



United
Women
in Faith

INSIGHT

Northern Illinois Conference

May 2026

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

July 2026

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

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

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

[View the Google Calendar](#)

Assembly 2026

By Linda Osikowicz



URGENT MESSAGE

Do you know someone who wishes she had registered for Assembly? That would be wonderful news for the person who is now not able to attend and would love to transfer her registration! This person also has a room at the JW Marriott for Thursday-Saturday nights if you know someone who would like to have a room there. Please contact [Linda Osikowicz](#) if you or someone you know would like to take her place.

United Women in Faith Assembly is approaching fast!

One hundred nineteen ladies from Northern Illinois Conference will be attending Assembly! A couple of items for those attending:

If you need to make any adjustments to your hotel reservations (and you made a reservation in the UWFaith block), you may contact Visit Indy customer care agents at: 317-262-8191 Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET, the service that helps with reservations, or email them at: housing@visitindy.com. If, like me, you can't find your hotel reservation acknowledgment (and you booked at an Assembly block hotel,) search your email for the sender: Visit Indy Housing Bureau <info@cvent.com>. Your Assembly confirmation came from Assembly2026@uwfaith.org.

Keynote speaker Stacey Abrams will be signing her books at the Assembly bookstore. She is a prolific author of powerful works, including the leadership development classic *Lead from the Outside: How to Build Your Future and Make Real Change*, the beloved children's book *Stacey's Extraordinary Words*, and many others. If you would like her to sign a book for you, you will need to purchase your book(s) in advance and bring them with you to Indianapolis. Books will not be available for purchase on site. You are encouraged to buy her books through United Women in Faith — which allows 10% of your purchase to support the organization — by visiting: <https://bookshop.org/shop/uwfaith>

If you have any questions, you may contact [Linda Osikowicz](#), NIC Assembly Liaison.

Assembly 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.



SEE ASSEMBLY SCHEDULE HERE

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 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.

The Legacy Team

For more information, contact:

[Marilyn Steenwyk](#)

[Linda Osikowicz](#)

Social Action - Make an Impact



Take Action!

Join United Women in Faith and **take action!**

Tell Congress: Don't stand by while immigrant communities are under attack. Click [HERE](#) to email your senators and representative. Follow up with a call [HERE](#).

For more than 155 years, United Women in Faith has been committed to advocating for women, children, and youth — those most overlooked and often most impacted by inequity. Our bold foremothers advocated to improve women's health, raise women's status in society, organize for fair wages and benefits for workers and families, and adopt the Charter for Racial Justice.

For the 2025–2028 quadrennium, we will continue our commitment to critical issues of justice today. Our social action priorities for the next four years are climate justice and mass incarceration and the criminalization of communities of color.



**United Women in Faith
Northern Illinois Conference
Social Action Information
Newsletter #3**

Read it [HERE](#)



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
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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

Register online [HERE](#)



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

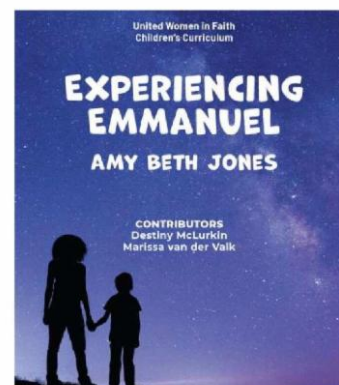
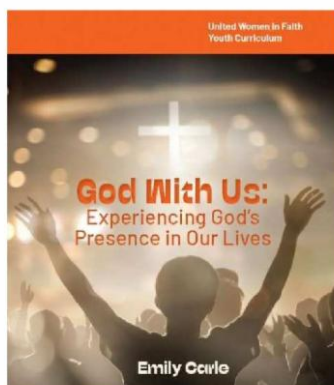
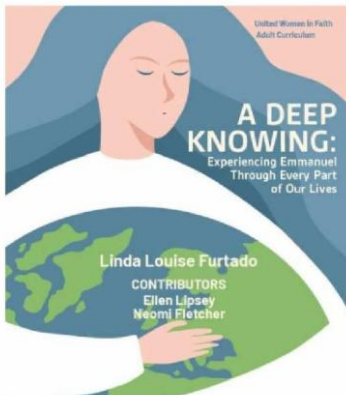
Woori Naperville KUMC, 2403 W. Diehl Rd., Naperville IL 60563

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

UW Faith in the Lake North District hosted Kimberly Sigafus, "Quiet Woman," on Saturday, April 18, for a spiritual growth event. Kim shared stories of her people, as well as her own, to find her father's indigenous family. She shared her drums and songs. Hosted at the Korean United Methodist Church in Wheeling which was lovely! This special gathering blessed us all greatly!





Photos by Catherine Inserra

Lake South District

Loving God, we thank you for abiding in our sisterhood of worship, praise, and fellowship on Saturday, April 11 at Southlawn United Methodist Church. We thank you for blessing our time of spiritual renewal together and the remembrance of our sisters in Christ. Lord, we thank you for our gracious host, Southlawn United Women in Faith and for Rev. Beverly Duke's message on this blessed day reminding us that we are called to rest in You. Amen.

View more photos on our Facebook page [HERE](#)

View the program book online [HERE](#).







Festival of Quilts by the numbers

By Ginger Mills

Drum Roll: Announcing our Festival of Quilts total! We're absolutely thrilled to share that the 22nd Annual Festival of Quilts stitched together an incredible \$86,435 in total proceeds! For more than 20 years, you've shown up with open hearts, generous spirits, and a whole lot of love, and that's what makes this event so special year after year. Because of you, this cherished tradition continues to thrive, wrapping our community in warmth, joy, and real impact. From every purchase, every visit and every act of kindness—thank you for being such an important part of this beautiful story.

Read the full story [HERE](#).



APRIL 1 - MAY 15

Healthy Babies Drive

Kids Above All's Healthy Babies Drive collects childcare supplies such as clothes, diapers, sippy cups, and more so that our parents, caregivers, babies, and toddlers have the essentials they need for a happy and healthy start to their lives together.

Donations can be delivered in person to **KAA's Better Life Distribution Center (BLDC)** at 1801 E Oakton Street Des Plaines, IL 60018, Monday - Friday from 9AM - 4PM, or sent to the BLDC via our [Amazon](#) and [Target](#) wish lists to make the donation process easier.

Visit kidsaboveall.org/babies for more details.

MOST NEEDED ITEMS

- Diapers sizes 4, 5, and 6
- Baby wipes
- Pull-ups sizes 3T and 4T
- Diaper rash cream

For more guidance on which items our children and families need most, you can refer to the bundles below! You can purchase a few, or all, of the items directly from our Amazon and Target wish lists to have them shipped to our BLDC, or you can drop the items off at the center.

BABY BUNDLE

Newborn Diapers (Size 1)
Baby Wipes (For Sensitive Skin Preferred)
Diaper Rash Cream
Onesies (Short & Long Sleeves)
Sleepers/Footed Pajamas
Swaddle Blankets or Sleep Sacks
Mittens
Socks
Beanies
Baby Bottles and Burp Cloths
Soft Washcloths
Gentle Baby Wash and Shampoo
Baby Lotion

TODDLER BUNDLE

Snack Cups
Sippy Cups
Suction Plate and Bowl
Toddler Forks and Spoons
Toilet Training Underwear
Flushable Wipes
Potty-Training Books (English & Spanish)

HOME SAFETY

Baby Safety Gate
Cabinet Locks
Stove Knob Covers
Corner Protectors
Outlet Covers
Non-Slip Bathtub Mat



Contact our Manager of Faith and Community Relations, Catherine Inserra, at cinsera@kidsaboveall.org with any questions or to schedule a donation drop off.



Visit the [Amazon](#) and [Target](#) wishlists.
Visit kidsaboveall.org/babies for more details.

Click on the photo above to download the flyer



Left: Gail Bedingfield of Schaumburg: Our Redeemer's UMC delivering their donation, which they have hosted for over 30 years each Easter Sunday. These mission partnerships are sure signs of practicing hope as they impact our littlest children who are impacted by poverty, violence, and injustice.



Check out what other conferences are doing.

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

NIConference:



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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