

Voices of Purpose

December 2023

Quarterly Newsletter of the Greater New Jersey United Women

President's Message

Welcome to 2024!

Cold and snow and ice and wind and rain! Isn't New Jersey's weather a wonderful mix of everything nature has to offer?! I pray that everyone will stay safe and warm in this New Year and that those less fortunate may find their way into our churches so that we may welcome and warm them with our loving, open arms. And maybe a hot cup of coffee or some food.

"Welcome to all" should be our mindset this year as we navigate the newness of United Women in Faith and the sort-of post-COVID times we are living in. This is a perfect time for a reboot of your women's organization as you seek new ways to be in mission and invite new women to join. Tell people how they can participate in the wonderful outreach that you do around your community, state (Camden Neighborhood Center, for example), nation, and the world! We are United Women in "Faith, hope and love in Action!"

One way to learn about the excitement in our organization is to attend the Northeast Jurisdiction (NEJ) United Women in Faith event in Providence, Rhode Island this April. If you've heard of the huge conference of women from around the world called "Assembly," this is a regional version of that gathering. Register at <https://nejuwfaith.org/>

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Issue Highlights

- *The joys of Christmas and what it means around the world.*
- *Great affirmations for women.*
- *Advent, the expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of the birth and return of Jesus Christ.*
- *GNJUWF Social Action.*



United
Women
in Faith

December 2023

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Editor: Joyce Pratt
GNJUWF Communications Coordinator



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December 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
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President's Message

(continued from page 1)

Another local way to learn about everything that's new and exciting is by attending one of our GNJ conference events. On January 20th, we will have our Leadership Development (aka "Training") event. The theme is "Why We Can't Wait: Lift Our Voices Now!" Since we often worry about the January weather, Zoom is a perfect alternative at this time of year. If you or anyone you know is in a leadership position or might be interested, please register in advance for this event at <https://tinyurl.com/Leadership-Development2024>.

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing info about joining the meeting. We will also have a general information session for those who just want to learn more about United Women in Faith.

Susan Zahorbenski, GNJUWF President



**“Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.”
Romans 15:7**



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December Celebrations with Spiritual Connotations

The following special selections relate to or affect the human spirit or soul, religion, and/or religious beliefs.

Advent – December 3 to 24, 2023

Celebration of the Earthly birth of Jesus around 2,000 years ago and the preparation and anticipation for the second coming of Christ.

Advent is a season observed in most Christian denominations as a time of expectant waiting and preparation for both the celebration of the Nativity of Christ at Christmas and the return of Christ at the Second Coming. Advent symbolizes the church's present situation in these "last days" ([Acts 2:17](#), [Hebrews 1:2](#)) as God's people wait for the return of Christ in glory to consummate his eternal kingdom.

The four weeks of Advent Sundays are broken down into the themes:

1. Hope (or promise) First Week, December 3 – Isaiah 9:2-6
2. Preparation (waiting or prophecy) Second Week, December 10 – Isaiah 40:3-5
3. Joy (peace) Third Week, December 17 – Isaiah 12:2-6
4. Love (adoration) Fourth Week, December 24 – Luke 1:46-55

The most common Advent candle tradition is four candles (purple for the first, second and fourth candles, and a rose-color for the third candle) representing hope, faith, joy, and peace. Sometimes a fifth white candle is placed in the middle to celebrate Jesus' birth. The Advent hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" perfectly represents the church's cry during the Advent season.

[Sources: Christianity.com, Bible Study Tools, and Wikipedia]



Chanukah (Hanukkah) – December 7 to 15, 2023

Celebration and tribute to Jews' right to religious freedom by reciting on eight nights a prayer extolling God for performing miracles. [Search the "Story of the Torah."]

Hanukkah (The Feast of Dedication, John 10:22) is the Festival of Lights commemorating the victory of the Maccabees over the Syrian Greek army, and the subsequent miracle of rededicating the Holy Temple in Jerusalem and restoring its menorah, or lamp.

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December Celebrations with Spiritual Connotations (continued)

Chanukah (Hanukkah) – December 7 to 15, 2023 (continued)

In 2023, Hanukkah begins at sundown on Thursday, December 7 and lasts until sundown on Friday, December 15. The primary symbols of the holiday is lighting the menorah each night (lighting one additional candle to the number from the previous night) celebrating the miracle that a little cruse of oil, designed to burn for only one day, kept the Temple menorah alight for eight whole days during the victory until more sanctified oil could be produced. The central flame is called the shamash.



The second primary symbol is the dreidel, a four-sided top with a different Hebrew letter on each side. The story is that when Jewish learning was forbidden, the Jews would study Torah in secret and when soldiers approached, they would hide their books (scrolls) and pretend to be involved in a game with the dreidel.

Celebrations consisted of lighting the menorah, playing the dreidel, eating special foods unique to Hanukkah, and singing Hanukkah songs or exchange of gifts.

[Sources: Chabad.org, MyJewishLearning.com, learnreligions.com, and Wikipedia]

Christmas Day – December 25, 2023

Celebration of the birth of God's Son Jesus who came to give us love, hope, and joy.



Christmas is an annual festival commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ, observed primarily on December 25 as a religious and cultural celebration among billions of people around the world. It is preceded by the season of Advent or the Nativity Fast and initiates the season of Christmastide. With different hypotheses regarding the date of Jesus' birth (unknown), the church selected December 25 in the early 4th century.

Christmas customs date back through the ages worldwide and include candles and lights to symbolize guiding beacons for the Christ child, the practice of decorating a tree long before the beginning of Christianity to keep witches, ghosts, evil spirits, and

(continued on page 8)



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December Celebrations with Spiritual Connotations (continued)

Christmas Day – December 25, 2023 (continued)

even illness at bay. The celebration of Christmas is a custom begun in Germany over 400 years ago that spread rapidly throughout northern Europe and became a tradition transplanted to the new World by European immigrants.

Of all the Christmas traditions (Homes & Gardens lists 16), the best are the personal ones meaningful for you and your family. Five of the most classic Christmas traditions are:

1. **The Nativity.** You've sung the carols, written the cards, but have you recalled The Christmas Story, the origin of all the celebrations.
2. **Decorating the Tree.** Gather as a family and let everyone get stuck in to decking the halls.
3. **Leaving Santa Milk and Cookies.** This differs around the world such as UK and Australia families leaving out a mince pie and sherry.
4. **Drinking Eggnog.** Traditionally made with eggs, cream, milk, sugar and often whiskey or rum – it shouldn't be good, but it is.
5. **Kissing under the Mistletoe.** There is no simple reason why this tradition has come about, but it is thought to have started in the 1700s.

[Source: www.homesandgardens.com/advice/christmas-traditions.]

Traditions most familiar to you may be:

The colors. Red for the blood of Christ, gold for one of the gifts from the Three Kings, and green the symbol of everlasting life.

Carol Singing. Carols were once sung at celebrations throughout the year and later in medieval times adopted and adapted by church goers.

The Christmas Tree. The fir has traditionally been used to celebrate winter festivals (pagan and Christian) for thousands of years. The Romans used fir trees to decorate their temples at the festival of Saturnalia, which later became Christmas. The evergreen foliage symbolizes the victory of life over darkness.

Christmas Gift. Gift giving might have occurred near the winter solstice in December around 336 CE and was tied to the story of the Biblical Magi giving gifts to baby Jesus.

[Sources: The Bible Study Tools, Homes & Gardens, Almanac, Wikipedia, Bible Verses: Luke 2:11, John 3:16, Matthew 2:10, Romans 12:10, and Luke 2:14.]

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December Celebrations with Spiritual Connotations (continued)

Kwanzaa – December 26, 2023 to January 1, 2024

Celebration of the principles inspired by African values to love, share, unite, care, hope, believe, create, aspire, and pursue a higher purpose in life.



During the week of Kwanzaa, families and communities come together to share a feast, honor the ancestors, affirm the bonds between them and to celebrate African and African American culture. Each day they light a candle to highlight the principle of that day and to breathe meaning into the principles with various activities such as reciting the sayings or writings of great Black thinkers and writers, reciting original poetry, African drumming, and sharing African diaspora-inspired foods.

The table is decorated with the essential symbols of Kwanzaa: the Kinara (Candle Holder), Mkeka (Mat), Muhindi (corn to represent children), Mazao (fruit to represent the harvest), and Zawadi (gifts). One might also see the colors of the Pan-African flag proclaimed by Marcus Garvey – red (the struggle), black (the people), and green (the future) – represented throughout the space and in the clothing worn by participants.

The seven principles of Kwanzaa are:

- **Umoja (Unity).** To strive for and maintain unity in the family, community, nation, and race.
- **Kujichagulia (Self-Determination).** To define ourselves, name ourselves, create for ourselves and speak for ourselves.
- **Ujima (Collective Work and Responsibility).** To build and maintain our community together and make our community's problems our problems and to solve them together.
- **Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics).** To build and maintain our own stores, shops, and other businesses and to profit from them together.
- **Nia (Purpose).** To make our collective vocation the building and developing of our community in order to restore our people to their traditional greatness.
- **Kuumba (Creativity).** To do always as much as we can to leave our community more beautiful and beneficial than we inherited it.
- **Imani (Faith).** To believe with all our hearts in our people and the righteousness and victory of our struggle.

[Sources: nmaahc.si.edu, essence.com, almanac.com, cnn.com.]

Merry Christmas in Eighteen Foreign Languages

Feliz Navidad

Frohe Weihnachten

God Jul

Mele Kalikimaka

Buon Natale

Joyeux Noel

Vrolijk Kerstfeest

Feliz Natal

Merli Kurisumasu

Shub Christu Jayanti



Sing dan fiy loc

Nollaig Shona

Milad Majeed

Sungtan Chukha

Mo'adim Lesimkha

Jwaye Nwel

Mboni Chrismen

Geseende Kersfees

[Translations – Page 23]



United
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in Faith

Northeastern Jurisdiction Announcement



The Northeastern Jurisdiction (NEJ) of United Women in Faith invites you to please join us on

April 19–21, 2024

in Providence, Rhode Island
for our ***Get Together!***

Learn more at www.nejuwfaith.org.



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Social Action: Radical Good News

One of the “Advent Devotional from Around the World,” Light from Afar, * 2023 pilgrimages is a reading by Joel Bengbeng on the above subject. Following are excerpts from this article for day two of the second week of Advent referencing Mark 1:1-8. It is shared in support of GNJUWF’s social action efforts.

As we go through the first several chapters in Mark, we read that crowds were following Jesus because of his growing authority and influence. Jesus was slowly becoming a growing threat to the occupying authorities of the Roman Empire. Every story of healing or forgiveness in the first half of Mark is in direct defiance of some political or religious power. All human powers are subject to the authority of God, an authority characterized by mercy, a revolutionary rule of love focused on the vulnerable. Jesus is the Son of God who liberates God’s people—from tyranny, from those who use and abuse authority to systematically harm the poor, and from religious leadership and ideology that take advantage of the weak.

From “the beginning,” John the Baptist leads us in this Advent season to our true Lord, whose birth we await and whose reign is eternal. However, God’s liberating acts do not end in Mark’s Gospel. The story begins with Jesus. But it goes on and on. As a baptized community, this new beginning takes place in our hearing or reading of this “evangelion.” This good news breaks into our own lives the moment we pledge allegiance to Jesus as the Son of God. As Jesus said, we can continue the work he started.

The recommended “prayer” at the end of this article is also shared.

Liberating God, your love gives us the courage, vision, and conviction to reject, resist, and renounce evil, injustice, and oppression in all forms. May we continue your work on earth. Amen.

Joyce Pratt, GNJUWF Communications Coordinator

*Upper Room Books

***For none of us lives for ourselves alone,
And none of us dies for ourselves alone.***

Romans 14:7 NIV



Social Action: Your Role in Legislature

Our State and Federal legislatures were created to establish a strong central government while preserving individual liberty and preventing abuse of power. The legislative branches of our state and federal governments have the primary power to make laws, and the U.S. Constitution emphasizes the importance of the people in government.

What is the role of the people in U.S. government?

The stirring opening words of the Constitution proclaim that it is the work of “We the People.” In the Declaration of Independence, the American people had announced to the world that they were sovereign and free. In the Constitution, they sought to defend this freedom by creating a unique government for an exceptional nation, a government that derived its just powers from the consent of its people.

The true role of the people is to ensure that both they and their government stay faithful to those principles. [Edwin Feulner, Ph.D., Founder and former President of Heritage Foundation].

Georgia State University professor John Clayton Thomas states *public administrators need to know how to interact with the public* in three specific roles: *The public as Customers, The public as Partners, and the public as Citizens.* [Article by John Kamensky for www.gov/loop.com January 8, 2014.]

The people have the right to hold their elected officials accountable and to express their opinions on issues that affect them. [Sources: Civicway.org, Heritage Foundation]

New Jersey and federal Legislatures websites provide resources for public interaction with their legislators. [<https://njleg.state.nj.us/public-info-assistance>, www.house.gov, and www.senate.gov]

The United Women in Faith states, “We advocate for a more just world to improve life for women, children and youth.” The GNJUWF also embraces legislative advocacy. [<https://uwfaith.org>, <https://gnjumw.org>]

The Bible tells us to “Learn to do right; seek justice.” [Isaiah 1:17]

Legislative advocacy is the most direct way for the public to cause change in government policy. Our legislators seek your opinions. **What have you planned for 2024?**

Joyce Pratt, GNJUWF Communications Coordinator



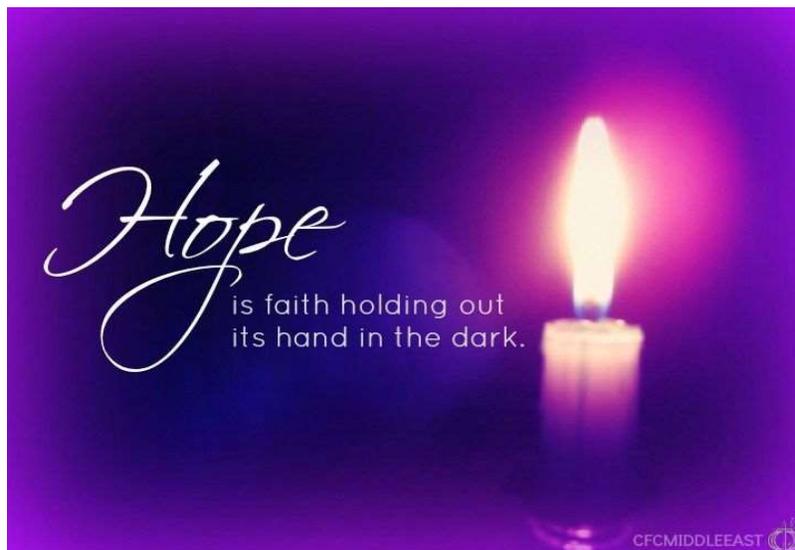
Woman-to-Woman Affirmation

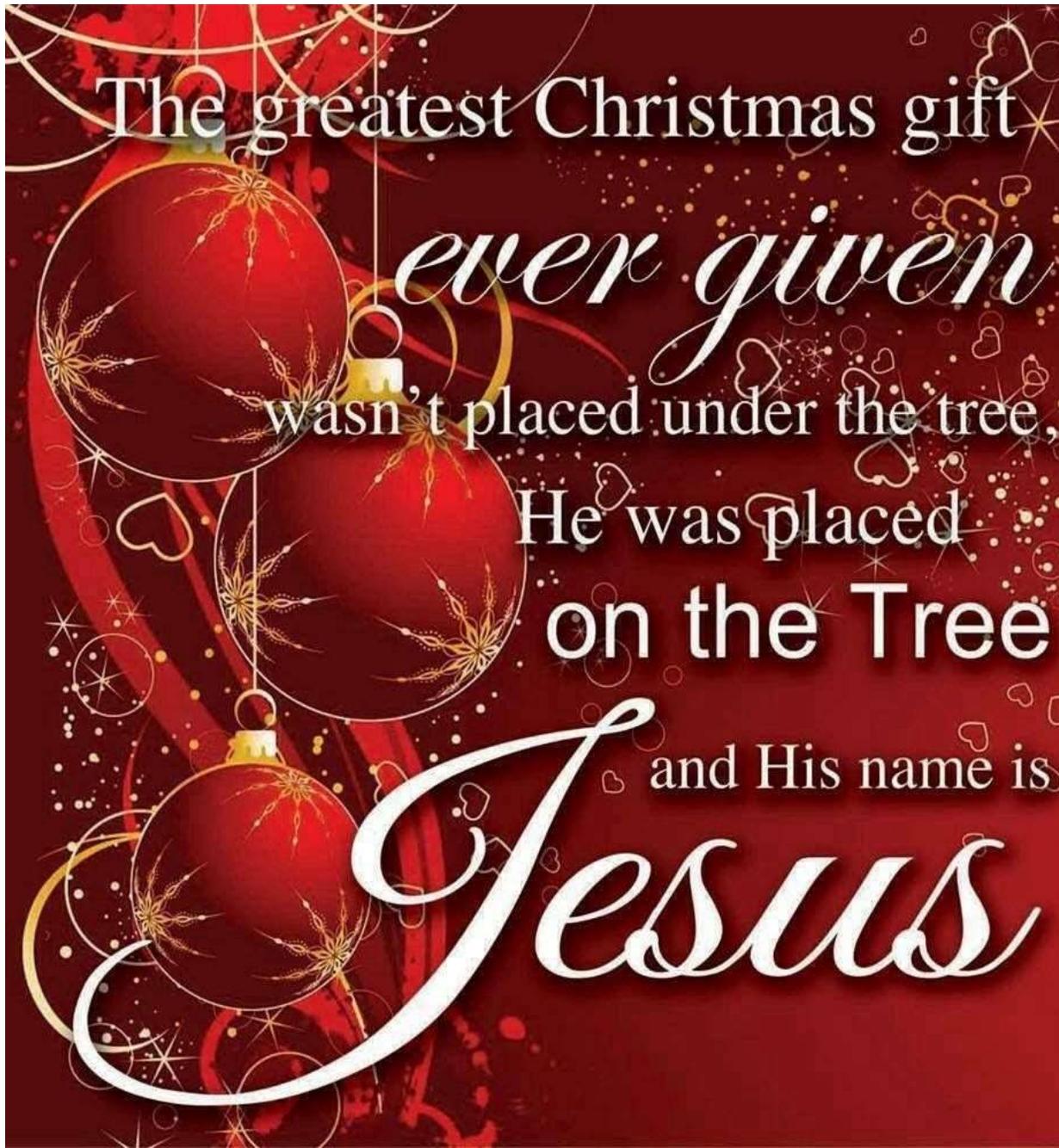
Excerpts from “Light from South Africa”
by Sidwell Mokgothu in
Light from Afar, Fourth Week of Advent.
The Upper Room Publication 2023

The story and roles of Mary, the mother of Jesus Christ, and her cousin, Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist, are a powerful testimony to the healing and encouragement of women, whatever their roles. God chooses these two women to play a role in the salvation of the world. They serve as liberating models for many women, showing that God does love women and affirms them for God’s ministry and mission. The two women had the privilege of being visited by the angel Gabriel, who shared the good news of the imminent birth of two sons, for whom God had a purpose and a mission.

Advent is a time of great affirmation for all those who doubt their role and contribution in the ministry and mission of Christ, especially women. The role of women should not be a threat to any male servant of the Lord. There is so much to be done together.

PRAY | Loving and affirming God, thank you for equipping and encouraging all who are called. Thank you especially for the power and presence of women leaders in the church and the world. Amen.





Pinterest.com

Greater New Jersey Presents:

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

“Why We Can’t Wait:
Lift Our Voices Now!”



United
Women
in Faith

January 20, 2024

9:30am Come Early for Gathering
and Zoom Review!

10-11:30am Leadership Development

Q&A & the New Brand
with Breakout Rooms for
Presidents, VPs, Treasurers, Spiritual Growth, Resources, etc.

Register in advance for this event at <https://tinyurl.com/Leadership-Development2024>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing info about joining the meeting.

Please read the book by Martin Luther King, Jr. “Why We
Can’t Wait” or “Letter from a Birmingham Jail.”

Break for lunch, then return at 12 noon for Leadership Team meeting.



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Save the Date: April 27, 2024

GNJ United Women in Faith Spring Event



US Indigenous People's Day in USA October 14, 2024

Theme:
Indigenous Peoples' Concerns

Location TBA

9:30am-noon

<https://uwfaith.org/what-we-do/serve-and-advocate/racial-justice>



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GNJ United Women in Faith Calendar of Events – 2024

2023 GNJ UWF Leadership Team



2024

- January 20 Leadership Development and Team meeting on Zoom
Register for this event at <https://tinyurl.com/Leadership-Development2024>
- March 23 Leadership Team
- April 18-21 NE Jurisdiction Event in Providence, RI
- April 27 Spring Celebration
- June 1 Leadership Development / Program Planning Committee
- July 12-14 Mission U 3-day at Centenary University
- July 20 Mission U 1-day Virtual



GNJ United Women in Faith 2023 Retreat Recordings

March 21 Virtual Retreat

[Click here to View](#) Passcode: S!K&qjj1

August 21 Virtual

[Click here to View](#) Passcode: xvX^a7t\$

November 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

September 22 Virtual Retreat Recording

[Click Here](#) Passcode: 4Ctct8+K

November 22 Virtual Retreat Recording

[Click Here](#) Passcode: 7q&r\$Vdr

March 11 Micro-retreat, LT meeting & Legislative Event Task Force:

[Click to View](#) Passcode: b2Qck7@%

September 16 Retreat Recording:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/SMa1Q5KfiBl-RDTbUz9TJXC6CgLGm8p5ilxWaVJ8gjqGHKGRmDBMRaK_bFibwSW.c2Gfmg6Xo-18yzhv

Passcode: 53Cn?N?N

GNJ United Women in Faith Recordings of Previous Meetings

2023

September 23 Finance & Leadership Team

<https://tinyurl.com/Fin-LTeam>

Passcode: BYzz7^4p

August 26

<https://tinyurl.com/Legislative-Action-Training>

Passcode: eE4+0kGw

[May 6 Leadership Team Recording](#)

Passcode: FXc@B2YD

April 15 Spring Celebration: Welcoming the Stranger Recording:

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

[April 1 Development Recording](#)

Passcode: qC.7%d0%

2022

[Recording January 14, 2022](#)

Native American Breakout Session Recording:

<https://youtu.be/DfGIfpd4hHs>

[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



**GNJ United Women in Faith
Recordings of Previous Meetings
(continued from page 20)**

2022 (continued)

[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

2021

March 6 Leadership Team Meeting [March 6 Leadership Recording](#) Passcode: x2nC&%=B

April 25, 3PM GNJ Spring Meeting [CLICK HERE TO VIEW](#) PASSCODE: z!u@cj6g

June 5th Leadership Team Meeting [Click here to View](#) Passcode: ^22GcBuv

Recording Treasurer's & Leadership Team Aug. 7 [Click Here to View](#) Passcode:
^81@0+?L

Recording Leadership Team Aug. 7 [Click here to View](#) Passcode: ^81@0+?L

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**GNJ United Women in Faith
Recordings of Previous Meetings
(continued from page 21)**

2021 (continued)

Recording of 9/11 Know Your Neighbor Program [Click here to View](#) Passcode:
#*skzy4q

Recording Oct. 9 Know Your Neighbor [Click here to View](#) Passcode:
^5agp7ZX

Recording GNJ UMW Fall Meeting, Oct. 16, 2021 [Click here to View](#) Passcode:
R=LZmh6&

Recording Nov. Know Your Neighbor [Click here to View](#) Passcode: ?P96%G%M

GNJUWF Resources and Actions
<https://tinyurl.com/ResourcesGNJUWF>

UWF National Events

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

New Brand Resources

<https://umwmissionresources.org/>

United Women in Faith YouTube

<https://m.youtube.com/c/uwwomenfaith>

[2023 GNJ UWF Leadership Team](#)

Voices of Purpose

Newsletter Deadlines & Distribution

Newsletter Issue	Articles	Deadline for 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.

Merry Christmas in Eighteen Foreign Languages

Translations

(continued from page 10)

Buon Natale – Italian
Feliz Natal – Portuguese
Feliz Navidad - Spanish
Frohe Weihnachten – German
Geseende Kersfees – South Africa
God Jul – Norwegian, Swedish
Joyeux Noel – French, Senegalese
Jwaye Nwel – Haiti
Mboni Chrismen – Egypt

Mele Kalikimaka - Hawaiian
Merli Kurisumasu - Japanese
Milad Majeed - Lebanon
Mo’adim Lesimkha - Israel
Nollaig Shona - Irish
Shub Christu Jayanti - India
Sing dan fiy loc – Hong Kong
Sungtan Chukha - Korea
Vrolijk Kerstfeest – Dutch



Greater New Jersey United Women in Faith

LEADERSHIP TEAM 2023-2024

PRESIDENT

Susan Zahorbenski ('24)

VPRES/PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Pat Schutz ('24)

SECRETARY

Linda Wilson (24)

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 2024

Cynthia Lydon

CLASS OF 2024

Ivy Daniels

CLASS OF 2024

Rosa Lee McNair

CLASS OF 2025

Kathy Schulz

CLASS OF 2027

Rosa Williams

CLASS OF 2027

Jill Morrow

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

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LEADERSHIP TEAM – 2023-2024 (continued from page 24)

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

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.



2023 Year End Gratitude

Throughout the years, we have promoted the United Women in Faith mission:

...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.

and 2023 has been no different. Yet not many know of our efforts to pursue this purpose during our individual trials and tribulations. Our readers, visitors, and partners do know we work, pray, donate, share, sing, and dance to enhance the lives of others and thus ourselves. And that it has provided a source of self-healing. For this, we thank you.

All of you are appreciated and not just because you are United Women in Faith but also because of your traits. You have been good listeners and cooperatives in sharing ideas and honesty; welcomed others into our community, especially me; prayed together; and encouraged each of us to use our unique skills towards GNJUWF success. We have learned a lot! What more could one want?

This New Year of plans, opportunities, and commitments may require that some must leave our leadership team. But never doubt that you will always be in our hearts simply because of what you have added to our lives and the lives of others.

I wish you all God's blessings for the best New Year ever!

Sincerely,

Joyce Pratt
GNJUWF Communications Coordinator

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