board of elections no later than 144 hours (6 days) be postmarked no later than Election Day and received by by the County Board of Elections before close of polls on Election Day. If returning your Mail-In Ballot by mail, it must
- 6. You must apply for a Mail-In Ballot for each election, unless Do not submit more than one application for the same election you designate otherwise under Section 1.

A voter may apply for a Mail-In Ballot by mail up to 7 days prior to the election. He or she may also apply in person to the County

PLEASE NOTE

Clerk until 3 P.M. the day before the election.



PLACE Postage Here BEFORE MAILING



APPLICATION FOR VOTE BY MAIL BALLOT

Joseph J. Giralo **Atlantic County Clerk** 5901 Main Street Mays Landing, NJ 08330-1797

WARNING

option, the County Clerk's office must be notified in writing. Ballot for all future elections. If such voter no longer wants this Voters now have an option of automatically receiving a Mail-In

no later than 3 P.M. the day prior to the election Clerk not later than 7 days prior to the election messenger during County Clerk's office hours, but uniess you apply in person or via an authorized This application must be received by the County

City, State, Zip Code

Please Seal with Tape and Return