



United
Women
in Faith

New Gresham

Hope

IS A THING

...but those who hope
in the Lord will renew their strength.

ISAIAH 40:31



A VIRTUAL
PRAYER GATHERING
SATURDAY | JANUARY 6 | 9 AM

Guest Speaker

DEACONESS CATHERINE INSERRA

PROGRAM BOOK



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MISSION

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

VISION

We are a powerful, fearless force driven by God's love and united in sisterhood. With a focus on women, children and youth, we act for justice and transform communities.

We face the realities we see in the world, even when they are not the ones we would like to see. However, our goal is not to bear witness simply to harms, but also to God's love by acting boldly to change those harms.

OUR PURPOSE

The organized unit of United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.



GREETINGS

from the President of New Gresham United Women in Faith

Good Morning Family and Friends,

Happy New Year, warmest wishes and the Peace of the Lord be with you now and forever! Welcome to our New Year's Virtual Gathering with prayers and blessings just for you. As we kick off 2024 thanking and praising God not only for what he has already done, but for new miracles, grace and mercy in this new season of Hope! We look forward to grateful extraordinary beginnings as we write a new phenomenal story!

New Gresham United Women in Faith is proud to support our district, conference and national counterparts in ministry; nurturing through Christian spiritual fellowship and education so that we can inspire influence and impact local and global communities.

I'm asking God to order our steps with healing, deliverance, good health, prosperity and a new work which he will bring to completion! Trust, believe and have faith because God's Grace is sufficient! May his strength perfect our weakness for he is always ever present.

Hope Is A Thing! Jeremiah 29:11 says "For I know the plans I have for you, declare the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Hold on to your faith and encourage yourself in the Lord!

Wishing you all a fabulous, abundant, enriched, eyes on the prize, ready and willing to serve New Year! Reflect and remember God's promises. Enjoy the program!

Warmest Personal Regards,

Lou Ada Burton, President
New Gresham United Women in Faith

New Gresham United Methodist Church
Chicago, Illinois



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GATHERING MUSIC

REVELATIONS 9:1 (Hallelujah, Salvation and Glory)
by Sunday Service Choir

GREETING

Wendy Miller, President
United Women in Faith | Lake South District

OPENING PRAYER

First Lady LaShunda Mitchell
New Gresham United Women in Faith

Heavenly Father in the name of Jesus,

Lord, we thank you for this is a day that you have made, Father we shall rejoice and be glad in it. Lord God, we come before you this morning with thanksgiving in our hearts and a praise on our lips. You are the God of hope, of peace and the God of Love. Jeremiah 29:11 says, For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. In this new year Lord of 2024 help us Lord to Focus. Lord our hope is in you. Continue to give us hope and love that we may share it with our neighbors, friends, our family and those that don't know you Lord. As we walk by faith, continue to guide us to strengthen us along the way. Let all that we do be done in excellence and to the glory of God in Jesus name. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

ISAIAH 40:28-31 NIV

Betty Brooks, Membership Chair
New Gresham United Women in Faith

Do you not know? Have you not heard?

The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

MUSIC SELECTION

I BELEVE GOD
by Jekaylyn Carr

ZOOM PRAISE STRETCH

Cherita Ousley, Fitness Instructor



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VOICES OF HOPE

Jaylyn Williams

H – is for How God loves me unconditionally

O – is for Opportunity to stretch yourself to immeasurable heights

P – is for the endless Possibilities, Gods Promises and his Grace and Mercy that “I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me.”

E – is for Everlasting, Anticipation and Expectations because “My Hope is Built on Nothing Less than Jesus Blood and Righteousness!”

MORE VOICES OF HOPE

Samantha Burton, Rajeeyah Muhammad,
and Corinne Williams

INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER

Alison Jenkins, Spiritual Growth Coordinator
United Women in Faith Lake South District

MUSICAL SELECTION

ON CHRIST THE SOLID ROCK I STAND
by Crossroads Music

THE MESSAGE

DEACONESS CATHERINE INSERRA

Manager of Faith and Community Relations | Kids Above All

CLOSING REMARKS

Lou Ada Burton, President
New Gresham United Women in Faith

& ACKNOWLEDEMENTS

Rita L. Smith, Program Advisor
United Women in Faith | Northern Illinois Conference

CLOSING PRAYER

Nevanda Taylor, Treasurer
New Gresham United Women in Faith

Dear God, every day may not be perfect, but there's something perfect about every day. Teach us to go through this life, "Grateful" for every opportunity to breathe again, to love again, to touch a life again, to pray again, to move in your will dear Lord. Thank You for blessing us beyond our expectations and keeping us by Your grace. Amen.

CLOSING SONG

WON'T BE MOVED
by Gene Moore



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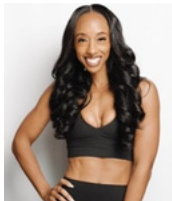
New Gresham

DEACONESS CATHERINE INSERRA

Deaconess Catherine Inserra is the Manager of Faith and Community Relations with Kids Above All (formerly ChildServ), a United Methodist affiliated, non-profit agency building better lives for children since 1894. Originally established as the Methodist Deaconess Orphanage in Lake Bluff, IL Lucy Rider Meyer, founder and social visionary, is credited for the revival of the Deaconess movement. She and her husband, Josiah, responded to the needs of the children by establishing the orphanage after having opened the Chicago Training School for Missionaries and Deaconesses (now Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary), Wesley Hospital (Northwestern Memorial Hospital), the Deaconess Home, and a home for the elderly



Catherine builds mission partnerships with local churches, community groups and schools throughout the Northern IL Conference of the United Methodist Church, but not limited to, in order to uphold our Methodist roots and further mission partnerships for these times. It is these partnerships that help to fortify our staff and programs in Kane, Lake, DuPage and Cook counties; more importantly, the recipients of these services – the children, youth and families. As partners, we stand up and speak up for kids so they will rise to reach their potential and thrive in life.



CHERITA OUSLEY

Cherita wears many hats, but the ones that drive her the most are being a fitness coach and product manager in tech. She is passionate about promoting healthy living and improving wellness through fitness, mindfulness and spirituality. Whether it is eating well and staying active or maintaining high emotional intelligence, Cherita believes this is fundamental to showing up better in life to do the things that are important to you. Leading with kindness and empathy, she is intentional about leaving an impact and making connections.



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Thank you for joining us.

Special Thanks to

Deaconess Catherine Inserra
Manager of Faith and Community Relations | Kids Above All

Fitness Instructor, Cherita Ousley

Wendy Miller
United Women in Faith | Lake South District

LaShunda Mitchell, First Lady
New Gresham United Methodist Church

Alison Jenkins
Spiritual Growth Coordinator
Lake South District | United Women in Faith

Rita L. Smith
Program Advisory Member,
United Women in Faith | Northern Illinois Conference

Betty Brooks, Membership
New Gresham United Women in Faith

Nevanda Taylor, Treasurer,
New Gresham United Women in Faith

Voices on Hope:
Jaylyn Williams
Samantha Burton
Rajeeyah Muhammad
Corrine Williams