



United
Women
in Faith

INSIGHT

Northern Illinois Conference

December 2025

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 2025

01 --- PN District Leadership Team
05 --- LN District Leadership Team
08 --- LS District Leadership Team
08 --- PC, PN, PS group planning meeting
16 --- Zoom training

January 2026

11 --- Winter Mission u opening ceremony
25 --- Winter Mission u closing ceremony

For More Detailed Information and Future Events:

[View the Google Calendar](#)

President's Report

By Barb Farley

Quote from Howard Thurman: "Therefore, I will bring to my day, as commonplace and insignificant as it may seem, the fullest mind, the greatest purpose, and the most significant intent of which I am capable, because my time is not merely mine, but because my time is in His hands as well." Our United Women in Faith time is now! We have had an outstanding year, culminating in a gathering of women from three different states at our UWFaith NIC Annual Celebration. Sally Vonner was an inspiration to all who attended our two-day event!



Our legacy is empowering us to move forward! With our super power, Love, and by "letting go and letting God", we are putting one foot in front of the other and we are leading with love! We celebrated the formation of a new UWFaith unit in Lake South and continue to learn together in our Mission u as we have inspired our Bishop, Dan Schwerin, to proclaim 2026 as the year of "Practicing Hope" for our Northern Illinois and Wisconsin conferences!

Now, we have the opportunity to learn more about how to lead Zoom meetings and the power of togetherness over the internet as our two conference leaders in the tech world, Beth Jayapalan and Erica McIntosh, lead us in a Zoom tutorial on December 16 at 5:00!! This is a wonderful opportunity to learn to use Zoom as a unifying tool for our meetings. Please contact either Beth or Erica to participate in this educational and fun way to learn to connect with each other as United Women in Faith!

[Beth Jayapalan](#)
[Erica McIntosh](#)

Also, please remember to register for the Quadrennial Assembly, Indianapolis May (14) 15-17, 2026! uwfaith.org/assembly - "Dream it! Believe it! Do It!" See you there!!

Assembly 2026

By Linda Osikowicz



Have you registered for Assembly?

Assembly is a celebration of who we are and what we can achieve together. It is our chance to unite, recharge, deepen our faith, and make a difference. Your Assembly experience will include:

- Inspiring keynotes including Stacey Abrams and her mom Rev. Carolyn Abrams.
- Dynamic conversations with the Women in Leadership Panel.
- Worship rooted in justice and joy
- Workshops to build practical skills for your ministry and community (choose one for each day)
 - The bookstore, the folk-art auction and so much more in the Exhibit Hall
 - Connection with thousands of women—because when women of faith gather, we are unstoppable!

Visit the [website](http://uwfaith.org/assembly) to find more information and to register. In addition to the two workshops you will register for a Town Hall meeting each day and there are five community gatherings during the three days. Assembly begins at 8:45 on Friday May 15, ends Sunday, May 17, at noon. A link to make room reservations will appear at the end of your registration. Registration closes April 14, 2026.

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

Assembly Scholarships

Each district will be offering scholarship/s. Please take advantage of this opportunity. For information about your district's scholarship contact:

Lake North: [Fay Bennet](#) or [Beth Carroll](#)

Lake South: [Wendy Miller](#) or [Lillye Hart](#)

Prairie Central: see form below

Prairie North: [Karen Andrus](#) or [Linda Truckenmiller-Krum](#)

Prairie South: see form below

Applications will be due January 15, 2026 and recipients will be notified on or before February 15, 2026.

Applications from individuals who do not receive a district scholarship will be forwarded to the UWFaith NIC treasurer for consideration for scholarships from UWFaith North Central Jurisdiction.

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.

Still more questions? Contact the NIC Assembly Liaison:

[Linda Osikowicz](#)

630-569-2763 (please leave a message)

Prairie Central District Scholarship Form [HERE](#).

Prairie South District Scholarship Information [HERE](#). (form will download)

**United Women in Faith
Leadership Calendar 2026**

Construction is Underway!

What? United Women in Faith Northern Illinois Conference 2026 Yearbook & Directory

When? Now in November & December 2025 for early January mailing

Why? This is a resource of information for all leaders at all levels of UWFaith.

Where? On my computer, using Google Docs & sheets, & Microsoft Word & Excel, I create this booklet of information updated each year.

HOW? *WITH YOUR HELP!* Please respond PROMPTLY to my emails or those of your district leaders. We want to be accurate!

Over the last month, your leaders received an email asking for your current information. By completing the form in less than 5 minutes, your contact information was added to a spreadsheet hanging out in my cloud. I can then easily proofread, edit, and create the directory. If I missed seeing your data, I asked again. If you think I missed you, please follow this link to share your information: this [link](#).

Either your district secretary or another district leader is collecting the same information from our newly elected local unit officers. Please check to see that your unit has now completed this task.

Thank you for your help in completing this task!

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](#).

Online registration [HERE](#).



Save the Dates

Winter Learning Event

January 11-25, 2026

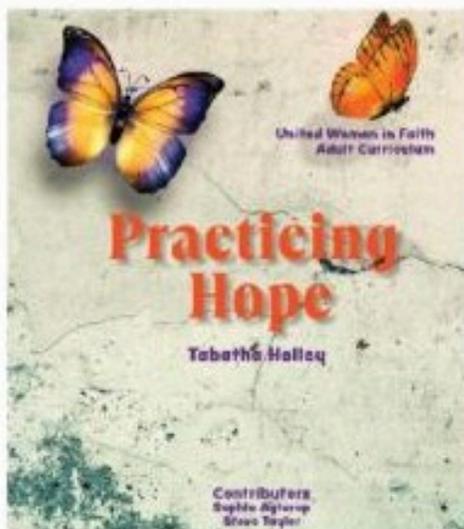
virtual only

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)

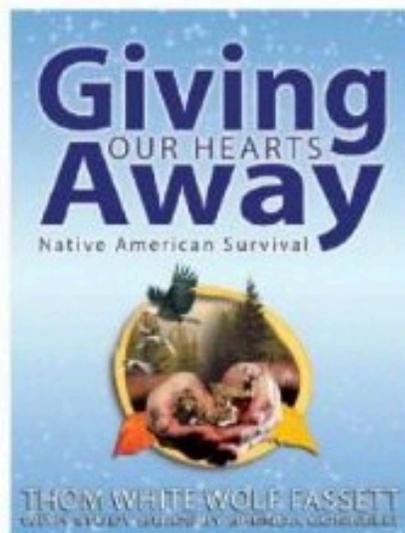
Our Studies...



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)

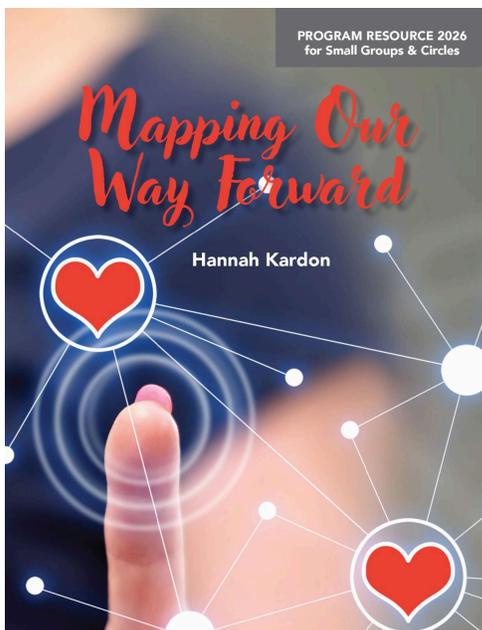
Presented by

*United Women in Faith
Northern Illinois Conference*



United
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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



The hustle and bustle of the holiday season is upon us! We hope it will be filled with fun and a time to create wonderful memories for you and those you hold dear. As always, we would appreciate your support!

How can you help?

Shop for a specific youth

If you are interested in helping make this season special for a specific youth, like Marcus, we can provide you with specific items from their wish list. Contact Colleen Combes at ccombes@cunninghamhome.org or 217.337.9058.



Purchase Gifts from our Christmas Wish List

Our wish list is full of gift ideas that are requested by our youth. You can help fulfill Christmas wishes by shopping from our general Christmas wish list. Please deliver all unwrapped gifts to the Spiritual Life Center at 1301 N. Cunningham Avenue in Urbana by Friday, December 12th. You can also shop from our [Amazon Christmas wish list](#) (updated frequently) and have items shipped directly to Cunningham. Wish lists are available [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 Desert Southwest Conference newsletter [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 Leadership Development Days to fuel your unstoppable leadership journey.

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
NIConference:



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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