

Voices of Purpose

June 2022

Quarterly Newsletter of the Greater New Jersey United Women in Faith

President's Message

Intersectionality

United Women in Faith is proud of our 150+ years of history.¹ We proudly recall those brave Boston women who organized to send a female doctor and a female educator as missionaries to India in 1869. I was proud when I learned that our organization sponsored the research and published the book by a brave lawyer, a non-binary woman of color named Pauli Murray, who wrote the book that Thurgood Marshall called “the Bible” of civil rights litigation. [Pauli Murray *States' Laws on Race and Color* (Cincinnati, OH: Women's Division of Christian Service, Board of Missions and Church Extension, 1951)]²

When Pauli Murray lived, the term “Intersectionality” was unknown. It was coined in 1989 by law professor Kimberlé Crenshaw to describe how race, class, gender, and other individual characteristics “intersect” with one another and overlap, too often resulting in discrimination and disadvantage. Pauli Murray did not use a 1970's word such as “transgender” but she did describe herself as having an “inverted sex instinct.” She overcame many forms of discrimination, such as not being admitted to a college/law school because of her race or gender. She was the first African American woman to become an Episcopal priest.³

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¹ <https://uwfaith.org/who-we-are/our-history/>

² <https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2017/04/17/the-many-lives-of-pauli-murray>.

³ <https://www.vox.com/the-highlight/2019/5/20/18542843/intersectionality-conservatism-law-race-gender-discrimination>.

March Highlights

- Assembly 2022 Highlights
- Mission u Reports
- Roe vs Wade
- Intersectionality
- GNJUWF new Welcome Statement



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March 2022

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Editor: Joyce Pratt
GNJUWF Communications Coordinator

Welcome Statement

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

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.



President's Message (continued from page 1)

I was a tomboy growing up. I played with GI Joe while my sister played with Barbie. I find it ironic that Wendy is the one who is Lesbian. My mother always accepted and loved my sister and her friends. Wendy and her wife have been together for over 20 years. Difficult words like "Lesbian" and same sex "wife" become easier to say over time as we practice love and acceptance of all God's children.

My children grew up in a different era than I, in a school district that was very diverse. They called me a racist if I inquired "How many white kids in your class?" after the first day of school. When Jenn went to a sleepover and mentioned that Andrew was there, I was appalled. "Mom, he's gay!," she informed me.

These are the kind of experiences that many young people have today. They don't understand why their elders are so hung up on different races and gender identities. This is why United Methodist Women was ready for a rebranding. The new name, "United Women in Faith," will get easier to say over time. Haven't we often said, "How do we get new women to join?" Well, National has provided the way. We are a refreshed, inclusive organization that welcomes all women. The new website has many resources and is designed to attract women who want to inspire, influence and impact: <https://uwfaith.org/>.

So now, the heat of the summer is upon us. The US Supreme Court has demonstrated the deep divisions of our country. It seems as though half of the people are cheering, and the other half are protesting. This could be the case even in our churches, because one of the things that makes United Methodists special, is that "we hold a wide spectrum of beliefs." Our Bishop has called "all of us in the midst of our differences to love and serve together for a better church and a better world."⁴ As United Women in Faith, "driven by God's love and united in sisterhood, we work to improve the lives of women, children and youth."

⁴ <https://www.gnjumc.org/news/message-from-bishop-schol-united-methodists-and-abortion/>

GNJ UWF Statement of Welcome

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United Women in Faith 2022 Assembly HIGHLIGHTS



Thousands celebrate United Women in Faith at the 2022 Assembly

by Tara Barnes, Jessica Brodie, and Mary Beth Coudal

<https://uwfaith.org>.

More than 3,000 gathered in Orlando, Florida, and online for United Women in Faith's Assembly 2022 held May 20-22 at the Orange County Convention Center. Twenty-four countries and all 50 states were represented at the event with the theme "Turn It Up!" Keynote speakers were the Rev. Sung Yeon Choimorrow, Heather McTeer Toney, and General Secretary Harriett Jane Olson. This Assembly also featured a theologian-in-residence, Janet Wolf, author of United Women in Faith's mission study *Practicing Resurrection: The Gospel of Mark and Radical Discipleship*, who preached throughout the weekend.

Topics and comments from keynote speakers follow:

I often say that though it was divinity school that officially set me on the path to ordination, it was United Women in Faith that helped me believe that women are ordained by God to be full partners in ministry. -- Janet Wolf

Rev. Sung Yeon Choimorrow, executive director of the National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum, spoke about the rampant racial discrimination and injustice toward Asian American women and girls and challenged attendees to show love for neighbors in ways that are bold and inconvenient in order to change the trajectory of racism.

When people tell us it's too big, that environmental justice is too hard, that climate crisis is just too massive, our response should be: 'But you don't know my faith because nothing is too hard for God.' – Heather McTeer Toney, lawyer and environmentalist.

Imagine a community where diversity is baked in, not something we struggle with every day but part of who we are because we know that it's necessary to be who God calls us to be in the world. Imagine a community that's so compelling that

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United Women in Faith 2022 Assembly HIGHLIGHTS
(continued from page 5)

women are coming to us and saying, can I join? I imagine a community of fierce, compassionate, powerful women known as United Women in Faith.

Now is our chance to live the vision to make an impact, to build the sisterhood, to be change-makers in a change-making organization. – General Secretary Harriett Jane Olson.

For more highlights and reports visit - <https://uwfaith.org/blog/2022/women-turn-it-up-at-assembly2022/>. Also, check out photos from **response** magazine **Flicker page**, <https://www.flickr.com/photos/umwomen/>.

Be sure to join the next Assembly **May 15-1, 2026 in Indianapolis!**

[Article written by: Tara Barnes, editor of **response**; Jessica Brodie, editor of the South Carolina United Methodist Advocate; and Mary Beth Coudal, writer and teacher in New York City.]

GNJUWF Attendees Joining GNJUWF President Sue Zahorbenski
See www.gnjumw.org for more photos!



Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. Proverbs 12:1

MISSION U – 2022 REPORTS

Topic: Luke 13

Repent or perish -- A continuing repentances!

Who Can We Be Together?

Elizabeth Vaneekhoven, Assistant Dean Mission u 2022

Mission u is a long-standing program of the United Women in Faith to promote biblical literacy in a transformative, community learning experience. Formerly called the *Cooperative School of Christian Mission*, Mission u 2022 sought to expand our knowledge of Jesus' parables found in Luke 13. The 3 day-hybrid event was held on July 14-16, with the final day at Aldersgate UMC in East Brunswick.

Working together with our Study Leaders who led our time together both virtually and in-person, we explored the question of "Who Can We Be Together?" Not only did we explore and delve into the parables, but we also listened and learned from others' life lessons. The combination of inspirational music, plenaries and worship services made the event a memorable way to enhance our spiritual lives with the focus on Jesus and living into the promise of God's kin-dom.



Who Can We Be Together?

Building Communities
of Hope and Joy

We encourage all pastors of the GNJIUMC to become familiar with the ongoing UWF ministry and encourage constituents to join us in Mission u 2023.

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MISSION U – 2022 REPORTS (continued)

Mission u Tapestry Thoughts – Breakout Session

The Fox and the Hen, Luke 13:31-35 NSV

Study Leaders: Wilhelmina Jackson and Pastor Donald Kirschner.

One Group Classroom Opinions -Marsha Benovengo, Drucella King, Joyce Pratt, Kathy Schulz, and Pat Schutz.

Introduction to Passage: Jesus uses a metaphor of the fox and the hen to respond to the Pharisees warning that Herod is planning to kill him and tells the people that *he wishes he could gather them like a hen gathers her brood under her wings*. Ida B. Wells-Barnett, journalist, writer, and freedom fighter used a similar metaphor when she sued the railroad due to a racist policy and won but was disappointed when the decision was reversed because she believed in the law. Heartbroken she said: *I feel shorn of that belief and utterly discouraged and just now, if it were possible, would gather my race in my arms and fly away with them*. Both Wells-Barnett and Jesus have a lot in common here for both are crushed under oppressive governments and both wish they could grab the people they love as they fly away.

Questions about this passage posed to the classroom and their responses follow:

1. What other parallels do you see between Wells-Barnett and Jesus' sentiment?

Classroom: Both expected the best in people and were later disillusioned.

2. As you think about Luke 13, what do you notice about how Jesus challenges the circumstances and the impact of those circumstances for his people?

Classroom: Jesus challenges the circumstances with authority and confidence. The impact of those circumstances for his people was fear for Jesus' safety and the safety of the people.

3. How does it inspire him to move?

Classroom: Jesus is impressed by the people he is working with as he continued to cast out demons and perform cures. He is inspired to move on with passion and persistence as the people follow his beliefs.

4. What can we learn from this, as individuals and as a church community?

Classroom: Become resolute in our connections and believe God is with us. "I'll fly away!"



Greater New Jersey Conference United Women in Faith

Presents

Mark Miller

Intersectionality: Where Love and Justice Meet



Intersectionality - overlapping and interdependent systems of
discrimination

**Psalm 101: I will sing of your love and justice; to you Lord, I will SING
praise.**

GNJUWF Fall Meeting

October 15, 2022, 10am-3pm; breakfast from 9-9:45

Bridgewater UMC, also hybrid

Ingathering: bring rainbow yarn and gallon zip lock bags

Cost (includes breakfast and lunch) for in-person attendance \$10

Register by: Oct. 7th

Offering will be shared between www.thepeytonheartproject.org and another



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United Women in Faith and Roe vs. Wade

A Personal Story & Plea

by Sherri Shumate
GNJUWF Social Action Coordinator

Most of you know I have three amazing children who are my greatest joy. You might not know that prior to the births of these incredible people, I lost my very first pregnancy in a devastating miscarriage. For no explainable reason, we learned at the ultrasound that our first baby had no heartbeat. We were advised that the safest way to end that pregnancy and ensure we could try again to have children was a procedure called a D&C. As devastated as we both were, we knew that we wanted children and chose this route. Thanks to incredible medical care I was safely able to end that miscarried pregnancy and conceive our three incredible children. Now after the Supreme Court's decision to overturn Roe vs. Wade there may be women in the same heartbreaking situation that I faced who aren't given this option. In some states, miscarriage is even being investigated as murder. Now in some states victims of rape can actually be prosecuted for choosing not to continue a pregnancy caused by violence. It's a strange and challenging time. It is time for us to continue to advocate for all. What other rights will we need to fight to keep?

Here in United Women in Faith GNJ we are ready for these challenges. Here we have affirmed our commitment to advocate for everyone, especially those most vulnerable. At our spring 2022 meeting, we made a bold choice to embrace our rebranding efforts to be even more open and inclusive. We adopted the following welcome statement affirming our commitment to make sure everyone is welcomed to be part of our love in action.

Social Action Resources

<https://tinyurl.com/ResourcesGNJUWF>

United Women in Faith Statement on Roe vs. Wade

<https://uwfaith.org/press/2022/united-women-in-faith-concerned-about-lives-supreme-court-overturns-roe-v-wade/>

Action related to Roe vs. Wade <https://valariekaur.com/2022/06/love-letter-roe/#action>

New United Women in Faith Social Action Campaigns links:

<https://uwfaith.org/what-we-do/serve-and-advocate/mass-incarceration/>
<https://uwfaith.org/what-we-do/serve-and-advocate/just-energy-4-all/>



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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

2024 NORTHEASTERN
JURISDICTION
Get Together!



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April 19-21, 2024

PROVIDENCE, RI

SIGN IN THE BOOK:

NAME, EMAIL, PHONE NUMBER, ADDRESS, CONFERENCE

Northeastern Jurisdiction (NEJ) of United Women in Faith seeks volunteers for in-person assistance at the April 2024 conference and applications for National directorship and officers for the NEJ leadership team. Visit www.gnjumw for "Prospective Leadership Form" or email Marilyn Powell, NEJ CON at MPowell56@comcast.net for information.



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DISTRICT NEWS

Cape Atlantic District (CAD) – Virgil Williams, President

District reorganization includes Grace Rapp as interim secretary and Marian Whetstone as interim treasurer. Grace and former CAD President Holly Cyrus have compiled a list of all churches in the district and are making calls to determine which church has GNJ UWF units for a planned Conference Yearbook. Also, the quilt displayed at Jurisdiction meeting needs updates to reflect the new logo and districts, and CAD is seeking quilters for these alterations.

Central District – Debbie Campion, President

The February 5, 2023 district training/retreat has been postponed to March 12, 2023 and welcoming letters were sent to churches new to the district along with a slate of officers and the training/retreat flyer. A discussion was held with one new redistricting unit about the “new wineskins” program and UMW 2022 changes.

Central District hosted an in-person tea entitled “Hats on Parade” for the Neighborhood Center on April 23, 2022, the Center director Mike Landis was the guest speaker, and 33 members attended. Everyone was asked to wear a hat and bring a daughter, granddaughter, or friend, and many positive comments were received. Also at this meeting, the Central District members approved a slate of officers for 2022.

On May 8, 2022, Central District joined their sister Anne Hall and her husband Rev. Rupert Hall to celebrate Turning Point UMC 250th anniversary. President Campion attended Assembly in Orlando from May 20-22, 2022 and attended leadership development classes on “How to Share the New Wineskin” and “A Necessity for Change Matters.”

Delaware Bay District – Eloise Sulzman and Staci Scheetz, Co-Presidents

District team met twice virtually on slate of officers and filled many open slots. One District-wide event was held from the Program Book, a Facebook page was created entitled “Delaware Bay United Women in Faith,” and Pitman Church is upgrading their technology to allow hybrid meetings.

Skylands District – Barbara McShane, President

The District “Spring Meeting Celebration” was held April 9, 2022 as part of the GNJ UWF Spring Event. Local units were recognized for Mission Today and Five Star giving, and individuals receiving SMR during the past year and participants in the Reading Program were honored. An important part of the celebration was a presentation by the Nominations Committee and a vote on proposed additional officers to the team. A letter was sent to local UWF units/churches regarding redistricting and the proposed new team members.



CHURCH WOMEN UNITED-NJ

Church Women United (CWU) is an inclusive ecumenical Christian women's movement celebrating unity in diversity and empowering women to work towards a world of peace and justice.

from the CHURCH WOMEN UNITED POLICY STATEMENT ON VIOLENCE (2000)

As women of faith, we recognize our responsibility to transform the world away from violence and towards a world in which living, loving, and resolving differences through understanding rather than violence, is the norm.

Litany from the CHURCH WOMEN UNITED-NJ Spring 2022 Assembly **For Those working to End Violence**

God bless you with the insight to recognize violence in all its forms
and the courage to name it, speaking out for justice.

The Lord Jesus bless you with compassion for the vulnerable
and grace to stand with them, sharing his strength.

The Holy Spirit bless you with a prayerful heart
and the power to breathe peace, transforming the world.

The blessings of the Holy and Glorious Trinity
Eternal Wisdom, Living Word, Abiding Spirit
Be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED-NJ 2022 RETREAT - "For I Know the Plans I have for You"

Nineteen women attended the annual Church Women United in NJ retreat June 14 & 15 2022 at St Marguerite's Retreat House, Community St John Baptist in Mendham. Our Bible study in community was "Sabbath is a Gift from God." We were blessed by our time to meet and work together in person. CWU-NJ celebrated 80 years at our Spring 2022 Assembly!

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN

The Fellowship of the Least Coin is a global movement for justice, peace and reconciliation led by Christian women for women and girls around the world that began as a Call to Prayer in response to the widespread trauma experienced because of WWII. We continue to pray in community and individually for peaceful means for resolving conflicts and circumstances in our own lives and for empowering the lives of all women and girls who face injustice, poverty and violence. Individual prayers create ripples that flow to people and places to help heal the world. We set aside the least coin as a token of our prayers for peace, justice, and reconciliation so that all women regardless of background and means can be equal partners in justice and peace making.

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CHURCH WOMEN UNITED-NJ
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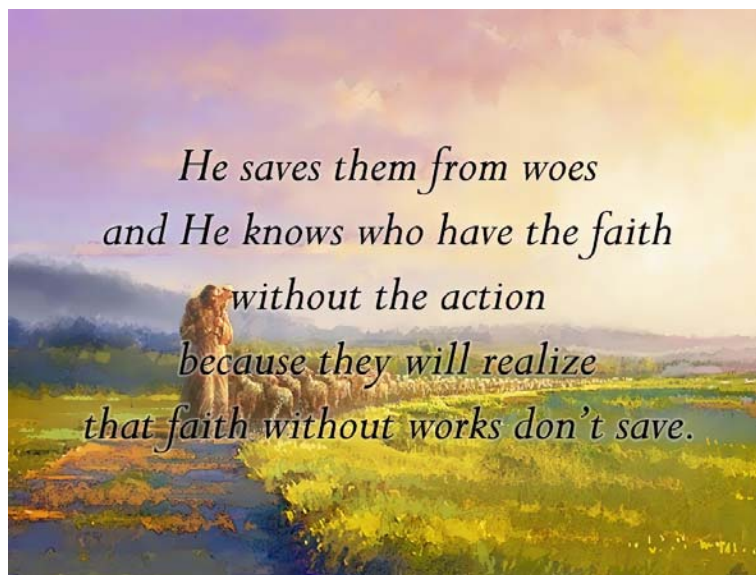
The June 2022 **Fellowship of the Least Coin CALL TO PRAYER** was “Women around the Globe Connecting through Prayer with Passionate Hope and Resilience”. The North America Region virtual prayer gathering was led by Church Women United National President Mira J Washington. The International Committee for the Fellowship of the Least Coin is made up of 11 national, regional, and international ecumenical partners including Church Women United. Twenty-two ICFLC grants were funded in 2022 for grassroots projects, post-secondary education and training, and disaster relief.

SAVE-THE-DATE August 5 &6 2022 - Young Church Women United virtual Conference

The YCWU representatives on the CWU National Board are Tanasia McLaurin and Rev Jameka Matthews. Interested in more information about YCWU? Please email ycwu@gmail.com

“Agreed to Differ, Resolved to Love, United to Serve”

Luke 13 – Repent or Perish



Filcatholic.org



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Haddonfield United Methodist Church

29 Warwick Rd

THRIFTY TREASURES

RUMMAGE &

BAKE SALE

THURSDAY, SEPT. 22, 6-9p

FRIDAY, SEPT. 23, 9a-7p

Drop off donations of nearly new and good quality used items at the church for the sale only during the the following times:

Tuesday, Sept. 20; 9:30a-6p & Wednesday, Sept. 21; 9:30a-12noon

Items to be **EXCLUDED** from the sale are larger pieces of furniture, computer & exercise equipment, magazines, summer & spring clothing along with used shoes for adults & children under 5 years old. **No combustible materials!**

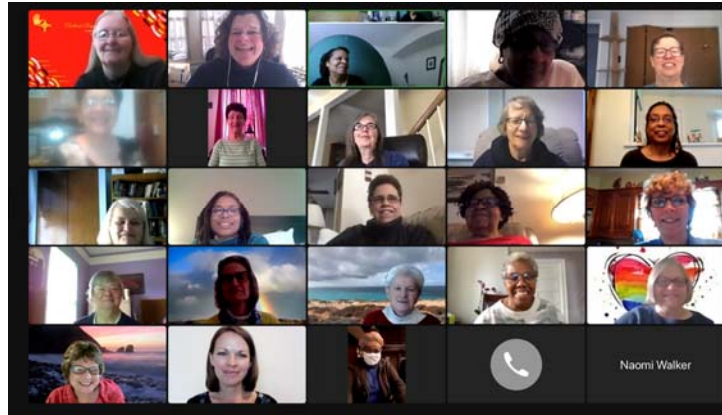
NOTE: All proceeds from Thrifty Treasures will benefit missions of HUMC & UMW! For additional info call 856-429-0403. Thank you!

--Kathy Miller



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GNJ United Women in Faith Calendar of Events 2022-2023



2022

- July 23 Mission U 1-day, Virtual [Mission U Flyer](#) [Purchase Book](#)
- August 6 Treasurer's Meeting 9:00-10:00am, Leadership Team Meeting (same link) 10:30am-12:00 noon
- September 3 Micro Retreat 10AM
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88357043253?pwd=b24yS0gxdIB6UTJVbONxSlJnbmIHUT09>
Meeting ID: 883 5704 3253 Passcode: Peace
Phone: +1 301 715 8592 Phone Passcode 154290
- September 20 Tuesday, Exec. Comm./Planning Committee, 6pm
- September 30-
October 6 Week of Awareness and Action
https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1TvWapJ5ck8PReuQ6lh3OI3PvD_W3BQaj
- October 15 Intersectionality: Where love and justice meet
GNJUWF Annual Fall Meeting
9:30AM-12:30PM, Bridgewater UMC
Speaker: Mark Miller
- November 19 Micro Retreat 10AM



GNJUWF 2022-2023 Calendar (continued)

2023

January 21	Leadership Development, followed by Leadership Team (need to schedule a planning meeting for this)
March 11	Leadership Team
April 15	Spring Celebration
May 6	Leadership Team
May 10	Finance Comm., Wednesday, 7pm
August 26	Treasurers' Meeting, followed by LT
October 14	Annual Meeting
November 15	Planning meeting, Wednesday, 7pm



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Voices of Purpose

Newsletter Deadlines & Distribution

Issue	Deadline for Articles	Newsletter Distribution
Spring 2022 (January – March)	April 4, 2022	April 8, 2022
Summer 2022 (April – June)	July 4, 2022	July 8, 2022
Fall 2022 (July – September)	October 3, 2022	October 7, 2022
Winter 2022 (October – December)	January 3, 2022	January 6, 2022

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

Assembly 2022 Photos



Source: Images of Assembly 2022 UMW - bing.com/images.

