

Voices of Purpose

March 2023

Quarterly Newsletter of the Greater New Jersey United Women in

President's Message

What flavors of ice cream do you remember from your childhood? Vanilla, chocolate and strawberry? Butter pecan, coffee, chocolate chip and chocolate chip mint! How wonderful that we now can share so many new and different flavors that we couldn't imagine before. Last week, I had to choose among 42 flavors and ended up with a combo of chocolate peanut butter crunch and salty caramel pretzel – yum! What is your favorite? What new flavor would you invent?

“United Methodist Women” is the “flavor” we recall fondly. A few of us remember the “Women’s Society of Christian Service” (‘til 1972). None of us recall the other 25+ names of the past 154 years.¹ How ironic is it that our previous name was the only one with “Methodist” in it?! How wonderful that we can now imagine a “flavor” so inclusive that we can now invite women in faith from other places in our communities?!

The new brand, “United Women in Faith,” is intentionally inclusive and welcoming to all women, a sisterhood where all feel safe and belong. In Harriet Jane Olson’s speech, “The Vision,”² she reminded us that brand consistency is shown when people can trust that we will always be welcoming and open by our tone and our attitude. People will take notice of our inspiring message, join in with spiritual and social activities and become changemakers like us who make an impact in the world. We are a life-changing brand!

I am proud that our organization had the foresight and boldness to change and adapt, despite disaffiliations, General Conference postponements, and COVID. If you or your unit are **(continued on page 5)**

Issue Highlights

- *Welcoming the Stranger*
- *Youth Movements for Climate Justice & Gun Violence Prevention*
- *GNJUWF Special Interest Group*
- *Social Action Coordinator Recruitment*

¹ The Many Denominations of United Women in Faith, Page 8.

² Harriet Jane Olson, “The Vision,” on YouTube, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xu6gK5FwZ0s&t=124s>.

March 2023

Inside this issue:

President’s Message	1, 5
Inside this Issue	2-3
Welcome Statement	4
Social Action Coordinator Recruitment	5
Greater NJ Conference “Welcoming the Stranger”	6
GNJUWF Special Interest Group	7
The Many Denominations of United Women in Faith	8
Climate Justice & The Youth Movement	9

(continued on page 3)



March 2023
Inside this issue (continued)

St Andrews Spring Tea Party & Fashion Show	10
School Walk Out for Gun Violence Prevention	11
GNJUWF District News	12
Capital District Spring Meeting Flyer	13
The Morrow Turnover Sale	14
Calendar of Events & Newsletter Dates	15-16
GNJUWF Leadership Team	17-18
Resources	19
Easter Greetings	20

Editor: Joyce Pratt
GNJUWF Communications Coordinator



March 2023

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.



United
Women
in Faith

President's Message

(continued from page 1)

still struggling or have questions about the new brand, please invite me to come share about the “new wineskins.” I recommend that we watch this 20-minute webinar, “Let’s Talk About Change.”³ Another excellent video is introduced by the paragraph, “We all know that how we choose to think about a situation controls how the situation will be for us. Change may not always be easy, but it can always be good. How? Adjust your mindset. Watch this brief video (2:13) titled “Why Change Is Good” from Success Magazine. Dr. Cheyenne Bryant shares her God-centered approach to accepting change as good.”⁴ I will try my best to visit (or Zoom?) because I believe every challenge can be utilized as an opportunity to grow. That is my mindset because “optimism” is my favorite “flavor!”

Susan Zahorbenski
GNJUWF President



³ <https://tinyurl.com/LetsTalkAboutChange>

20-minute webinar on YouTube.

⁴ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZFKzxjWVWw>.

Social Action Coordinator

Do you have a heart for social justice? Are you interested in putting your love in action to change our world? Check out the Social Action Drive linked below. It contains a wealth of resources shared by National United Women in Faith.

Please reach out to me and our president Sue Zahorbenski if you might be interested in serving as our next conference Social Action Coordinator.

Thanks so much for your incredible support and action during my term as your Social Action Coordinator. It's been an honor and privilege to learn, grow, serve, and work towards building more just communities with you. I am so grateful for each of you!

Blessings and peace,

Sherri Shumate
Social Action Coordinator

SAC Google Drive:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/133Qs4c3YotK68ojCUXa8KTPj6JTm5_Tb?usp=sharing

Social Action Coordinator Job Description:

<https://www.umwmissionresources.org/downloads/SocialActionCoordination-2022.pdf>

Greater NJ Conference

presents

"Welcoming the Stranger"

Justice for Our Neighbors of Delaware Valley

<http://www.ifondv.org/>

Rev. Tom Lank, Interim Executive Director



Saturday, April 15, 2023, 10:00am

Pitman United Methodist Church

<:=8 8wtfi | f~1Jyr fs180% =5<6

Hybrid - on Facebook Live

at our host's site:

"Delaware Bay United Women in Faith"

9:30 (gathering, tech check, and saying hello)

Registration Link

<https://form.jotform.com/230735864124153>



United
Women
in Faith

Greater New Jersey United Women in Faith newly established Special Interest Group

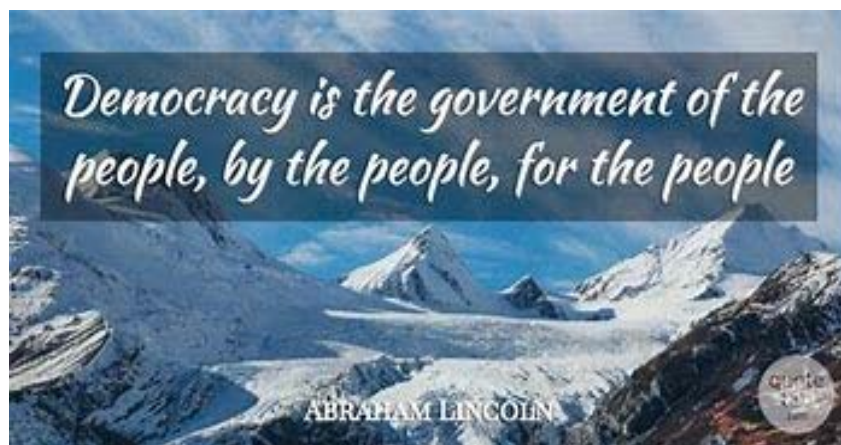
In an effort to pursue our missions through additional social action as state and federal legislature constituents, the Greater New Jersey United Women in Faith (GNJUWF) met January 14, 2023 and considered congressional outreach as a resource. The PowerPoint training presentation at this meeting can be viewed at: <https://gnjumw.org/programs%2Fevents>. The Special Interest Group was created to strategically plan visits to our state and federal legislative branches and encourage their review and action on bills that mirror GNJUWF efforts.

Our first goal is a visit to Trenton to meet our New Jersey legislators to promote passage of current gun control and climate justice legislature. GNJUWF have for years promoted and provided education and training on these social issues and now believe we need assistance from our legislators to ensure success.

Please join us and/or read promotional material sent via email or announced on our website. Many organizations have and are practicing successful legislative visits and we must also! In addition, public opinion is very important to a democratic system and our legislators depend on a reactive public that responds to what government is doing.

Chair: Sue Zahorbenski, GNJUWF President

Members: Marsha Benovengo, Leslie Bivins, Mary Bland, Joyce McKnight-Young, Carolyn Pendleton, Joyce Pratt, and Grace Rapp.



The Many Denominations of United Women in Faith Over 154 Years

1869-1939	• Woman's Foreign Missionary Society (Methodist Episcopal Church)
1875-1909	• Woman's Missionary Association (United Brethren in Christ)
1878-1910	• Woman's Foreign Missionary Society (Methodist Episcopal Church, South)
1879-1928	• Woman's Foreign Missionary Society (Methodist Protestant Church)
1880-1939	• Woman's Home Missionary Society (Methodist Episcopal Church)
1884-1922	• Woman's Missionary Society (Evangelical Association)
1890-1910	• Woman's Home Mission Society (Methodist Episcopal Church, South)
1891-1922	• Woman's Home and Foreign Missionary Society (United Evangelical Church)
1893-1928	• Woman's Home Missionary Society (Methodist Protestant Church)
1909-1946	• General Home and Foreign Missionary Societies (United Brethren in Christ), Harford Circle (United Brethren in Christ), Otterbein Guild (United Brethren in Christ)
1910-1939	• Woman's Missionary Council of Board of Missions (Methodist Episcopal Church, South)
1921-1939	• Wesleyan Service Guild (Methodist Episcopal Church)
1922-1946	• Woman's Missionary Society (Evangelical Church)
1928-1939	• Woman's Convention of the Board of Missions (Methodist Protestant Church)
1939-1968	• Woman's Society of Christian Service and Wesleyan Service Guild (Woman's Division, Board of Missions, Methodist Church)
1946-1968	• Woman's Society of World Service (Evangelical United Brethren Church), Christian Service Guild (Evangelical United Brethren Church)
1968-1972	• Women's Society of Christian Service and Wesleyan Service Guild (Women's Division, Board of Missions, United Methodist Church)
1973-2013	• United Methodist Women (Women's Division, General Board of Global Ministries, United Methodist Church)
2013-present	• United Methodist Women (United Methodist Church)



Climate Justice & The Youth Movement

What is “climate justice?”⁵ Climate justice is a term, and more than that a movement, which acknowledges climate change can have differing social, economic, public health, and other adverse impacts on underprivileged populations. Key factors to consider when thinking about climate justice are that:

1. It begins with recognizing that key groups are differently affected by climate change.
2. Climate impacts can exacerbate inequitable social conditions. Low-income communities, people of color, Indigenous people, people with disabilities, older or very young people, **women** – all can be more susceptible to risks posed by climate impacts like raging storms and floods, increasing wildfire, severe heat, poor air quality, access to food and water, and disappearing shorelines.
3. Momentum is building for climate justice solutions such as the Climate Justice Alliance that is working to bring race, gender and class considerations to the center of the climate action discussion.

Youth Climate Activism Needs Nurturing. Here are 4 ways to make it Happen.⁶ Young people have provided recent demonstration of their unique commitment to climate action and power to energize the whole climate movement. This same urgency and commitment were demonstrated by American youth who waited in line for hours to tip the 2022 Midterm Elections in favor of candidates who matched their attitudes on climate change. This phenomenon is not new and has been a driving force behind the climate movement for many years.

We need even more of this powerful youth leadership and here are four things we can do to fully capture youth leadership potential:

1. Provide funding and accommodations for youth.
2. Expand formal roles and spaces for youth.
3. Give youth the political power they have earned.
4. Embrace the catalytic voice and energy of young people.

We can as an intergenerational climate movement mobilize all parts of our society (government, corporate, and individual action) if we take action to put youth climate leaders where they can help us most—right up front.

Submitted by the Editor.

⁵Climate Connections, <https://yaleclimateconnections.org/2020/07/what-is-climate-justice/>.

⁶by Sophia Kianni and Jad Daley for Time, January 13, 2023. <https://time.com/624693/how-to-nurture-youth-climate-activism/>.





St. Andrew's Spring Tea Party and Fashion Show



Join us for fun, fashion and fellowship! Enjoy a variety of teas, finger sandwiches and desserts while viewing the latest spring fashions (presented by Cabin Couture in Medford)! Moms, sisters, daughters, aunts, and friends are all welcome too!



Have your own treasured teacup and saucer?
Bring it to the Saint Andrew's Tea Party and share its story!

Date: Saturday, April 29, 2023, 12 Noon

Place: St. Andrew's Wesley Hall

Cost: \$10 per person

(Tickets available for purchase Sun. April 16 and Sun. April 23)

**For more information, contact
Sandy Weaver: 856-873-3237
waysanweaver@yahoo.com**



United
Women
in Faith

School Walk Out for Gun Violence Prevention

by Kelly Treleaven
We Are Teachers
April 3, 2023

In her article entitled “Students are Walking Out on April 5 to Protest Gun Violence in Schools,”⁷ Kelly Treleaven writes that teachers have been acting against after school shootings for decades now. *We’ve voted. We’ve protested. We’ve petitioned. This time, the students are leading.* The organization Students Demand Action planned a national walkout at noon on April 5, 2023 for students who wanted to participate. The purpose of the walkout was to demand action from lawmakers to address gun violence in a commandingly visible (but still peaceful) way.

Treleaven offers three ways you can support the students at your school who have decided to walk out.

1. Make it easy for your students to walk out. Don’t plan a rigorous, crucial lesson or test for the planned date and don’t penalize them for walking out.
2. Let them lead but help them facilitate by ensuring you have the right information to support them. Make sure they’re registered and safe. Back them if needed with administration or other teachers and defend their rights under the First Amendment in schools. And give them time and supplies for creating posters, preparing speeches, etc.
3. Join them. Follow state and school explicit instructions and participate by wearing orange (the color of the gun violence prevention movement), making posters for students, arranging a photographer or contacting local media to capture the walkout, and share your pride in the students.

No matter where you are, knowing your students’ rights (and your own) will help you support them as they make their voices heard.

Article submitted by Sherri Shumate,
GNJUWF Social Action Coordinator
April 5, 2023



⁷<https://www.weareteachers.com/april-5th-walkout/>

GNJUWF District News

Cape Atlantic District (CAD)

CAD members attended the January 14, 2023 leadership training for district officers, conducted local officer training for the president, secretary and treasurer on February 4, and planned their annual luncheon for October 7, 2023.

Capital District

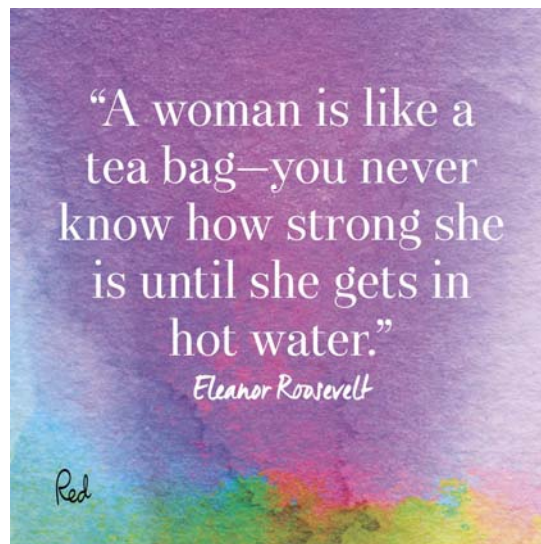
Capital District Spring Meeting was planned for May 6, 2023 at Trinity United Methodist Church in Ewing, New Jersey. See the District flyer below.

Central District

Members planned their St. Andrew's Spring Tea Party and Fashion Show for Saturday, April 29, 2023. See the flyer below.

Delaware Bay District

The District's 2023 calendar included: Call to Prayer and Self-Denial Program – "Because We Believe" on March 2; the "Magic of Faith – We Are All Part of God's Story" on March 7, the Newport UWF Soup/Rummage Sale on March 11; District Mission Team on March 23; and Willow Grove Tea, topic Clara Barton, on June 11. Source: District newsletter Time and Tide, February 2023.



CAPITAL DISTRICT

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

Spring Meeting

SATURDAY, MAY 6, 2023

REGISTRATION 8:45AM

JOIN US IN RECOGNIZING
OUR "5 STAR AND MISSION
TODAY" LOCAL UNITS

See Ya Soon

TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

1985 Pennington Road
Ewing, NJ, 08614
RSVP: Annie Hall - (609) 315-2895



United
Women
in Faith

Morrow United Women in Faith *features* **The Morrow Turnover Sale**

The most wonderful time of the year is just around the corner! **The Morrow Turnover Sale** is celebrating its 90th year serving the community with the first of seven sale days scheduled for Thursday, June 29 from 7-9 p.m. This annual experience, spearheaded by Morrow's United Women in Faith and often referred to as ***The Miracle on Baker Street***, brings members and countless community volunteers together to support conservation efforts focused on recycling and reusing almost everything from soup to nuts.

Shoppers can find men's and women's clothes, jewelry, furniture, books, household goods, sporting goods, art, electronics, toys, arts and crafts, china, home decor and sundry other must haves at the legendary sale, which every year raises thousands of dollars to benefit women and children near and far. Credit cards and Venmo are now accepted at all stations. Because of room constraints, the sale is no longer offering linens, music and movies, or children's clothing.

For those looking to donate as well as shop, drop-off of gently used, quality goods begins Saturday, June 17 at 9 a.m. and runs every Monday through Saturday – except sale days – until July 8th. Book donations are accepted until July 1. Donation receipts are available. The sale continues July 6, 8, 11, 13 and 15. Check the website for a detailed list of sale times, and for a complete list of acceptable donations at www.morrowchurch.org/turnoversale/. If you are interested in volunteering to help sort and set up sale rooms, please contact the Turnover Team via the website. All are welcome!

Locally, proceeds benefit the Achieve Foundation, Cougar Cares, Family Promise, MEND, the Isaiah House, the Clara Maas Safe House, Platinum Minds, the South Mountain YMCA, the South Orange Rescue Squad, and Morrow's programs for youth and children. Globally, the sale's proceeds support the United Methodist Committee on Relief – which, among other things, is this year providing food to Ukrainian refugees, a healthcare clinic in Haiti, and an elementary school in Sierra Leone.

As ever, the Morrow United Women in Faith, which coordinates the sale and which sees its mission as spreading love and justice throughout the world, is grateful for the support of the SOMA community. This year the national arm of the United Women in Faith is focusing on environmental issues and curtailing the school to prison pipeline. Morrow's women also hope to contribute to organizations fighting for these causes with some of the proceeds from this year's sale.

Submitted by Tracy Carroll
Morrow United Women in Faith
Morrow Memorial United Methodist Church, Maplewood, NJ



GNJ United Women in Faith Calendar of Events 2023-2024



2023

**January 14
10am to 3pm**

Leadership Development and Day of Action
Native American Issues and Advocacy, New Wineskins, UWF
Climate Justice & Mass Incarceration, Congressional Outreach,
Gun Violence, and Leadership Team Meeting.

**February 11
Noon to 1pm**

Day of Action, Day of Love
Plans for Congressional Outreach.

**January 19-21
7pm Friday
Noon to 7pm
Saturday**

National Leadership Development Days “On Towards the
Goal,” Philippians 3:12-16
Virtual for Conference and District Presidents, Conference
Vice President, Conference and District MNO

**February 11
Noon to 1pm**

Charter for Racial Justice, Day of Action & Love

**March 11
9:30 to 11:30am**

Leadership Team

(continued on page 16)



United
Women
in Faith

2023 GNJUWF Calendar of Events

(continued from page 20)



April 1	GNJUWF Leadership Development
April 15	Spring Celebration “Welcoming the Stranger”
May 6	Leadership Team
May 10 7pm	Finance Committee
August 26 9:30am	Treasurers’ Meeting followed by Leadership Team
October 21	Annual Meeting
November 15 7-8:30pm	Planning meeting

Voices of Purpose **Newsletter Deadlines & Distribution**

Newsletter Issue	Deadline for	
	Articles	Distribution
Spring 2023 (January – March)	April 4, 2023	April 8, 2023
Summer 2023 (April – June)	July 4, 2023	July 8, 2023
Fall 2023 (July – September)	October 3, 2023	October 7, 2023
Winter 2023 (October – December)	January 3, 2024	January 6, 2024

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



United
Women
in Faith

Greater New Jersey United Women in Faith

LEADERSHIP TEAM 2023-2024

PRESIDENT

Susan Zahorbenski ('24)

VPRES/PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Pat Schutz ('24)

SECRETARY

OPEN

TREASURER

Carol Bloch ('24)

SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT ADVISOR

Barbara Miller ('24)

Membership, Nurture and OUTREACH CHAIR

Holly Cyrus ('23)

CHRISTIAN SOCIAL ACTIONS ADVOCATE

Sherri Shumate ('23)

PROGRAM RESOURCES

Grace Rapp ('25)

STANDING RULES CHAIR

Grace Rapp

COMMUNICATIONS

PHOTOGRAPHER

Lou Hyson ('23)

COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

Joyce Pratt ('23)

NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES REP.

Leslie Bivins

LGBTQ Representative

Open

GNJUWF Website: www.gnjumw.org

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS

NOMINATIONS CHAIR

Open

CLASS OF 2023

Marilyn Beres

CLASS OF 2023

Alice Bennett

CLASS OF 2024

Cynthia Lydon

CLASS OF 2024

Ivy Daniels

CLASS OF 2024

Rosa Lee McNair

CLASS OF 2025

Kathy Schulz

CLASS OF 2025

Open

APPOINTED

CHARTER FOR RACIAL JUSTICE

Chair: Sue Zahorbenski

Members: Leslie Bivins, Joyce Pratt
Carolyn Pendleton, Millie Grey
Mary Bland, Sherri Shumate,
Barbara Miller

Legacy Fund Committee

Chair: Yvonne Bouknight

Members: Sherri Shumate



United
Women
in Faith

LEADERSHIP TEAM – 2023-2024

(continued from page 16)

DISTRICT PRESIDENTS

COASTAL PLAINS

CAPE ATLANTIC

Virgil Williams ('22)

CENTRAL

Debbie Campion ('25)

DELAWARE BAY ('25)

Staci Sheetz

METRO HIGHLANDS

MEADOWLANDS

Tracy Carroll ('25)

Tia Swanson ('25)

RARITAN SHORE

OPEN

SKYLANDS

Elizabeth (Liz) Steen ('26)

ELECTED BY OTHER GROUPS

KOREAN NETWORK PRESIDENT

Kyungmee Kim

KOREAN LANGUAGE COORDINATOR

OPEN

KOREAN LANGUAGE COORDINATOR

OPEN

HISPANIC NETWORK PRESIDENT

OPEN

HISPANIC LANGUAGE COORDINATOR

OPEN

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

Sara Joslin

OTHER LEADERSHIP TEAMS

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Kathleen Schulz

ALTERNATE NATIONAL DIRECTOR

Yvonne Bouknight

DEAN MISSION "U"

*Marilyn Powell

ASSISTANT DEAN MISSION "U"

REV. ELIZABETH VANEKHOVEN

UMW NE JURISDICTION MISSION ADVOCATE

REBECCA PARSONS

UMW NE JURISDICTION REPRESENTATIVE

MARILYN POWELL

UMW NATIONAL DIRECTOR/SECRETARY

BETHANY AMEY-SUTTON

GNJUMC PRESIDING BISHOP

Rev John R. Schol

CONFERENCE UMW WEBSITE: www.gnjumw.org

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>.

Social Justice

Learn to do good;
Seek justice, Reprove the ruthless,
Defend the orphan, Plead for the widow.
Isaiah 1:17



May all the choicest blessings of
the world be showered upon you
and fill your life with
delight.

HAPPY EASTER

Resurrection of Jesus from the Dead

²⁵ Jesus said to her (Martha), "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; ²⁶ and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

John 11:25, 26



United
Women
in Faith