



United  
Women  
in Faith

# INSIGHT

Northern Illinois Conference



**April 2026**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### 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

### June 2026

02 --- Committee on Nominations Meeting  
05 --- LN District Leadership Team  
14-16 --- UMC NIC Annual Conference  
16 --- Committee on Nominations Meeting  
17 --- PN District Spring Meeting  
23 --- PS District Leadership Team

### July 2026

07 --- Committee on Nominations Meeting  
10-12 --- Summer Mission u  
25 --- Korean Language Day  
27 --- PS District Leadership Team

**For More Detailed Information  
and Future Events:**

[View the Google Calendar](#)

## President's Report

*By Barb Farley*

Easter greetings to all United Women in Faith sisters. Our Lenten journey is about to end, and we, as Easter people, will boldly continue with our mission work for women, children, and youth. I am energized by the many, many sisters behind the scenes who steadily work to continue the legacy that our foremothers laid before us. I encourage you all to read the March/April issue of **response** magazine as it importantly lists, explains, and visually maps our missions around the world. It is truly enlightening and exciting to see how and where we make a difference to women, children, and youth. Also, please check out - [uwfaith.org/who-we-are/financials](http://uwfaith.org/who-we-are/financials), find the tab, "Where the Money Goes" to be inspired!



I look forward to seeing many of you at Assembly. I give thanks for this season of resurrection and pray that it leads us to put love into action each day.

## Assembly 2026

*By Linda Osikowicz*



### **United Women in Faith Assembly is approaching fast!**

There is still time to register for Assembly 2026 — Dream it! Believe it! Do it! — and we hope you will be part of this extraordinary gathering.

Assembly is more than an event. It is a sacred space to reconnect with purpose, grow in faith, worship in community, and be inspired for the work ahead. Women from across the country and around the world will come together to learn, sing, pray, and encourage one another in bold living and faithful action.

Throughout the event, you will experience dynamic keynote messages, meaningful conversations, and opportunities to renew your spirit alongside nearly 4,000 United Women in Faith sisters.

Registration deadline is April 14. Already registered? There's still time to invite a friend!

Are you still planning your travel plans or accommodations? If you would like to carpool--or if you have room to add someone to your car--please let [Linda Osikowicz](#) know. If you would like a roommate or are looking to share a room, let her know that as well. She will contact you and you may make arrangements if you so desire. If you need to make changes to a room you reserved in the NIC block, you may call Visit Indy customer care agents at: 317-262-8191 Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET

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](#)

## Order Your 2026 Yearbook

The United Women in Faith Northern Illinois Conference Annual 2026 Yearbook & Directory is a password-protected document highlighting resources of conference, district, and local leadership, plus church, jurisdiction, and national information! You will also find our calendar, budget, standing rules, resources, past presidents, mission personnel, and deaconesses. New this year is the addition of our Charter for Racial Justice.

Paper copies cost \$4.60 if picked up or \$7.30 if mailed to you.

- Order on Cheddar Up to pay by credit card: [HERE](#)
- Mail a check payable to UWFaith NIC with your request to Lois Voss, 401 Crest Dr., Cary, IL 60013.

Each local unit president can receive a paper copy at no charge.

The online version is password-protected on our website. To receive the password, contact [Lois Voss](#) or [Shelly Davenport](#).

You will be able to download the document and print any pages you like (please save paper and print only what you need). Do not share with unauthorized people.

## Leave a Legacy

Find National UWFaith estate planning guide [HERE](#).

Here is our NIC Legacy Committee:

[Irma Clark](#)

[Lois Moreland-Dean](#)

[Linda Osikowicz](#)

[Marilyn Steenwyk](#)

Contact at UWfaith National Executive for Development and Donor Relations:

[Christi Campos](#)

This is the United Women in Faith website: <https://uwfgift.org/> that has information about gift planning.

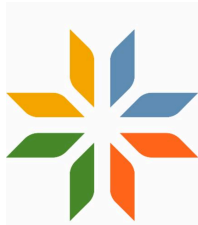
Please let us know if you have questions and/or comments.

For more information, contact:

[Marilyn Steenwyk](#)

[Linda Osikowicz](#)

## Social Action - Make an Impact



United  
Women  
in Faith

faith

action

sisterhood

Press release: [United Women in Faith: Bombing of Iran Must End](#)

Press release: [On Anniversary of Bloody Sunday, United Women in Faith Remembers Struggle for Civil Rights](#)

### Make an Impact

Many of us may have been wondering what we can do regarding the actions being taken against immigrants. United Women in Faith has now put together resources that may help you take action.

--Contact your representatives. This one is easy. Follow these links to simply enter your contact information, and a message is sent. There are two you may want to consider (and you can do this more than once!)

- Tell Congress: [It's Time for Moral Courage](#)
- Tell Congress: [Don't Stand by While Immigrant Communities Are Under Attack](#)

--Watch two short videos (under two minutes) that will inspire you:

- Rev. Dr. Lydia Muñoz, [Acompañamiento](#)
- Alba Jaramillo, J.D. ["None of this should be normal."](#)

--Download the PDF: [Immigrant Rights Are Under Attack](#). What Do We Do? Stand Up, Fight Back! This four-page document is filled with ideas and ways to learn, act, and lead.



# 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

## 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](http://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

Korean Language Day: July 25, 2026

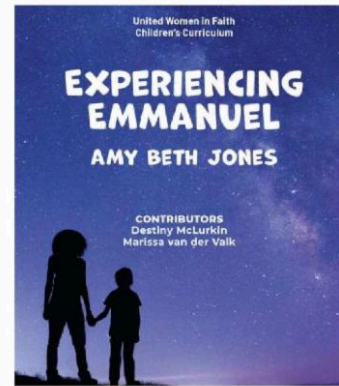
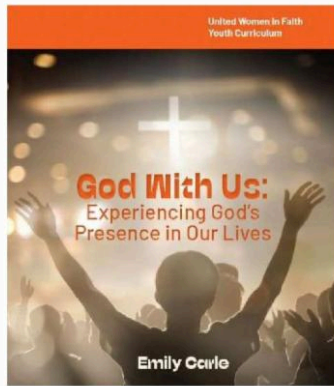
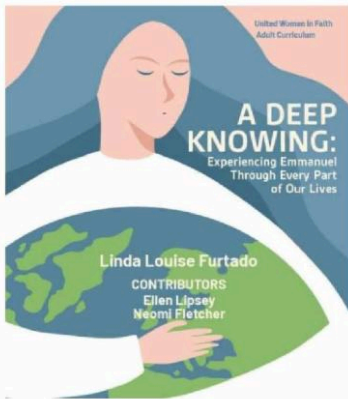
Woori Naperville KUMC, 2403 W. Diehl Rd., Naperville IL 60563

One-Day (English, Spanish, Youth/Children): TBD (watch for our news updates)

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:



\*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, 18<sup>th</sup> 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, 18<sup>th</sup> April**

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

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

**2:00 pm** Her Ojibwa name, 'Bekaadziikwe' 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](http://www.uwfaithnic.org)

Questions contact: Susan Greenberg  
708-256-1819  
[sqg55@yahoo.com](mailto:sqg55@yahoo.com)



Kimberly Sigafus



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**Lake South District**

Register online [HERE](#)

Paper registration flyer [HERE](#)

DAY OF  
SPIRITUAL  
RENEWAL  
2026



United  
Women  
in Faith  
Lake South District

*A Time for Renewal*

Guest Speaker Rev. Beverly Dukes

APRIL 11, 2026 | 9 AM

SOUTH LAWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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**Prairie North**

Prairie North Spiritual Growth Gathering  
Saturday, April 18, at 9:30 a.m.  
Belvidere: First UMC, 610 Bonus Avenue, Belvidere, Illinois  
Fee: \$15, includes lunch

Flyer [HERE](#)

Registration form [HERE](#)

Service of Remembrance form [HERE](#)

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## Prairie South

Mark your calendar for the Prairie South 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!

# Community



## Helping Hands

*By Ginger Mills*



One of the things we love most about the Festival of Quilts is the incredible number of people who share their time and talents to create the handmade items that make the event so special. From dedicated quilters and crafters to generous volunteers, each piece reflects care and creativity. And among those helping hands are our very own Cunningham youth!

Read the full story [HERE](#).



Resurrection Light!

Our annual Healthy Babies Drive [April 1-May 15] is one of many meaningful ways UWFaith can step up for our littles ages 0-5, newborn through toddlers. So many of you do! Thank you! These simple items, many take for granted, are the very items that ensure the safety, well-being, and education above all else for kids right from the beginning of life. Check out [www.kidsaboveall.org](http://www.kidsaboveall.org) for information or email [me](mailto:me).

UWFaith, our lives intersect in miraculous ways! I count on this every day. Do you? When I recall all the ways we join our hearts and hands to carry out resurrection living, I feel encouraged during these uncertain times. Recall Paul's letter to the Galatians 6:9 'Let's not get tired of doing good, because in time, we'll have a harvest if we don't give up.' UWFaith, we do not give up because we are more faithful and stronger together. We lift one another up. We hold up more than half the sky! I believe this from deep down.

In my 8th year as Manager of Faith & Community Relations with Kids Above All and a consecrated Deaconess, and my 11th year serving on the UVC Board, it is truly UWFaith that undergirds my ministry and calling. If you had asked me in 2011 when I was becoming unmarried and feeling uncertain of where I would live, let alone what God was calling me to do, I would have just stared at you unknowing of what the future held.

Today, I find myself focusing on the values, mandates and goals which United Women in Faith, Order of Deaconess & Home Missioner, and United Voices for Children share in common. The vital intersections that call me forward. UWFaith's purpose in my life, but more so, the purpose that binds us in serving, giving, learning and putting our faith in action. I hope to see you in May at Assembly! Maybe you will attend my workshop? We will snap a group photo! Let's believe it, dream it, and do it! We don't give up.

[Deaconess Catherine Inserra](#)

NIC UWFaith Spiritual Growth Coordinator



## Check out what other conferences are doing.

Read the CAL-PAC Pacific Waves newsletter [HERE](#).  
Read the Desert Southwest Conference newsletter [HERE](#).  
Read the March 2026 Wisconsin Conference newsletter [HERE](#).

## National

### 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

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United Women in Faith [website](#)

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