



United
Women
in Faith

INSIGHT

Northern Illinois Conference

March 2026

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 2026

03 --- Estate Planning Concepts for Women Philanthropists
03 --- Committee on Nominations Meeting
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 Observance Day
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
28 --- World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women Town Hall

April 2026

05 ---Easter
06 --- LS District Leadership Team
11 --- LS District Spring Meeting
14 --- Committee on Nominations Meeting
18 --- LN District Spring Meeting
18 --- PN District Spring Meeting
18 --- PS District Spring Meeting
28 --- PC District Leadership Team

May 2026

01 --- LN District Leadership Team
01 --- PN Leadership Team
02 --- NIC Leadership Team
05 --- Committee on Nominations Meeting
11 --- LS District Leadership Team
14 --- Optional Day at Assembly
15,16,17 --- Assembly
18 --- PS District Leadership Team
19 --- Committee on Nominations Meeting
26 --- PC District Leadership Team

For More Detailed Information and Future Events:

[View the Google Calendar](#)

President's Report

By Barb Farley

I write this entering the Lenten season of prayerful effectiveness, study, and anchoring oneself in the Gospel. We, sisters in Christ, proclaim our active faith as we work to improve the lives of women, children, and youth in our communities and around the world! United Women in Faith Northern Illinois Conference is well on the way to our goal of 120 UWFaith sisters and brothers attending Assembly. "Dream it! Believe it! Do it!" is this year's theme, and I am excited to see how the Spirit will lead us forward to new opportunities! There are scholarship funds available for first-time attendees through the districts, so please spread the word and contact your district presidents to increase our attendance at Assembly. For those artistic sisters, there will be a Folk Art silent auction at Assembly! We have half a table to



display artwork. If your unit has a speciality item you would like to donate, please contact [me](#).

I am excited to make sure you know that our United Women in Faith General Secretary and CEO, Sally Vonner, will be the study leader for the UMC NIC Annual Conference Bible study in June in Schaumburg, Illinois! How fortunate to have Sally back with us again! As the schedule becomes available, you will hear more about attending these specific events.

I want to thank those who alerted me to another phishing scam using my name. I have made a police report but know that I will not send out emails asking for money. Please always check the email address at the top to make sure it is legitimate for all requests.

As always, blessings for this Lenten Journey time. May we all use this precious time to rest, reflect, and move boldly forward, planting and nurturing seeds of hope - one foot in front of the other!

Assembly 2026

By Linda Osikowicz



United Women in Faith Assembly is approaching fast!

Excitement is growing for the “Dream it! Believe it! Do it!” 2026 Assembly in Indianapolis, Indiana. Here are just some of the offerings to look forward to.

Included in the long list of speakers are Bishop Tracy S. Malone and Stacy Abrams and her mother, Rev. Carolyn Abrams. As part of their appearance, Stacey Abrams and the Rev. Carolyn Abrams have offered to take questions from attendees. Please submit your questions to [Assembly Keynote](#) by March 15, for consideration.

Join the **Leadership Fair** at Assembly 2026! Discover leadership opportunities, meet inspiring member leaders, learn how you can get involved, and take your next step. Whether you’re exploring, growing, or ready to lead, there’s something for everyone. Be there Friday, May 15 at 6:30 p.m. ET in the Assembly Video Lounge and be inspired!

The **Assembly Bookstore** is where you can find the latest Mission u curricula, Program Resource, Daily Prayer Guide, issues of **response**, and more! Come meet with national staff as you browse through valuable print resources and more United Women in Faith-branded souvenirs! Resources and products from partner agencies, and opportunities to purchase signed author copies will also be available. Several authors will be attending Assembly and signing books, including Ashley Boggan, Liz Theoharis, Father Lizzie, and Deaconess Whitney Simpson. **response** editors Audrey Stanton-Smith and Maryann Verghese will help you create a personal photo on the cover of response.

Find respite in the **Prayer and Meditation Space**. Thanks to our Deaconesses and Home Missioners, our prayer space will offer a variety of prayer stations, hands-on activities, reflection area, and labyrinth.

This year's Assembly Experience Hall will include a **Folk Art Auction**—featuring YOU! Each conference will have half a table to offer 1-3 folk art items for a silent auction to raise money for Mission Giving. Folk art is handmade artwork (decorative and/or practical), often from grassroots origins, expressing a region or a people. Think quilts, ornaments, pottery, paintings, dolls, shawls, carvings, toys, jewelry, etc. If you would like to donate something, please contact [Barb Farley](#).

Finally, a **Photo App!** At Assembly 2026, we are bringing the experience to life with a United Women in Faith member-powered photo album through the PHOTOCIRCLE App! Start taking photos now, from travel moments to sisterhood memories and continue capturing the journey in Indianapolis. Scan the following QR code to get access to the United Women in Faith Assembly 2026 Album or download in your App Store.



Still have more questions? Contact the NIC Assembly Liaison:

[Linda Osikowicz](#)

630-569-2763 (please leave a message)

[SEE ASSEMBLY SCHEDULE 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.

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](#)



SINCE
1911

U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants - KNOW-YOUR-RIGHTS

A Guide for Survivors of Human Trafficking, Asylum Seekers, Parolees, and Immigrants Regardless of immigration status, all individuals in the United States have guaranteed rights under the Constitution. The following guide is to inform survivors of human trafficking, asylum seekers, parolees, and other immigrants of their legal rights in various situations with law enforcement and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

View the Survivor Guide [HERE](#).

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.

There is also a virtual page at bookshop.org/shop/uwfaith where you can browse and purchase most of the 2026 Reading Program books while earning 10% back to United Women in Faith to support our work.

[Click Here to View and Download](#)

Mission u - Save the Date

[Mission u Save the Date pdf flyer](#)



Mission u

Save the Dates

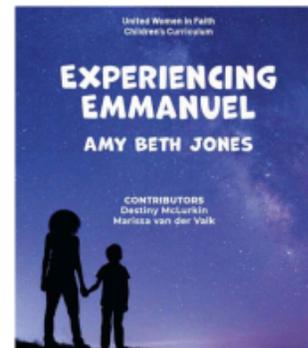
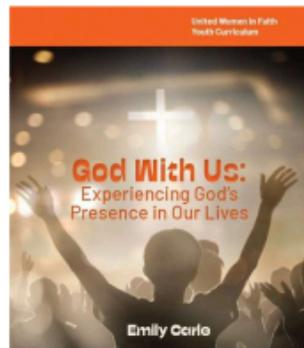
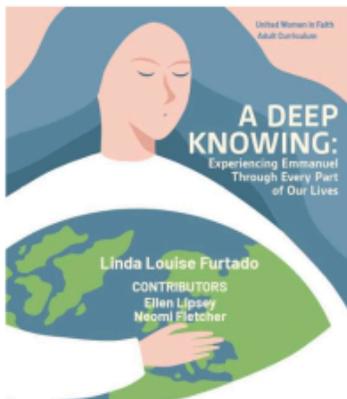
Weekend: July 10-12, 2026 *

Stronghold Camp, Conference & Retreat Center
1922 IL RT 2 North, Oregon IL 61061

Join us at Mission u as we explore the theme, Experiencing Emmanuel. The study will focus on the times in the Bible when people experienced Emmanuel, or "God with us."

- How do we discern God's presence and call on our lives in times of joy and in times of sadness, fear, or anxiety?
- What can we learn from these Emmanuel encounters in the Bible to help inform our discernment to faith, hope, and love in action?

Studies:



One-Day: TBD (watch for our news updates)

*Please note that this is NOT the weekend that we often attend, so check/mark your calendar.

Happening In the Districts

[Lake North District](#)

[See the Flyer Here](#)

Registration Form Here

Online Registration Here



United
Women
in Faith

Northern Illinois Conference
Lake North District
Spiritual Growth Celebration
Saturday, 18th April 2026
9:00 am to 2:00 pm

“Indigenous Spirituality and Soul Care”

Native cultures are: Diverse, Interesting, and Still Here!

First Korean UMC

655 East Hintz Road, Wheeling, IL 60090

Saturday, 18th April

8:30 am **Registration** with light morning refreshments

9:00 am to **Program:** Featuring, Kimberly Sigafus

2:00 pm Her Ojibwa name, 'Bekaadiziikwe' means, 'Quiet Woman'
There will be worship, communion, lunch and Soul Care activities

\$15.00 Fee, per person (inquire about available scholarships)

RSVP by: 7th April 2026

Registration forms found at the Website for UWFaith NIC: www.uwfaithnic.org

Questions contact: Susan Greenberg
708-256-1819
sqg55@yahoo.com



Kimberly Sigafus



Audrey Hepburn Comes to Life at "Tiffany Breakfast"

Join UWFaith at Park Ridge: First UMC for a light brunch as award-winning scholar and actress Leslie Goddard brings Audrey Hepburn to life. In this dramatic portrayal set in 1989 Switzerland, Hepburn welcomes guests and shares stories of her childhood, Hollywood career, UNICEF humanitarian work, and her personal journey to find love and overcome her fears.

Leslie Goddard has been presenting history programs for more than twenty years. She brings memorable women in history to life, making lessons from the past entertaining, educational, and inspiring. She is a former museum director, author of three history books and holds degrees in American Studies, U.S. history and theater.

Our United Women in Faith
will host a "Tiffany Breakfast" featuring
Leslie Goddard
her living history portrayal of

Audrey Hepburn

Saturday, March 7 at 10:00 AM



Tickets \$40 per person
Call the office to reserve:

847-825-3144



Lake South District

Mark your calendar for the Lake South Spring Meeting. We'll meet on Saturday, April 11. Please plan to join us for a time to renew our spirits and enjoy fellowship. Watch for more information!

Prairie North

Mark your calendar for the Prairie North Spring Meeting. We will meet on Saturday, April 18, at 9:30 a.m. at Belvidere: First UMC. Please plan to join us for a time to renew our spirits and enjoy fellowship. Watch for more information!

Prairie South

Mark your calendar for the Prairie Sout Spring Meeting. We'll meet on Saturday, April 18, at 9:30 am at Dixon: Grace UMC. Please plan to join us for a time to renew our spirits and enjoy fellowship. Watch for more information!

Korean UMW



Pictures submitted by Barb Farley



Serving Up Hope!

By Brooke Buzard Watson

For a child arriving at Cunningham—often carrying fear, uncertainty, and loss—a quilt can be the very first sign that they are safe and deeply cared for. For 130 years, our Cunningham community has been shaped by this simple, yet powerful, tradition started in 1895 by the United Women in Faith and quilters across Illinois. Each quilt wraps a child in love and comfort, offering reassurance and the reminder that they are never alone.

The quilting tradition continues this spring, and we are delighted to see you again at the 22nd Festival of Quilts on April 10–11. We hope you'll join us—by attending, volunteering, encouraging your unit to participate, or simply spreading the word!

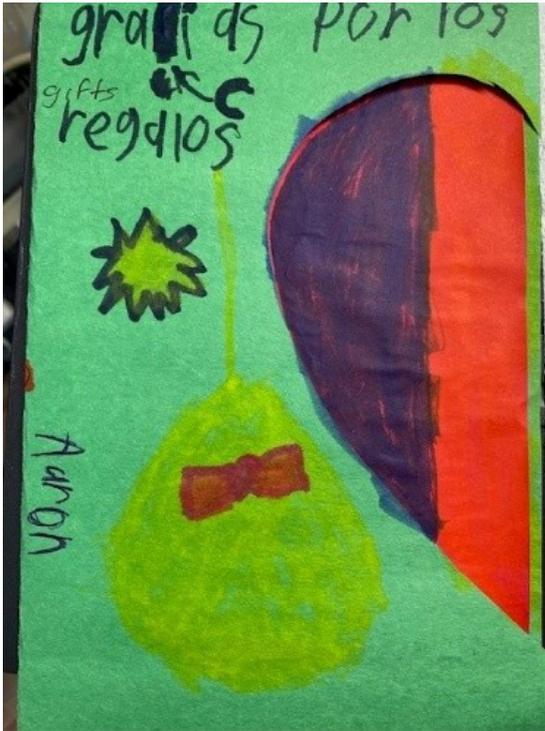


Read more about the 22nd Annual Festival of Quilts [HERE](#).





Angie Sauer, Kids Above All therapist with Counseling Solutions in Lake County, asked her clients to make thank you cards. Here are a couple of cards expressing gratitude. So, I share them with you to express my gratitude. Thank you, United Women in Faith, for all the ways you continue to step up for our kids impacted by poverty, violence, and injustice. These are strange and challenging times. I don't need to tell you. Not only did you contribute to ensuring 1,723 kids received gifts during the recent holidays, but you volunteer (First UMC Park Ridge, Trinity UMC Mt Prospect, Renewed Hope UMC, Chicago, Downers Grove First), make cards to sell for mission giving (First Lombard and Villa Park), give gift cards to address food insecurity (Grace UMC Lake Bluff), send a check for general support (UWFaith LSD), promote our 132 year's mission in your units (Wesley UMC, Aurora, Naperville Grace, President Karen, PND), and so much more.



I look forward to seeing many of you at the UWFaith Assembly in Indianapolis where I will be presenting a workshop entitled *Embodying the Lord's Prayer for Action and Advocacy*. We will have much to celebrate and even more to learn.

Lastly, consider inviting me to speak for a UWFaith Sunday, unit meeting, or district event. Or, talk with me about a visit to our Better Life Distribution Center. May the children's artwork warm your heart! You are warming the hearts of countless children through your selfless giving and commitment to UWFaith, 157 years strong.

Thank you for your faith,

Deaconess Catherine Inserra
Manager of Faith & Community Relations
cinserra@kidsaboveall.org



World Federation
of Methodist and
Uniting Church Women

**World
Federation of
Methodist and
Uniting Church
Women**



Observance Day

The World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women (WFMUCW) is an association of Wesley based denominations that are active locally, nationally, and internationally. Each spring local members of the four denominations (African Methodist Episcopal [AME], African Methodist Episcopal Zion [AMEZ], Christian Methodist Episcopal Church [CME], and United Methodist Church [UMC]) gather for a day of worship, study, and fellowship. Hosting honors rotate and the women of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church are the 2026 hosts.

The focus of the day's study is inequality, poverty, and suffering. The theme is: "Weaving Webs of Hope: Just and Healthy Communities."

The event is: Saturday, March 14th

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m.

Meeting and Worship from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. with fellowship lunch following

Location: Allen Metropolitan Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, 10946 S Lowe Ave., Chicago, IL 60628

Cost: \$20.00 per person

Deadline: March 4, 2026

If you wish to pay by credit card click [here](#).

See [registration form](#) for further questions and details.

Get a car pool going and register for this exciting event.

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](http://Amazon.com), 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. View the flyer [HERE](#).

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

Thank you for your support!



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](#)



Check out what other
conferences are doing.

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



Day of Giving 2026: How to Give & Celebrate

Day of Giving, March 23, 2026, is our opportunity to gather together as one sisterhood to thank God for the continued grace shown to United Women in Faith, by giving to ensure the future of our vital mission work to improve the lives of women, children, and youth at home and abroad. We invite you to join us and show your appreciation for God's **Grace in Abundance** with your generous gift.

- Live phone lines will be open to accept your gifts on Monday, March 23, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST – call 1-800-278-7771.
- Give securely online at bit.ly/DayofGiving2026.
- Checks can be mailed to United Women in Faith, Attn: Day of Giving, Church Center for the United Nations, 777 United Nations Plaza, 11th Floor, New York, NY 10017. Please put "**Day of Giving**" in the memo line of the check.
- Text "Give" to [20503](https://text.20503.com).
- Consider giving a planned gift through your estate. Visit uwfgift.org for more information.
- Watch for our live Facebook feeds and updates throughout the day and from throughout the country.
- Plan your own Day of Giving celebration and let us know about it by emailing CCampos@uwfaith.org. We are highlighting various celebrations throughout the country.
- Scan this QR code to give now!



Give online here

View the flyer here

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](#)

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

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