

# Voices of Purpose

March 2024

Quarterly Newsletter of the Greater New Jersey United Women in

## *President's Message*

Greetings on a sunny day in spring after days of rain! I pray that you and your churches are appreciating what Christ has done for us this Easter season.

This spring is a busy time for United Women in Faith of Greater New Jersey. Our spring celebration is on Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup> at Medford UMC, 10am-noon. Come at 9:30am for a continental breakfast and coffee or tea! Though you will miss seeing us, you may also come via Zoom. "Native American Resilience and Healing" will be our theme, led by guest speaker Rev. Carol Lakota Eastin. See the enclosed flyer for details and COME!

We are also going this month to Providence, Rhode Island for our NEJ quadrennial "Get Together!" (the theme). But this time it has been eight years, because COVID cancelled our get together in Baltimore. One of the important items of business at the meeting is to elect new directors who will guide United Women in Faith through the next four years. Our nominees are Mary Bland and Yvonne Bouknight. We will also elect a new leadership team for the Northeast Jurisdiction.

With that election, comes more change. Marilyn Powell has completed her term as Nominations Chair. I have been newly nominated for a position on the jurisdiction. However, that means that I must step down as the GNJ conference president. God has provided a way for our conference to continue under excellent leadership, as Holly Cyrus has been nominated as my successor. This election will take place at our spring celebration in Medford.

**(continued on page 5)**

## *Issue Highlights*

- *NEJ Conference with Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie*
- *Easter and Christ's Resurrection*
- *Criminalization in Schools Act*
- *Vote-by-Mail*
- *Strawberry Moon 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Pow Wow*
- *Mission u 2024*



United Women in Faith



United Women in Faith

## March 2024

### Inside this issue:

President's Message	1, 5
Inside this Issue	2-3
Welcome Statement	4
NEJ Keynote Speaker, Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie	5
Northeastern Jurisdiction (NEJ) Conference, <i>Get Together</i> , Flyer	6
GNJUWF Spring Conference "Native American Resilience and Healing"	7-8
What Easter Means to Christians	9-10
The Significance of Christ's Resurrection	11-12
Easter for Kids and Family Enjoyment	13
Mission u 2024 Announcement	14

**(continued on page 3)**



United  
Women  
in Faith

## March 2024

### Inside this issue (continued)

District News	15-16
Social Action:	
Counseling not Criminalization in Schools Act	17
Vote by Mail Information	18
Church Women United NJ (CWU) 80 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration	19
Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape Strawberry Moon 43 <sup>rd</sup> Annual Pow-Wow	20
Happy Birthday UWF and the Legacy Fund	21
GNJUWF Calendar of Events 2024-2024	22-26
<u>Voices of Purpose</u> Deadlines/Distribution	
GNJUWF Website Blog Plans	27
GNJUWF Leadership Team	28-29
Social Action Resources & GNJUWF Standing Rules	30

---

Editor: Joyce Pratt  
GNJUWF Communications Coordinator



United  
Women  
in Faith

**March 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.**



United  
Women  
in Faith

## ***President's Message*** (continued from page 1)

There's also been great change in my personal life - **I'm a grandmother!** Our daughter Jenn and her husband Jon, had a baby girl, Ofelia Daysi Guardado on Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, 5:32pm, 8.46lbs., 21." See photo below and [click here](#) or visit GNJUWF website for more.

Thank you for all the support you have all given me throughout these past 3½ years. Between my mother, Deaconess Helen McCahill, passing in 2022 and a first grandchild that spent 9 days in the NICU, it has been tumultuous. Not to mention COVID, redistricting, rebranding, disaffiliations, and upcoming General Conference unknowns. Phew! These are the times that try our souls, but through this great sisterhood, we have many people who care for us. Faith and love in action to inspire, influence, and impact! Go forth and bloom where you are planted! Blessings on your journey.

Love in Christ,  
Sue Zahorbenski, President  
Greater New Jersey United Women in Faith



---

## **Northeastern Jurisdiction (NEJ) 2024 *Get Together*** **Keynote Speaker: Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie**



Bishop McKenzie is the new President and General Secretary of the National Council of Churches (NCC). She provides executive leadership to 37 communions (denominations) representing 100,000 churches and 3 million people. She is the first African American woman to hold both positions.

Bishop McKenzie is also the 117<sup>th</sup> elected and consecrated bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, the first female elected to episcopal office in the more than the two-century-old AME Church. She is the first female to serve as President of the Council of Bishops and President of the General Board.

*Join us April 19-21, 2024 to meet and learn more about Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie.*  
(See flyer on page 6)



# 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](http://www.nejuwfaith.org).



United  
Women  
in Faith



United  
Women  
in Faith

**Greater NJ Conference**

presents

# **"Native American Resilience and Healing"**

**Saturday, April 27, 2024**

**10:00am-noon**

Speaker: Rev. Carol Lakota Eastin

Medford United Methodist Church

2 Hartford Rd, Medford, NJ 08055



9:30 (gathering tech check and saying hello)

Hybrid: **Zoom link**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83396872153?pwd=aUNHckxlVORZVE1aNIpCK284SGVzdz09>



United  
Women  
in Faith

## **“Native American Resilience and Healing”**

Offering: Native American International Caucus (NAIC) of the UMC Family Camp

Checks can be made out and mailed to:

GNJUMW  
% Carol Bloch  
8 Kayharts Lane  
Washington, NJ 07882

or use Givelify link:

<https://www.givelify.com/donate/gnjumw-washington-nj-2j7wy5ODk5NDM1/donation/amount>

Learn more about the Native American International Caucus of the United Methodist Church at [www.naicumc.com](http://www.naicumc.com)

Rev. Carol Lakota Eastin was one of the leaders at the Family Camp last summer, speaking on “Trauma Healing Circles”

She is the person regarding Healing Circle training which NAIC is conducting through a GCORR grant. She has recently retired early from the pulpit. She is an instructor and leader and founder of the Native American Course of Study for potential NA pastors. She has been a DS, worked with Perkins Theological School, and one could not even count the additional successes she has accomplished.

She is a mother, grandmother, a daughter, and wife.

Indigenous People's Day in USA October 14, 2024

Native American Heritage Month November 2024

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



United  
Women  
in Faith



# What Easter Means to Christians

by **Mary Fairchild** (Excerpts from [www.learnreligions.com](http://www.learnreligions.com))

Updated on March 02, 2021

On Easter Sunday, Christians celebrate **the resurrection of Jesus Christ** from the dead after his crucifixion and burial. It is typically the most well-attended Sunday church service of the year.



## What Is Easter?

- According to Christian Scripture ([Isaiah 53](#)), Jesus Christ is the promised Messiah and Savior of the World.
- (or being raised from the dead) three days after his death on the cross.
- Christians believe that when Jesus laid down his life on the cross, he paid the full penalty for sin by offering the perfect, spotless sacrifice.
- Subsequently, by raising from the dead, the Lord defeated the power of sin and death and purchased, for all who believe in him, eternal life in [Christ Jesus](#).

## Easter in the Bible

The biblical account of Jesus' death on the cross, or crucifixion, his burial, and his resurrection, or raising from the dead, can be found in the following passages of Scripture: Matthew 27:27-28:8; Mark 15:16-16:19; Luke 23:26-24:35; and John 19:16-20:30.

The word "Easter" does not appear in the Bible and no early church celebrations of Christ's resurrection are [mentioned in Scripture](#). Easter, like Christmas, is a tradition that developed later in church history.

**(continued on page 10)**



## What Easter Means to Christians (continued from page 9)

As the most solemn and preeminent celebration of Jesus Christ's resurrection, it's unfortunate that many of Easter's customs are mixed with pagan associations and secular commercialization. For these reasons, many Christian churches choose to refer to the Easter holiday simply as Resurrection Day.

### When is the Easter Season?

Lent is a 40-day period of fasting, repentance, moderation and spiritual discipline in preparation for Easter. In Western Christianity, Ash Wednesday marks the start of Lent and the Easter season. Easter Sunday marks the end of Lent and the Easter season.

Eastern Orthodox churches observe Lent or Great Lent, during the 6 weeks or 40 days preceding Palm Sunday with fasting continuing during the Holy Week of Easter. Lent for Eastern Orthodox churches begins on Monday and Ash Wednesday is not observed.

### Holy Week

The week preceding Easter is called Holy Week. Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday, the celebration of Jesus Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem. On Maundy Thursday is the commemoration of the Last Supper when Jesus shared the Passover meal with his disciples on the night before he was crucified. Jesus' death by crucifixion is commemorated on Good Friday.



# The Significance of Christ's Resurrection

Consider just **three ways** the New Testament highlights the significance of the resurrection.

## 1. Jesus' Resurrection means that his sacrificial death on the cross was sufficient, and therefore our sins can be forgiven.

Paul emphasizes this in [1 Corinthians 15](#), reminding us that “Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures” ([vv. 3-4](#)). Then, in [verse 17](#), he argues that “if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins.”

In other words, Paul saw a direct connection between the resurrection of Jesus and the sufficiency of his death to atone for our sins. When Jesus rose again on the third day, it was the public announcement that God was fully satisfied with the sacrificial death of his Son. In his resurrection, Jesus was vindicated ([1 Timothy 3:16](#)). But in his vindication, we are vindicated too. That's why Paul says in [Romans 4](#) that Jesus “was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification” ([Romans 4:25](#)).<sup>[2]</sup>

## 2. Jesus' Resurrection means that death is defeated once and for all.

As Peter proclaimed on the Day of Pentecost, “God raised [Jesus] from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him” ([Acts 2:24](#)). Death lost its grip on Jesus!

But the resurrection means that Jesus not only defeated death for himself, but that he defeated it for us. He died and rose as a new representative for humanity, as the Second Adam. “But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead,” writes Paul, “the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive” ([1 Corinthians 15:20-22](#)). His resurrection guarantees ours.

The empty tomb assures us that sickness and suffering, death and disease will not have the final word.

## 3. Jesus' Resurrection means that the material world matters.

Lest there be any misunderstanding, when the [apostles](#) said that Jesus rose again, they meant that his *physical body came back to life*. The risen Jesus wasn't a phantom or ghost, but a breakfast-eating, flesh-and-bone, human being (see [Luke 24:36-43](#) and [John 21:10-14](#)).

(continued on page 12)



## The Significance of Christ's Resurrection (continued from page 11)

When Jesus came out of the tomb in a physical body, it was God's definitive stamp of approval on the creation project with all of its materiality. The resurrection shows us that matter matters. And this is why the early Christians looked to the future with confidence that the created order itself would be redeemed (see [Romans 8:18-25](#)).

Though we wait for the full consummation of new creation, the Scriptures also teach that the power that raised Jesus from the dead is already working within us ([Ephesians 1:19-20](#)). The resurrection, you see, not only assures of God's forgiveness and comforts us in suffering as we anticipate the final reversal of death, disease, and decay; it also motivates and empowers us to push back the tide of suffering and evil in the present world, through word and deed, in mercy and justice, all in Jesus' name.

**Brian G. Hedges** is the Lead Pastor for [Fulkerson Park Baptist Church](#) in South Bend, Indiana and the author of several religious books; [www.brianhedges.com](http://www.brianhedges.com).

Excerpts from **The Significance of Jesus' Resurrection: Why It Matters Today**, 8/2/22, [Christianity.com](http://Christianity.com).

See also United Methodist Church article, "What do we mean by resurrection?" at <https://www.umc.org/en/content/ask-the-umc-what-do-we-mean-by-resurrection>



---

***Do unto others as you would have them do to you.***  
**Luke 6:31**

---



# Easter for Kids and Family Enjoyment

Excerpts from Article by Kait Hanson  
March 30, 2023 / Source: TODAY

"Here comes Peter Cottontail, hopping down the bunny trail..." We all know the rest, right? [Easter](#) is on the way — and it's the perfect time to get the whole family excited with Easter activities for kids.

Easter is a religious holiday and a time to celebrate spring and make fun memories with your family.

"Easter is special, because it is traditionally a day that is devoted to spending time with family and community and in today's busy world, that is a gift we all cherish," parenting educator Laura Linn Knight tells TODAY.com.

Knight, the author of "[Break Free from Reactive Parenting.](#)" says Easter can be as grand — or as simple — as you want to make it, but it is the connection with family and friends that matters most.

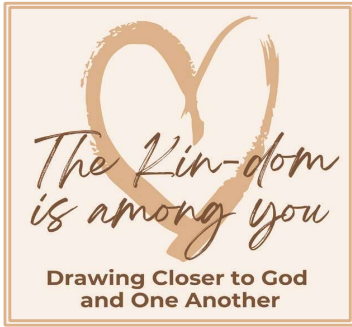
"Anytime there is a holiday that offers a pause from phones ringing, rushed school mornings and the demands of work, use that as an opportunity to make new memories with your family," she tells TODAY.com. "Easter is always a long-awaited welcome with the sun starting to shine more and the cold slipping away."

The Arizona-based educator tells TODAY.com that even families who are not religious can celebrate the season.

"Easter can be special in the traditional ways of going to church, dyeing eggs and hunting for them," Knight says. "(But) Easter can also be special when families go looking for spring flowers, gather together for a meal and play games together."

See Hanson's "**25 Easter activities for kids and families to enjoy this year**" at <https://www.today.com/parents/family/easter-activities-for-kids-rcna77247>.





## Mission u 2024

3 Day In-person Event

July 12-14<sup>th</sup>

Centenary University, Hackettstown, NJ

### **Adult Study**

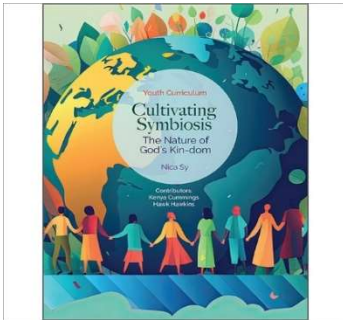
*Welcome Home: Growing Closer  
to God and One Another*

- 1) Wilhelmina Jackson – Debbe Barnett
- 2) Kay Dubuisson – Darlene de La Cruz

### **Youth Study**

*Cultivating Symbiosis: The Nature of God's kin-dom*

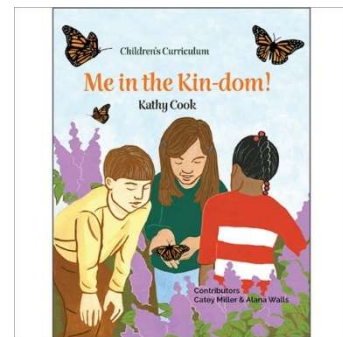
- 1) Andi Laidlaw – Sharon Williams



### **Children's Study**

*Me in the Kin-dom*

- 1) Jessica Stenstrom – Rosie Pang



*Registration information will be available on April 15<sup>st</sup>, 2024.*

**Join us for a time of spiritual renewal!**



United  
Women  
in Faith

# District News

## ***Cape Atlantic District***

Virgie Williams, President, reported attendance at the following:

### **January 2023**

**Lead Like MLK: Black Mothers at Risk After Giving Birth: Speaker Mrs. Carolyn Pendleton.**

**Annual MLK Scholarship Brunch–St. John’s United Methodist Church**  
**Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Annual Brunch Guest Speaker: Carolyn Pendleton** (United Women in Faith Asbury UMC Atlantic City NJ) held at **St. John’s UMC in West Berlin, NJ.** Ms. Pendleton spoke on the alarming rate of African American mothers losing their lives after giving birth, affecting African American Women in all economic fields.

### **April 15, 2023**

**Spring Meeting Cape Atlantic District & Delaware Bay District, held at Pitman UMC, Pitman, NJ.** St. John’s UMC Ladies of Praise Dance team praised the Lord through dance. The principal speaker was Tom Lank who spoke about the hardships for immigrants to get status in the US, mainly due to the need for American sponsors. Facebook live streamlined.

### **April 27, 2023**

**GNJUWF Spring Celebration & Annual Meeting, Neptune, NJ.**

### **April 29, 2023**

**CAD Leadership Team–Spring Meeting at Manahawkin UMC–11:00 am–2:00 pm.** Michael Landis, Executive Director of The Neighborhood Center spoke about the Center’s new direction and several playing fields for various outdoor sports implemented, at the request of the young adults who were impacted the most.

### **July 14th & 15<sup>th</sup>**

**Mission u at Centenary University in Hackettstown, NJ.** The study was on **The Lord’s Prayer.**

### **September 30, 2023**

**Cape Atlantic District UWF Fall Meeting. St. Peter’s UMC Ocean City, NJ.** The theme was: *Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. Scripture: Galatians 6:2.* Keynote Speaker Reverend Jana Purkis-Brash, Cape Atlantic District Superintendent, topic ***Empowering Lives: Erasing the Sin of Racism in Churches.*** Rev. Purkis-Brash spoke from her own experience of bias against women clergy and the need to be aware and vigilant about the many obstacles that still exist, and to fight against racism in any form.

# District News

## ***Cape Atlantic District (continued)***

**October 21, 2023**

**GNJUWF Fall 2023 Celebration & Annual Meeting, Neptune, NJ**  
The 2023 GNJUWF Fall celebration featured "TEACHING RESILIENCE: *Healthy Perspectives for Children (& all)*" with speaker Meg Isbitski, Mental Health Administrator of the Somerset County Department of Human Services.

## ***Central District***

Debbie Campion, President, reports:

**2024 Officers:** Debbie Campion, President; Anne Hall, Vice President; Rebecca Grant, Secretary; and Mary Wilson, Treasurer. There are other open positions available.

### **2024 Events:**

April 13, 2024 - Leadership Development and May 4, 2024 – Spring Tea meeting for Neighborhood Center.

May 4, 2024 – Spring Tea Meeting for Neighborhood Center (Turning Point UMC).

November 2, 2024 – Fall Meeting.

Plans to host a Soul Care Retreat.

**Newsletter:** Last quarter 2023, [Time and Tide](#), has been added to the GNJUWF website at [www.gnjumw.org](http://www.gnjumw.org).

## ***Delaware Bay***

Staci Scheetz reports the following:

**New theme** for Delaware UWF – ***Connect and Grow!***

**District-Wide Program** – February 29, 2024 Climate Justice focus.

**Spring District Gathering** – April 11, 2024 at Pitman United Methodist Church.

**NEJ Conference** – Invitation for district members to attend April 18-21 with funds available to help with transportation and costs.

## ***Gateway North***

Cynthia Wilks-Mosley invites readers to St. John UMC bake sale June 8 and 9, 2024 at the Nanticoke Leni Lenape Pow-Wow. See flyer on page 16.

\*\*\*\*\*



## Social Action

# Make an Impact



United  
Women  
in Faith

## Tell Your Legislators: Cosponsor The Counseling Not Criminalization in Schools Act



Our faith teaches us that children and youth are specially cherished. Yet here in the United States many children and youth of color are regularly funneled into the school-to-prison pipeline. Schools' overreliance on school-based police contributes to this harmful trend. The federal government can help address this issue by passing **The Counseling Not Criminalization in Schools Act** (H.R.6202/S.3214). Click below to access our easy-to-use digital advocacy tool where you can learn more about this bill and take virtual action.

Already emailed your legislators in support of The Counseling Not Criminalization in Schools Act? Spread the word! Invite three friends to join you and triple your impact.

[Click here to take action](#) or contact [mpowell56@comcast.net](mailto:mpowell56@comcast.net).



United  
Women  
in Faith

# Social Action



## Vote-by-Mail

ATNJ Education Fund, a registered 501(c)3 nonpartisan charity in New Jersey, offers its initiative, [VotebyMailNJ.org](http://VotebyMailNJ.org), for voters in every county to participate in our elections by voting safely from home. Its website announces:

Open to all registered voters, Vote by Mail gives voters the options to mail their ballot using USPS, deposit it at a secure ballot drop box, or deliver it in person at official designated locations such as the Board of Elections.

ATNJ also provides the following vote by mail FACTS:

- “Vote By Mail” is a misnomer. You can cast your vote using this paper ballot and mail it, deposit it, or deliver it. **It simply is voting early using a hand-marked paper ballot.** Vote By Mail was previously referred to as “Absentee Voting.” No excuses are required to Vote by Mail.
- Vote By Mail is also referred to as “VBM” and “voting from home.”
- Voters who opt to vote by mail, “VBM voters,” receive their paper ballots in their mailboxes starting 45 days prior to Election Day and can cast their ballots as soon as they are received.
- VBM voters can change their mind and not use their paper ballot to vote. Instead, they can show up on Election Day and vote in person using a paper ballot provided to them called a “Provisional Ballot.” This security process ensures that voters do not vote more than once in any election.

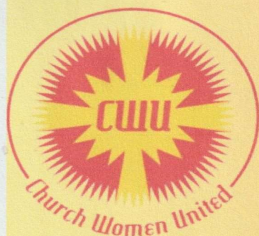
Diverse voting methods strengthens the U.S. democracy, breaking down access barriers that might otherwise exclude voters from making their voices heard. The main objective of VBM is to encourage more people to vote.

Many organizations are distributing voting-by-mail material to assist those nonvoters who may find this process less of a burden to their lifestyles. In this way, we are assisting all Americans to exercise their right to vote. Applications for Vote by mail ballots to be sent to your desired location can be obtained by contacting GNJUWF or at your county clerk office.

If you have knowledge of voters who could benefit from this opportunity, please share this information.

---

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



# Hats Off Luncheon

## 80th Anniversary Celebration

**Saturday, June 1, 2024**

**12:00 noon—3:30 pm**

**The YMCA at the Piscataway Community Center  
520 Hoes Lane, Piscataway, NJ 08854**

**Ticket Donation:  
\$50.00**

Please send payment to

TINA HARRIELD  
c/o CWU  
PO Box 174

SCOTCH PLAINS, NJ 07076-0174

EMAIL: tinassilk@aol.com

Event Chairperson:

Mrs. Geraldine Harvey

CWU NJ State President:

Dr. Sara Joslin

**Program to include: Lunch, door prizes,**

**\*Tricky Tray/Trade, Fellowship, and Fun!**

**Our goal: To recruit new members, reclaim previous members, renew the commitment with collective units and recognize their contribution within the State of New Jersey and to raise money.**

**\* (Tricky Tray/Trade Table: We invite you to share your**

**Talent(s) by bringing an item of your choice for our Tricky Tray/Trade Table.**

.....(Cut here).....

## Hats Off Ad Journal Submission Form

**Cut off and Return with Payment For Ad Journals only) (All payments to be made out to CWU of NJ)**

**Ad Journal deadline May 7, 2024 and mail to**

**CWU**

**Attention: Rev. Vivian Cook, c/o PO Box 174, Scotch Plains, NJ 07076**

**or Email: viviancook671@gmail.com (with proof of payment)**

**Ads are to be "Photo, PDF or Print" Ready**

**Check choose and Amount Enclosed:**

**Inside Front Cover Page \$120.00**

**Half Page \$50.00**

**Inside Back Cover Page \$120.00**

**Quarter Page \$25.00**

**Full Page \$100.00**

**Booster 10.00 (per name)**

**Total Amount Paid (Ads Only) \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Date Paid \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_**

**Church Women United NJ (CWU) - <https://www.facebook.com/cwunj>**



**United  
Women  
in Faith**

# Nanticoke Leni-Lenape Strawberry Moon 43rd Annual Pow-Wow

Sat. June 8<sup>th</sup> & Sun. June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Salem County Fairgrounds 735 Harding Hwy Woodstown, NJ 08098  
Bring a Lawn Chair

## Head Staff

### Master of Ceremonies

Keith Colston

### Arena Director

Will Mosley

### Head Man

Ascension Harjo

### Head Lady

Sailee Sandy

### Junior Head Man

Matthias Ellis

### Junior Head Lady

Maehawiaki Ridgeway

### Host Drum

Stoney Creek Singers

### Head Judge

Elyse Sparks

## Saturday June 8<sup>th</sup>

Gates Open @ 10am  
Gate Admission \$10 a Car  
Grand Entry @ 12pm  
Evening Social Dance  
Sponsored by  
Red Blanket Singers

## Sunday, June 9<sup>th</sup>

Church Service @ 9:30am  
Gates Open @ 10am  
Grand Entry @ 1pm  
Car Show 10am-3pm

## Dance Contests

### Adult Categories

1<sup>st</sup>-\$500 2<sup>nd</sup>- \$300 3<sup>rd</sup>-\$200

### Teen Categories

1<sup>st</sup>-\$250 2<sup>nd</sup>- \$150 3<sup>rd</sup>-\$75

### Boys & Girls Categories

1<sup>st</sup>-\$75 2<sup>nd</sup>- \$50 3<sup>rd</sup>-\$30

## Drum Contest

1st Place- \$2,000

2<sup>nd</sup> Place- \$1,500

3<sup>rd</sup> Place- \$1,000



Funding has been made available in part by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/ Dept. of State through the Salem County Cultural Heritage Commission/ and



United  
Women  
in Faith



United  
Women  
in Faith

## Happy Birthday United Women in Faith!!

March 23, 2024 was our birthday and we celebrated 155 years of faith, hope, and love in action.

If you missed this date, you too can celebrate the **2024 Day of Giving** posthumously with a gift to the UW Faith Legacy Endowment Fund. ***Step faithfully forward to create a brighter, more compassionate tomorrow for women, children, and youth.***

**[Give Today!](#)**

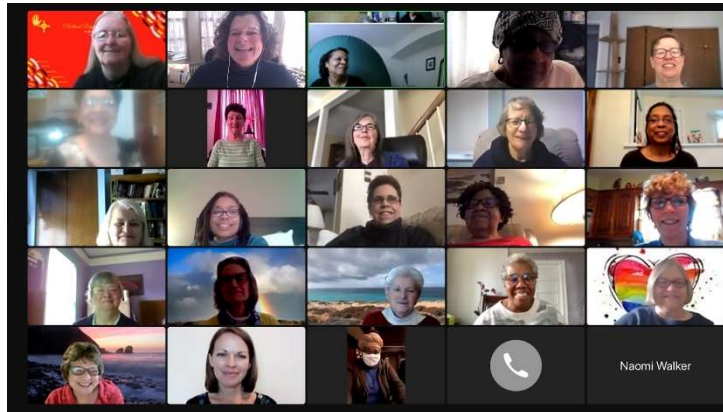
The Legacy Endowment Fund is a permanent investment that supports the work and the future of United Women in Faith. [<https://uwfaith.org/dayofgiving/>]



United  
Women  
in Faith

# 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=eGM1NWtRQ2NndnVhYjl6NmM2YUNadz09>
- 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
- July 20 Mission U 1-day Virtual

# 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



United  
Women  
in Faith

## 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



United  
Women  
in Faith

## 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** [Leadership Team Recording](#) 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/DfGIfpd4hHs>

**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](http://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  
[Click here to View](#) 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**

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

**New Brand Resources**

<https://umwmissionresources.org/>

**United Women in Faith YouTube**

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



United  
Women  
in Faith

---

## **Voices of Purpose**

### **Newsletter Deadlines & Distribution**

---

<b>Newsletter Issue</b>	<b>Articles</b>	<b>Deadline for Distribution</b>
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](http://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:



Our Beliefs



Our Community



Our Outreach

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

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](http://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

(continued on page 29)

## LEADERSHIP TEAM – 2023-2024 (continued from page 28)

### 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"

Elizabeth Vaneekhoven

##### ASSISTANT DEAN MISSION "U"

BERNADETTE CATALINE

##### 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](http://www.gnjumw.org)

# Social Action Resources

## Greater New Jersey United Women in Faith Website

[www.gnjumw.org](http://www.gnjumw.org).

## National Human Trafficking Prevention Month

[www.state.gov/national-human-trafficking-prevention-month/](http://www.state.gov/national-human-trafficking-prevention-month/)

## New Jersey Assembly Bills Pending

<https://legiscan.com/NJ/pending/sassembly-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://nileg.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](http://www.gnjumw.org), under “Rules & Regulations.

