



United
Women
in Faith

INSIGHT

Northern Illinois Conference

November 2025

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 2025

07 --- LN District Leadership Team
09 --- Korean UMW General Assembly at
Schaumburg: Salem
13 --- [NIC Conference Leadership Planning
Meeting](#)
18 --- PC District Leadership Team

December 2025

01 --- PN District Leadership Team
05 --- LN District Leadership Team
08 --- LS District Leadership Team

For More Detailed Information and Future Events:

[View the Google Calendar](#)

President's Report

By Barb Farley

What a fabulous, spirit-filled two-day weekend for United Women in Faith!

Almost 116 women from Northern Illinois, Illinois Great Rivers, and Wisconsin Conferences celebrated together with our General Secretary/CEO, Sally Vonner, at Belvidere: First on Saturday. "Love: Our Super Power" was Saturday's theme, and the music, the prayers, and Sally's message centered on 1 Corinthians 13:13. UWFaith NIC business meeting, installation of officers, communion, and a wonderful "homemade" luncheon brought us through the day with energy to spare!



Sunday's event at Chicago: St. Mark topped off our celebration weekend with beautiful worship led by St. Mark's Women's Choir and guest artist, Alyson Cambridge. Alyson is the Executive Director of Black Leadership Arts Collective and serves on the Artistic Advisory Boards for the Glimmerglass Festival, Daniel's Music Foundation, Sing for Hope, and co-chairs the Gala Committee for The Fresh Air Fund.

Sally Vonner, again the keynote speaker, brought "We've Come This Far By Faith" into her message as she emphasized Sunday's theme: "Let Go, Let God: Moving Forward in Faith". She explained that we have come a very long way, always balanced on the strong shoulders of our foremothers. Now, it is our responsibility to pave the way for a new generation of United Women in Faith!

As we move into a new year with new leadership teams in our Units, our Districts, and our

Conference, let's move with a sense of gratitude and attend Assembly and Mission u, and as many possible offerings from our National connection as we are able!

Let us continue to reach out to women, children, and youth in our churches and communities as we focus on transformative justice - one foot in front of the other, leading with Love.

Assembly 2026

By Linda Osikowicz



You are invited to Assembly 2026 at the Convention Center in Indianapolis May 15-17, 2026.

There has never been a more important time for women of faith to come together, tap into our strength, and unite to change the world. Assembly 2026 is that moment--a once-every-four-years gathering of women committed to faith, empowerment, and making a difference. The weekend will uplift your soul, strengthen your faith and bring you together with an unstoppable sisterhood.

Register via the website: UWFaith.org/Assembly

Note that the early bird registration fee of \$365 ends November 30, so make your reservation now! When you register, you will be able to choose one workshop and one Town Hall Meeting for both Friday and Saturday. You may also register for the optional Soul Care Retreat on May 14 for an additional \$99. The dinners on Friday and Saturday night are also optional. Note: the Ubuntu Day of Service has been canceled.

Here are three pieces of information you will be asked upon registration. Assuming you are attending a church in Northern Illinois Conference, you will answer:

1. Jurisdiction: North Central Jurisdiction
2. Conference: Northern Illinois Conference
3. District: one of these districts: Lake North, Lake South, Prairie Central, Prairie North, or Prairie South

You may reserve a room at the NIC block of rooms at the JWMarriott when you register, or you may use this booking link: <https://book.passkey.com/go/UWF2026NorthernIL>. The rooms have two queen beds, and the cost is \$199 per night. As a reminder, the deadline to book these rooms is December 1, 2025. There is a skywalk from the hotel to the Convention Center.

If you would like to make a reservation outside of the room block, you may contact Visit Indy customer care agents at 317-262-8191 Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET to make reservations.

Take time to check out the website. You can read about the speakers and browse the list of workshops and town hall meetings. You can also find an application for a scholarship (on the "About" page); deadline is December 1. More information about scholarships will be coming soon.

Still more questions? Contact the NIC Assembly Liaison:

[Linda Osikowicz](mailto:Linda.Osikowicz@nic.org)

630-569-2763 (please leave a message)

United Women in Faith Leadership Calendar 2026

Planning your United Women in Faith Leadership Calendar 2026

Start with the “givens”, then add on what is regular or routine. (pages 49-50 Handbook 2025-2028)

QUADRIENIAL ASSEMBLY, INDIANAPOLIS MAY (14)15-16-17, 2026

Next, **Conference Leadership Team Meetings** are by Zoom at 9 am on the first Saturdays of January 3, March 7, May 2, and September 5 (holiday weekend) or August 29, plus a November evening at 7 pm.

Then, your **District Leadership Team Meetings** would be as needed after the NIC LT dates.
UWFaith NIC **Mission u Winter** dates in late January
UWFaith NIC **Mission u Summer** dates in mid-July

UWFaith **District Annual Celebrations** on the 3rd or 4th Saturday of September 19 or 26
UWFaith **NIC Annual Celebration** on the 4th Saturday of October 24
UWFaith local unit celebrations September-November

Finally, your special events.

Please share your district leadership team meeting and event dates and times with the UWFaith NIC secretary by November 15. These are included in the yearbook calendar.

Thank you for your planning,

Lois Voss at nicuwfaith.secy25@gmail.com

Social Action

By Kathy Tiffin



CHURCH & SOCIETY

The United Methodist Church

Living**FAITH** Seeking**JUSTICE** Pursuing**PEACE**

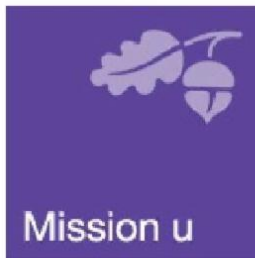
The General Board of Church and Society is dedicated to the work of living faith, seeking justice, and pursuing peace.

See current Action Alerts [HERE](#)

View the latest Faith in Action stories [HERE](#)

Winter Mission u

Paper Registration form [HERE](#).



Save the Dates

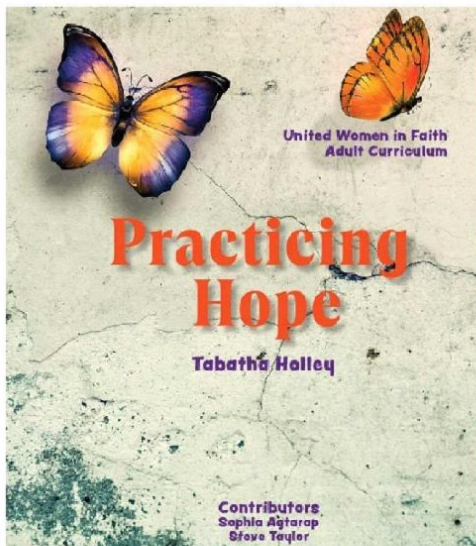
Winter Learning Event
January 11-25, 2026
virtual only

Opening Worship: Sunday, Jan. 11th (3:00 pm CT)

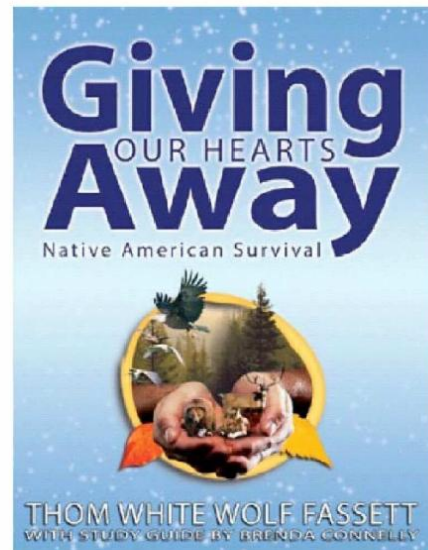
Classes: choose from the four options below

Closing Worship: Sunday, Jan. 25th (3:00 pm CT)

Our Studies...



Monday/Wednesday (6:00-8:00 pm CT)
Tuesday/Thursday (2:00-4:00 pm CT)
Tuesday/Thursday (6:00-8:00 pm CT)



Monday/Wednesday
(2:00-4:00 pm CT)

Online Registration will be open soon!

Presented by

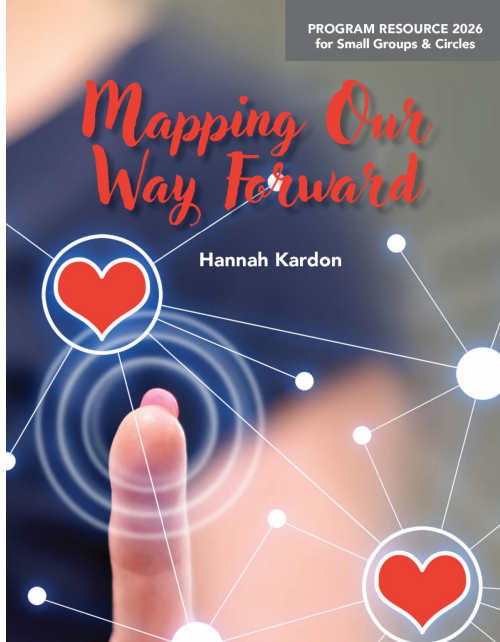
United Women in Faith
Northern Illinois Conference



United
Women
in Faith

Program Resources

Get ready for the new year and



order your copy of the [2026 Program Resource: Mapping Our Way Forward](#). It is about finding our way and holding on to the balance of grounding and flowing in the midst of the uncertainties that surround us. We can map our way forward into the unknown by holding on to God and our core values, letting them keep us grounded as we face each challenge.

Reading Program

We are delighted to announce the release of the [2026 Reading Program](#)! It is available on the [Reading Program webpage](#).

The Reading Program is a beloved tradition with a powerful future. Through the Reading Program, members and friends of United Women in Faith read and grow together, engaging contemporary books on spiritual growth, social action, leadership development, nurturing for community, and education for mission. We are for readers (and listeners) of all ages, with titles available for adults, youth, and children. We have programs available in English, Korean, and Spanish.

[Click Here to View and Download](#)

Community



A USS Enterprise CVN-65 Patch for Christmas

By Brooke Buzard Watson

With just weeks to go until Christmas, our hearts are filled with excitement and joy as preparations for the holiday season begin. Decorating Christmas trees with ornaments, welcoming guests, baking cakes and cookies, singing carols, and exchanging gifts make Christmas the most awaited holiday of the year

At Cunningham Children's Home, we've begun preparing too because with 953 youth, adults, and families on our list and in our hearts, there's no time to waste! Our

ability to give those we serve the hope and joy they deserve at Christmas is made possible by you, and we are very grateful.



Read the full story [HERE](#).



Dear UW Faith,

This holiday season is upon us. Here at Kids Above All, we have been working since September to organize gift requests from our kids and now, sponsors. In addition to sponsoring kids, you can: 1) Order online (please include your church name with your name in order to be identified) and/or 2) Contact me for ideas to support certain items that may be needed. Thank you always for your love in action by supporting our holiday gift drive to help ensure a happier holiday for them.

Jesus, be our Light!

[Catherine](#)

View the flyer [HERE](#)



HOLIDAY GIFT DRIVE

NOVEMBER 17 - DECEMBER 16

CONTACT: CINSERRA@KIDSABOVEALL.ORG OR (847) 224-2870

Each year, Kids Above All holds our Holiday Gift Drive, working with generous individuals, as well as our community, corporate and faith partners, to provide toys, books and clothes to more than 1,600 young people who have experienced trauma.

Sponsor a Child

Purchase a gift for a child in our programs and help make their holiday wish come true. Contact Catherine at cinserra@kidsaboveall.org or (847) 224-2870 to receive more info and to set up a donation time.

Donate Toys via Amazon and Target Registries

The drive needs new, unwrapped toys, games, or books for children ages 0-24. Our 2025 Holiday Gift Drive [Amazon](#) and [Target](#) Registries are now available on our website to help guide the gift selection process for our children and youth.

Volunteer in our Toy Room

Our 2025 Toy Room will be at Kids Above All's Better Life Distribution Center, located at 1801 E. Oakton St. Des Plaines, IL 60018. Contact Catherine at cinserra@kidsaboveall.org to reserve your time to volunteer.

Make a Monetary Gift

We often need specific gifts as we approach the holidays. Make a financial contribution of \$50 to help us fill this year's gift gaps.



Visit kidsaboveall.org/holiday to access the Amazon and Target registries, to set up a time to volunteer or donate, and for other gift drive information.



Check out what other conferences are doing.

Read the Florida Conference Southwest District newsletter [HERE](#).

Read the Michigan Conference newsletter [HERE](#).

World Federation of Methodist and Uniting
Church Women Town Hall

Online registration [HERE](#)
or use the QR code below



The poster is for a 'Town Hall' event organized by the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women, North America Area. It features a green and black color scheme with various icons and text boxes. At the top left is a tree logo with the text 'TO KNOW CHRIST AND TO MAKE HIM KNOWN'. At the top right is a circular logo with an apple and the text 'GO AND BEAR FRUIT' and 'FRUIT THAT WILL LAST'. The main title 'Town Hall' is in large green letters. Below it, a green box says 'Come and learn at our upcoming Town Hall!'. To the left, a calendar icon indicates the event is on 'Saturday November 8, 2025', and a location pin icon says 'Online Via Zoom'. A green box states 'The Zoom Information for the Event will be emailed to you on November 1, 2025.' A clock icon shows the event is 'Starting At 11am - 4pm Eastern Time'. A green box with a hand cursor icon says 'Registration: \$55.00 (All Fees Included)' and a circular button says 'REGISTER NOW'. Below this, the text 'Workshops Topics Include:' is followed by four green circles, each with a white checkmark and a topic: 'Poverty: Leadership Development and Empowerment', 'Mental Health', 'Eliminating Domestic Violence', and 'Care of Creation'. At the bottom right is a QR code. A text box at the bottom says 'Click Here to Register or take a picture of the QR code!'.

World Federation of
Methodist and Uniting
Church Women

NORTH AMERICA AREA

Town Hall

Come and learn at our upcoming Town Hall!

 **Saturday**
November 8, 2025

 **Online Via Zoom**

The Zoom Information for the Event
will be emailed to you on November 1, 2025.

 **Starting At**
11am - 4pm
Eastern Time

 **Registration: \$55.00 (All Fees Included)**

REGISTER NOW

Workshops Topics Include:

-  Poverty: Leadership Development and Empowerment
-  Mental Health
-  Eliminating Domestic Violence
-  Care of Creation

Click Here to Register or take a picture of the QR code!



Legacy Endowment

NIC Legacy Team = Irma Clark, Lois Moreland-Dean, Linda Osikowicz, and Marilyn Steenyk

Dear Friends,

We wanted to share the July 2025 Legacy Conference Giving Report with you, please let us know if you have any questions.

The Legacy Endowment Fund Total is **\$51,183,300.00**



To view the Legacy Fund Report, please click [HERE](#).

For printable Legacy event promotion toolkit, please click [HERE](#).

Sign up for UWFaith text communications by texting **FAITH** to **20503**

For any questions related to this report please email directly to Legacy150@uwfaith.org.

Read a letter from the Legacy Team [HERE](#).

National

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT DAYS

Leadership Development Days is taking a pause this year. However, this is not a step back. It is a step forward!

We are making room for something new that will better support the faithful, wise, and unstoppable leadership of our members!

In the meantime, you can continue to grow and lead with the United Women in Faith [Leadership Toolkit](#) found on UWFaith Digital at <https://bit.ly/UWFLead>. It's easy to access from your computer, tablet, or phone, anytime and anywhere. Here you'll find helpful resources, practical guidance, inspiration, and recordings of past LeadershipDevelopment Days to fuel your unstoppable leadership journey.



Put Assembly 2026 on your calendar!

Come be transformed at Assembly 2026!
Visit UWFaith.org/Assembly to learn more!

Exciting plans are underway for the 22nd Assembly of United Women in Faith, May 15-17, 2026. We hope that you will be among the thousands of women attending this exciting celebration in Indianapolis, Indiana. The Assembly website contains a wealth of information and resources regarding the upcoming event. We invite you to visit the [WEBSITE](#). Assembly opens Friday, May 15 at 8:45 and ends Sunday by noon.

Registration is open and the \$365 early bird registration fee ends on November 30. Registration is online and any updates will be handled via email. There is an additional \$30 fee if you wish to register via paper. When you register you will be able to choose one workshop and one Town Hall Meeting Friday and Saturday. You may also register for the optional Soul Care Retreat for an additional \$99. The dinners Friday and Saturday night are also optional. Scholarships will be available.

Are you someone who would like to be a part of Assembly? Then you may be interested in these two options:

Attendee VIDEO Submission INVITATION

We want to hear your story! Assembly 2026 is looking for member stories to come to the Big Stage! If you have an exciting story to tell about how you “Dream it! Believe it! Do it!” we invite you to share a 30-second video recording for consideration to be played during one of our Community Gatherings. Click here to learn more and submit your story. Video submissions will be accepted until December 15.

If you have questions, please e-mail [Assembly Stories](#).
Submit your video story [HERE](#).

Celebrate Cultures and Gifts—Invitation to Perform

We invite any member or attendee choir, dance group, or other performing arts presentation to share cultural or other performances on the large stage as women gather for our Community Gatherings. Time slots are open during Friday afternoon, Saturday morning, and Saturday afternoon Community Gatherings. Please remember the below guidelines for this participation:

1. There is no time for rehearsal. You will enter the stage and perform at the assigned time and day.
2. Any pre-recorded music needed to accompany live dance or other live performances must be copyright cleared and e-mailed to us by April 15.
3. Presentations can last no more than 4 minutes.
4. We CANNOT cover any expenses for these performances. All performers must already be registered and attending Assembly 2026 at their own expense.

Please submit requests to perform [HERE](#) by March 1, 2026.

Tips for Writing and Speaking Our Name - United Women in Faith

This is the order for writing our name to avoid confusing it with a district name:

- First write our organization name, second write the location (from largest to smallest, if more than one), then the event & year or person.
- Example: United Women in Faith Northern Illinois Conference Prairie Central president Lois Lane
- Example: UWFaith NIC leadership team 2025 UWFaith PC secretary Betty White
- Example: United Women in Faith NIC Spiritual Growth Retreat 2025 at Park Ridge: First

Note that there is no “of” or extra “in”. Note that there is no three-letter abbreviation; please use UWFaith.

The district abbreviation is only two letters: LN, LS, PC, PN, or PS.

Our National office recommends using our full name first in written documents. Then later in the text, you could use UWFaith.

Happy writing! UWFaith NIC secretary, Lois Voss

Connect with United Women in Faith
NICConference:



Connect with United Women in Faith
Globally:



Submission deadline: 15th of the month

Send to: [Shelly Davenport](#), Communications Coordinator

United Women in Faith NIC [email](#) | United Women in Faith NIC [website](#) |
United Women in Faith [website](#)

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