



United
Women
in Faith

INSIGHT

Northern Illinois Conference

February 2026

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 2026

06 --- LN District Leadership Team
13 --- PC, PN, PS Districts Joint Planning meeting
21 --- PC, PN, PS - *Prayer on the Prairie*
24 --- PC District Leadership Team
28 --- LS District Meeting

March 2026

03 --- [Estate Planning Concepts for Women Philanthropists](#)
06 --- World Day of Prayer - Church Women United
06 --- LN District Leadership Team
07 --- [NIC Leadership Team](#)
07 --- Sewing Event and Collection Drive for Girls4Girls Ghana, Inc.
09 --- LS District Leadership Team
13 --- PN District Leadership Team
14 --- World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women
16 --- PS District Leadership Team
21 --- UMC NIC Laity Convocation
23 --- [Day of Giving - Legacy Fund](#)
24 --- PC District Leadership Team
27 --- LN District Leadership Team

For More Detailed Information and Future Events:

[View the Google Calendar](#)

Assembly 2026

By Linda Osikowicz

United Women in Faith

ASSEMBLY 2026
May 15-17, 2026
Indianapolis, Indiana
uwfaith.org/assembly

**Dream it!
Believe it!
Do it!**

United Women in Faith Assembly: Workshops, Worship and more!

Assembly happens every four years--make this your year to attend! Registration continues; part of your registration is to choose one Workshop and one Town Hall for Friday and

Saturday. Workshops are many and varied! Here's just a sampling of almost forty to choose from:

- Smokin' in the Boys' Room: Exploring Secular Music to Feed Our Soul -- This workshop will begin with rock and roll and move through an adventure of even more music: country, rap, classical, and maybe a little Rat Pack. We will explore the lives of a few artists to discover if their religious or nonreligious upbringing can be seen underlying any of their most famous works.
- Deepen Your Prayer Life: Where Creativity and Faith Come Together! -- Whether looking to deepen your spiritual journey, create a visual reminder of God's promises, or organize prayer requests for yourself and others, this workshop will help.
- Holy Well-Being: Nurturing Ourselves as we Serve -- We will reflect on what it means to be well as we serve, how to cultivate resilience, and how to embrace self-care as a faithful and necessary practice and discipline.

You can learn more and register at assembly.uwfaith.org.

Here are four 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
4. Unit: most likely the name of your church, such as Naperville: Wesley UWFaith

From the Assembly website, you may also make a [room reservation](#). You'll see the list of hotels that have room blocks for Assembly. Scroll down a bit and click on "Reserve Housing." That will take you to a page that asks you to select attendee type. If you put in "Northern Illinois Conference" it will just show the JW Marriott, which is where NIC has a block of rooms. But, if you choose "attendee" (the fourth choice in the alphabetical list), and click "make reservation" it will take you to a page where you select your check-in and check-out dates, room, and number of guests. Then click "Search" on the far right and all the hotels will be shown and you can see their prices and check their availability.

Also, some have asked about rooming with another person. If you are interested in having a roommate--it helps to share expenses--please contact [Linda Osikowicz](#). If you have a room reservation, she will contact you with a list of those looking for a roommate and you can decide if you want to reach out to them. If you are looking to room with someone, please let her know that, too, and she will add you to the list of those looking for a roommate.

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.

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 Bennett](#) or [Beth Carroll](#)

Lake South: see form below

Prairie Central: see form below

Prairie North: see form below

Prairie South: see form below

Still have more questions? Contact the NIC Assembly Liaison:

[Linda Osikowicz](#)

630-569-2763 (please leave a message)

Lake South District Scholarship Form [HERE](#).

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

Prairie North District Scholarship Information [HERE](#).

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

Estate Planning Concepts for Women Philanthropists

Did you know that women are the biggest givers? With more personal and financial freedom than ever before, what responsibility do we have as women of faith? What kind of legacy do you want to leave? Are your estate plans in order so that you can avoid any potholes, and your final wishes will be met? Whatever your age, this interactive workshop will help you answer these questions and more. We will discuss what it means to leave a Legacy, financial freedom, women and giving, and the spiritual act of giving. Feel empowered as you learn about bequests, what to have in order when meeting with an attorney or financial advisor, how to uncover hidden assets, and where to find free financial planning resources.

One of the wisest things we can do is to take the time now to create a thoughtful financial plan that distributes our assets the way we want and leaves a legacy of love and caring. When we plan, we find that our ability to share grows. Come and celebrate the Power of Women Philanthropists.

For more information, contact:

[Marilyn Steenwyk](#), 708-638-2477 or

[Linda Osikowicz](#), 630-569-2763

Please leave a message if calling.



Estate Planning Concepts for Women Philanthropists

Tuesday, March 3, 2026
7:00 pm CT via Zoom



Click [HERE](#) to view the flyer and register.

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](#)

MAKE AN IMPACT

Tell Congress: Don't Stand by While Immigrant Communities Are Under Attack

Email Your Legislators Today

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](#)

Happening In the Districts

Lake South District



In person registration, continental breakfast and program resources are available beginning at **9 AM**.



Saturday - February 28, 2026



Downers Grove First UMC
1032 Maple Avenue
Downers Grove, IL 60515



9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

[REGISTER ONLINE TODAY](#)

REGISTRATION FEE | \$5.00

REGISTER BY FEBRUARY 23, 2026

[REGISTER ONLINE](#)

Prairie Central, Prairie North, and Prairie South
Prayer on the Prairie



United
Women
in Faith

United Women in Faith
Prairie Central
Prairie North &
Prairie South Districts

Invite you to a joint, virtual event

Prayer on the Prairie

Saturday, February 21, 2026, 9:00-11:00 am



Our morning will include:

Styles of Prayer to carry you into Lent. Build your Resources List.
Bring your ideas to share.

Learn about Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House,
a National Mission Institution in East St. Louis.

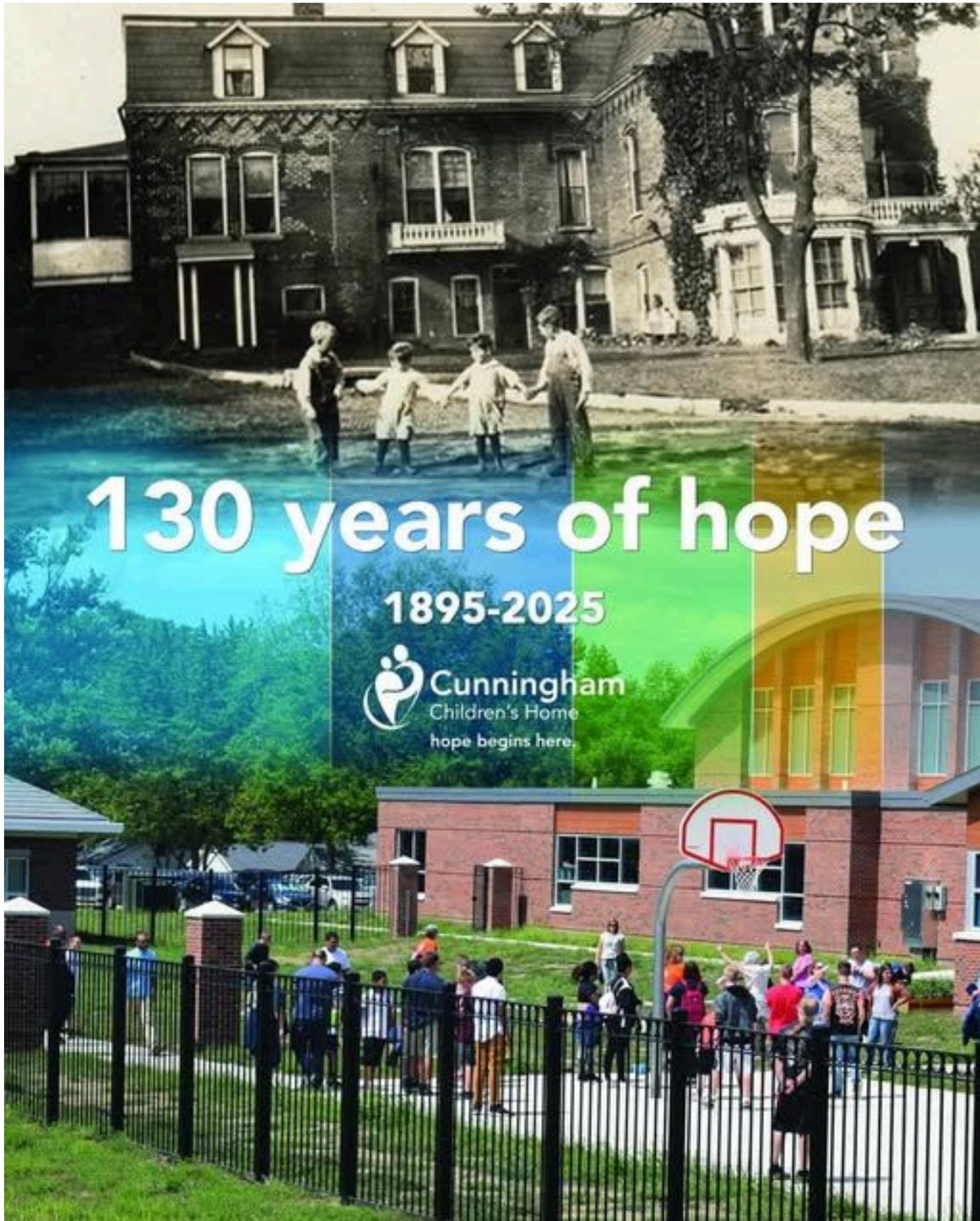
Please register via a Google form-- <https://forms.gle/FjJNwrqRasNRzCV68>
or by emailing Linda Osikowicz, Lmosikowicz@comcast.net

There is no fee for the event but offerings may be sent to your district treasurer. You may direct your offering to Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House or to your district's Pledge to Mission. Contact information for your treasurer will be sent with the Zoom link.

Do you have a favorite prayer practice? We would be happy to include it in the prayer resource that will be shared. Please send your thoughts to [Lois Voss](#) by February 12.

Register HERE

Community



As a National Mission Institution of United Women in Faith, Cunningham Children's Home in Urbana, Illinois, is continually reminded that our ministry exists because women like you choose—again and again—to show up for children and families in need.

For more than 130 years, Cunningham has been a place of safety, healing, and hope for children and families navigating incredibly difficult circumstances. Your faithful generosity and unwavering commitment make it possible for us to walk alongside them, not only in moments of crisis, but throughout the long journey toward stability, wholeness, and success.

We are deeply grateful for the women of United Women in Faith who carry our mission forward with compassion and courage. If you'll be at Assembly 2026, we invite you to stop by our booth in the exhibit hall. We would love to meet you, say thank you, and share how your support is changing lives every day.



The flyer features a green and white color scheme. At the top left is a circular logo with a tree and 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 FRUIT THAT WILL LAST". The main title "World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women" is in green, with "NORTH AMERICA AREA" in white on a dark blue background below it. The word "Town Hall" is written in large green letters. Below it, the text "Come and learn at our upcoming Town Hall!" is in black. The event details are listed in green and white boxes: "Saturday March 28, 2026" with a calendar icon, "Online Via Zoom" with a location pin icon, and "Starting At 11am - 4pm Eastern Time" with a clock icon. A green box states "Registration: \$55.00 (All Fees Included)". A "REGISTER NOW" button with a hand cursor icon is also present. The "Workshops Topics Include:" section lists five topics in green circles with checkmarks: "Poverty: Leadership Development and Empowerment", "Mental Health", "Eliminating Domestic Violence", and "Care of Creation". A QR code is located at the bottom right, with the text "Click Here to Register or take a picture of the QR code!" next to it. On the right side, there is a red apple graphic with the text "Women Empowered to Bear Fruit" and a circular illustration of three women's faces.

World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women
NORTH AMERICA AREA

Town Hall

Come and learn at our upcoming Town Hall!

Saturday
March 28, 2026

Online Via Zoom

The Zoom Information for the Event will be emailed to you on March 20, 2026.

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!



[VIEW THE SCHEDULE HERE](#)

[REGISTER HERE](#)

[Join Us for a Sewing Event and Collection Drive](#)



Hosted by United Women in Faith,
Barrington UMC

We are thrilled to invite you to a special Sewing Event and Collection Drive in support of **Girls 4 Girls (G4G) Ghana, Inc.** This impactful event will take place on:

Date: Saturday, March 7

Time: 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Location: Barrington United Methodist Church

Address: 98 Algonquin Rd., Barrington, IL 60010

About Girls 4 Girls Ghana, Inc.:

G4G Ghana is dedicated to reducing poverty by providing essential needs and education, fostering the development of mind, body, and soul. A significant challenge faced by many young girls living in remote villages in Africa is the lack of access to sanitary supplies, which results in school absenteeism during their menstrual cycles. By creating reusable cloth maxi pads, G4G aims to empower these girls to remain in school and focus on their education. Founded in 2018 by Dina Amoo, a Ghanaian native and healthcare professional from Woodstock, IL, G4G is committed to making a difference.

What to Expect:

During the event, volunteers will cut fabric and assemble materials to create reusable sanitary pads. Although sewing skill is not required, we will have sewing machines available for those who know how to sew, and we encourage participants who do to bring their own machines, if possible.

How You Can Help:

We are seeking donations of fabric and supplies, including:

1. Cotton Flannel, 50-100 yards or more (can be purchased from Hobby Lobby or other stores) - solids and prints, prewashed and ironed if possible.
2. 1 Mil PUL fabric, 25-50 yards (polyurethane laminate; can be purchased from wazoodle.com)
3. Zorb Silver Fabric, 25-50 yards (can be purchased from wazoodle.com, search for "Zorb Original Silver")
4. Plastic Snaps and snap pliers set (similar to this item, can be purchased from Amazon, approximately 10 packages)
5. All-purpose Gutermann Thread -All colors

These supplies can be brought to the church on the day of the event or ordered for delivery to Barrington United Methodist Church. Any contribution, large or small, is greatly appreciated!

Additional Needs:

In addition to sanitary supplies, we are also collecting girls' cotton underwear. G4G aims to collect over 5,000 pieces of girls' underwear (girls' size 12-18, or adult female sizes 5-8, preferably 100% cotton) by 2026. Donations can be brought to the church or ordered for delivery.

Join Us!

We hope you will join us for an afternoon of sewing and community service. Your donations will make this day even more special and impactful! View the flyer [HERE](#).

For questions or more information, please contact [Linda Osikowicz](#)



Check out what other conferences are doing.

Read the CAL-PAC Pacific Waves newsletter [HERE](#).
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.

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](#)

[Sign up for E-News](#)

United Women in Faith of NIC Conference | 303 E. Wacker Dr., Suite 2020 | Chicago, IL 60601 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!