INSIGHT

United Women in Faith

Northern Illinois Conference

June 2026

UPCOMING EVENTS

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 --- PC District Leadership Team

July 2026

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

For More Detailed Information and Future Events:

View the Google Calendar

August 2026

04 --- Committee on Nominations Meeting
07 --- LN District Leadership Team
07 --- PN District Leadership Team
08 --- Summer Mission u One-Day
09 --- KUMC Praise Night
10 --- LS District Leadership Team
18 --- Committee on Nominations Meeting
25 --- PC District Leadership Team
29 --- NIC Leadership Team
31 --- PS District Leadership Team

September 2026

01 --- Committee on Nominations Meeting
04 --- LN District Leadership Team
19 --- PC District Annual Celebration
19 --- PS District Annual Celebration
26 --- LN District Annual Celebration
26 --- LS District Annual Celebration
26 --- PN District Annual Celebration

President's Report

By Barb Farley

Greetings, sisters in Hope, Love, and Joy! I approach the end of this wonderful month with resilient, grateful, and hopeful feelings. I was so invigorated by the awesome United Women in Faith Assembly 2026. I attended wonderful sessions, exhilarating worship, and was reacquainted with quite a few UWFaith sisters who have moved to other parts of the country. During Assembly, I was reminded that this time can be a “season and not a forever!” I was also reminded to make use of the “rhythm of rest” - meaning that it should be a time of renewed strength and not endless energy!

I am praying that we can pour into each other the needed healthy, spiritually grounded opportunities to enable responsible leadership. This year offers a time where we can note our gaps of growth, appreciate the silences that come along, and look diligently for all the abundant, fruitful moments God gently puts in front of us everyday. I hope you all are able to attend one of the exciting summer Mission u programs offered:

- July 10-12; Stronghold Camp & Retreat Center - Oregon, Il.

- July 25; Korean Language Day, Woori Naperville KUMC
- August 8; One-Day Event; Oak Park: Euclid

As Pentecost people, let's continue to put one foot in front of the other, and always lead with love.

Mission u - Registration Now Open!

Mission u Save the Date flyer

Register online **HERE**

Paper Registration Form **HERE**

Mission u

Save the Dates

Weekend: July 10-12, 2026 *

Stronghold Camp and 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

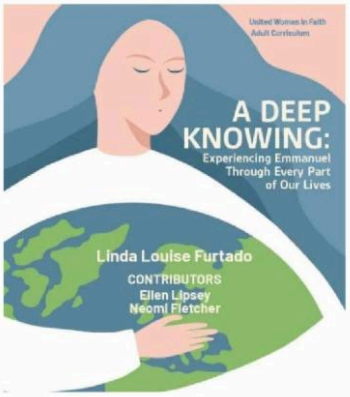
One-Day (Spanish, English, Youth/Children): August 8, 2026

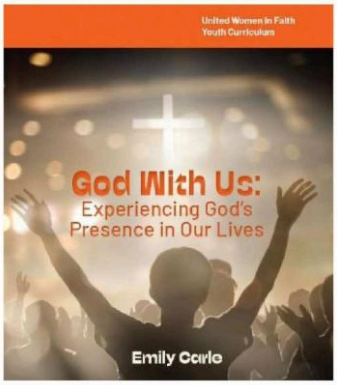
Euclid Avenue UMC, 405 S. Euclid Ave., Oak Park IL 60302

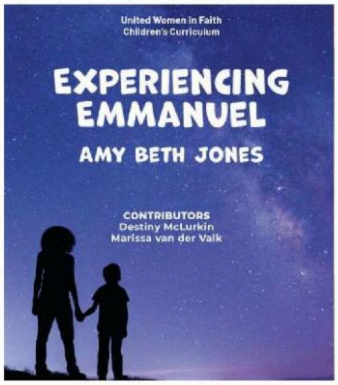
Join us at **Mission u** as we explore the theme, **Experiencing Emmanuel**. The study will focus on the times in the Bible when people experienced Emmanuel, or "God with us."

- 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.

Assembly 2026

By Linda Osikowicz

Getting ready for Assembly! Attendees wore ribbons to identify each of us as members of the Northern Illinois Conference. A team helped design them: Alison Jenkins created the design (the idea grew from an awareness ribbon to the "flower" design), Jacqueline White (who added the button and pin back idea), input from Marilyn Steenwyk, Beth Jayapalan, along with those who worked on the "assembly-line team": Barb Farley, Alison, Lois Moreland-Dean, June Neumann, Linda Osikowicz, Holly Huffstuttler, and Lois Voss. And thanks to all who helped to distribute them!

Premium Laser Print
multiQue

Here we are - all 111 of us!

photo by Marc Dean

Three generations attend UWFaith Assembly 2026

Diana Miller (Michigan Conference) and Elly and Beth Williams (Arlington Heights: First) This was Elly's fifth Assembly - the first time she attended was during her mom's maternity leave.

Jennifer and Cassie Weddle and Mari Schirmer (Naperville: Community)

The Body of Christ has AIDS

Thank you for stopping by Booth 807 at the United Women in Faith Assembly. Here is the link to the segment of "The Body of Christ has AIDS" which is in post-production.

You can sign up for their newsletter at the website below plus be updated with progress of the documentary.

Here's [the video on YouTube.](#)

Margaret Irwin & Stephen Hale,
Producers/Co-Director

www.TheBodyOfChristHasAIDS.com

info@thebodyofchristhasAIDS.com

Order Your 2026 Yearbook

Order NOW!
2026 Yearbook on
Cheddar Up
or by Email
United Women in Faith Northern Illinois Conference Annual 2026 Yearbook & Directory

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](#).

OR

Mail a check payable to *UWFaith NIC* with your request to:
Lois Voss, 401 Crest Dr., Cary, IL 60013.

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 the PowerPoint slides, "Estate Planning Concepts for Women Philanthropists," HERE.

Find the set of estate planning guide sheets HERE.

The Legacy Endowment Fund is currently over $56 million!

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.

The Legacy Team

For more information, contact: Marilyn Steenwyk or Linda Osikowicz

In Memoriam

Norma Jung-Stein (nee Wilson), age 88, of LaGrange, passed away on April 30, 2026. Beloved wife of the late Dr. Paul W. Jung and late James C. Stein. Loving mother of Sharon (Bill) Klingman, Catherine (Mark) Hunkeler and Mary Kay (late Mike) Thuma. Devoted grandmother “Noma” of Kaitlin (Taylor) Heiman, Victoria (Natalie) Moore, and William Klingman; Lindsay Hunkeler, Jack (Lex) Hunkeler, and Sarah (Ray) Iozzo; & Emily (Kevin) Kinahan, Dan Thuma, and Will Thuma. Cherished great-grandmother of Christine, Anna, Wes, Liam, Lucy, Demi Ray, and Reese. Dear sister of Shirley (Wayne) Blake. Fond aunt and friend of many. Norma was preceded in death by her parents, Clarence and Mary Wilson and siblings, Jack (Norma) Wilson, Jim (late Joan) Wilson, and Richard (Elaine) Wilson.

Norma was born in Ames, Iowa and raised in Rockford, IL. She graduated from Northern Illinois University with a degree in Education and it was there she met Paul Jung. They married in 1958 and moved to Palatine, IL where both worked as teachers until Norma chose to stay home and be a full-time mom.

Norma was a servant of the Lord and of her family and community. The list of organizations she joined and led is a long one and included leadership roles in her local PEO chapter and the United Methodist Women. She devoted her life to her faith and worked for many years as

a church secretary and organizer of many projects in and out of her church. At home, she volunteered for every activity her daughters joined, and, as usual, typically ended up in a leadership role of some kind! Over the years she received many awards and acknowledgments for her service to others. Norma was steadfast in all of her activities and was driven by God's love. At age 80 she was still devoting her time to make pillows for breast cancer patients.

Probably her greatest role was as a partner to Paul, whose career involved many social obligations and often put her in the spotlight with him. She supported him as he grew in his career and they enjoyed traveling the world together. After his passing she met Jim Stein in the church choir, and when they married they continued to travel and devote many hours to their church and faith. Norma will be remembered by all who knew her as an incredibly kind person. She rarely had a negative word for anyone and her grace was evident in everything she did. Heaven has gained a beautiful angel in Norma.

A few words from United Women in Faith Northern Illinois Conference:

Norma served many roles in United Methodist Women (now United Women in Faith). She was president of her local unit. She served as Elgin District president and secretary. At the conference level she served as secretary (which included being secretary for School of Christian Mission) and as United Methodist Women Northern Illinois Conference president. Norma was appointed UMW NIC historian and graciously stored clearly-labeled records, posters and banners at her home during her tenure. While at Barrington UMC she began the Have a Heart Pillow Project, making pillows for lumpectomy and mastectomy patients at Good Shepherd Hospital (where she is a legend). This mission continues, delivering over 200 pillows a year.

Social Action - Make an Impact

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**

U.S. COMMITTEE FOR REFUGEES AND IMMIGRANTS
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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 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

Happening In the Districts

Lake North District

Save the date!

Lake North District Annual Celebration
Saturday, September 26
9:00 a.m.
North Prairie United Methodist Church
Kenosha Rd, 5000 9th St, Zion, IL 60099

Lake South District

Save the date!

Lake South District Annual Celebration
Saturday, September 26
9:00 a.m.

Prairie Central District

Save the date!

Prairie Central District Annual Celebration
Saturday, September 19
8:30 a.m.
First Church of Crystal Lake
236 W Crystal Lake Ave, Crystal Lake, IL 60014

Prairie North District

Our Salad Supper is on June 17th at 5:30 p.m. at Lanark United Methodist Church, 405 E. Locust St., Lanark.

Click here to open the flyer.

We do not have a registration form, but ask that you contact Linda TK by June 9th. Details are in the flyer.

Save the date!

Prairie North District Annual Celebration
Saturday, September 26
9:30 a.m.
Rockford Church of Christ
1141 20th Ave, Rockford, IL 6110

Prairie South District

Save the date!

Prairie South District Annual Celebration
Saturday, September 19
9:00 a.m.
United Church of Sandwich
512 Lions Rd, Sandwich, IL 60548

Community

Cunningham Children's Home
hope begins here.

Springtime
and the new life it brings

By Ginger Mills

This month in chapel, Chaplain Kate has been reflecting on springtime and the new life that comes with it. She is creatively sharing with our youth that this is a season about renewal, growth, and becoming something new.

In week one we were sculptors who took the broken pieces of our lives and trauma and turned them into new creations that are healed and whole with the help of our Higher Power and our communities (Isaiah 64:8).

Hope logo: DH from Jedi lit up when I told him what we were doing and he immediately said he wanted to make the Cunningham logo because he really has found hope here. He loves special therapies programming.

Flower: MB from GGH is tired of feeling like dirt and is ready to bloom into a flower.

Egg: PJ from Cedars felt like life has just cracked him and left him in pieces. He refuses to let life scramble him so he decided to fry his own egg to get his power back.

Pikachu: DK from Cedars made his favorite Pokémon and said he is ready to evolve.

Snowman: Jon from BGH made the snowman because life has been so cold to him. But, he gave the snowman a hat and scarf to stay warm and he will deal with his trauma when the snowman melts.

KIDS ABOVE ALL

Assembly was an amazingly inspiring gathering of women from around the world who dreamed of justice and mercy, believed in the promise of abundance, and did the work of God! Now, we are believing, dreaming, and doing as only UWFaith knows how.

Kids Above All's Healthy Babies Drive for our clients ages 0-5-ish is a beautiful example of ABUNDANCE! Pictures show UWFaith at Palatine: First and Sarah's Circle at Downers Grove: First with their donations at the Better Life Distribution Center. There is so much more given the opportunity to order online. Our program staff is deeply grateful for all your giving, ensuring they can provide essential items to families and a few added ones which would not normally be purchased easily, like safety gates and clothes. Thank you all!

I loved speaking to the UWFaith unit at Naperville: Grace on April 7, invited by Chamus Burnside Savazzini, Vice President. It is always an honor and a blessing to connect as mission partners. UWFaith is a pillar for our children, youth, and families impacted by poverty, violence, and injustice. We posed for a photo after a delicious potluck lunch with our agency's historical, signature quilt made between 1901 and 1935. Imagine how all those women (and a few men) whose names are

embroidered on the quilt dreamed about and hoped for a better world.

This month, join me in dreaming of hope and abundance framing our spirits and lives as UWFaith STRONG. Abundance in our yards, gardens, farmers' markets, children's laughter, communal prayers, communal resistance, and practicing hope together. I hope to see you at Mission u at Stronghold or the One-Day. Emmanuel with Us!

Please consider ways to continue to STEP UP FOR OUR KIDS at Kids Above All this summer. Our annual Back-to-School Drive begins June 15 - August 15.

Thank you for your faith, Deaconess Catherine Inserra

Check out what other conferences are doing.

Read the CAL-PAC Pacific Waves newsletter HERE.
Read the Desert Southwest Conference newsletter HERE.
Read the 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

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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