



United
Women
in Faith

INSIGHT

Northern Illinois Conference

July 2026

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 2026

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

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
18 --- 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

October 2026

02 --- LN District Leadership Team
02 --- PN District Leadership Team
05 --- LS District Leadership Team
06 --- Committee on Nominations Meeting
24 --- [NIC Annual Celebration](#)
24 --- [NIC Leadership Training](#)
27 --- PC District Leadership Team
29 --- LS District Domestic Violence
Awareness

For More Detailed Information and Future Events:

[View the Google Calendar](#)

Mission u - Come and See!
Weekend Registration ends July 1st!
REGISTER NOW!

[Mission u Save the Date flyer](#)

Register online [HERE](#)

Paper Registration Form [HERE](#)

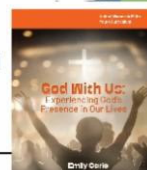
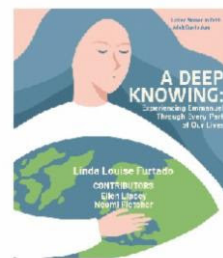
Read about the curriculum [HERE](#)

Purchase your book [HERE](#)

Email the Registrar [HERE](#)



Join us at Mission u as we explore the theme, Experiencing Emmanuel. Mission u participants will study 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?



Register early, as deadlines will be firm:

Weekend - Register by June 27 (for mailing), Midnight on July 1 (online or email)

Korean Language Day - Register by July 13 (for mailing), Midnight on July 17 (online or email)

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

- Register by July 25 (for mailing), Midnight on August 4 (online or email)

Once deadline has past you must reach out to the Registrar and will be charged a 10% late fee, to cover additional costs; if there are leftover funds, we will add it to the UWFaith NIC Pledge to Mission.

Scholarship for Woman Pursuing Church Vocations

The United Women in Faith Northern Illinois Conference offers a scholarship for women pursuing a church-related vocation, whether in ordained or lay ministry. An accredited graduate school must accept applicants, reside within the Northern Illinois Conference, and demonstrate financial need. A copy of their most recent school transcript and a 200-word essay describing the applicant's personal background, passions, and goals are required.

Applications are due for receipt on or before September 15, 2026.

Read the Graduate Educational Scholarship Guidelines [HERE](#).

Graduate Educational Scholarship Application [HERE](#).

UWFaith NIC Annual Celebration



ABOVE ALL, CLOTHE YOURSELVES WITH WHICH BINDS US

ALL TOGETHER
in perfect harmony.

NURTURING COMMUNITIES
with love!

SAVE THE DATE

UWFaithNIC Annual Celebration

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2026



**United
Women
in Faith**

Our speaker will be Tony A. Kearney Sr., CEO
of Northcott Neighborhood House in
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

The meeting will be held at Downers Grove: First.

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

God's abundant grace has been with us since the inception of The Legacy Endowment Fund (2015) and that grace continues to abound as we grow ever closer to reaching our \$60 million goal. We are now less than \$3 million away. Day of Giving, March 23, 2026, was an opportunity to gather together as one to thank God for the continued grace shown to United Women in Faith, by faithfully giving to ensure the future of our vital mission work to improve the lives of women, children, and youth at home and abroad. The latest available figure for Day of Giving 2026 is \$225,000.

AND, the total Legacy Fund balance, as announced at Assembly 2026, is \$57,137,716.64 (95.2% of the goal of \$60Million)!!

Sign up for UWFaith text communications by texting **FAITH** to **20503**

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](#)

For any questions related to the Legacy Fund at the national level, please email directly to Legacy150@uwfaith.org.

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](#)

Find the PowerPoint slides, "Estate Planning Concepts for Women Philanthropists," [HERE](#).

Find the set of estate planning guide sheets [HERE](#).



Take Action Today! Send Postcards to Advance Climate Justice and Protect Immigrants.

Taken from uwfaith.org

United Women in Faith members show up in many ways for the work of justice – living into the legacy of our foremothers and building a path forward for today and for our granddaughters. One way we do this is by being reliable, unflinching advocates for women, children, and youth, working with elected officials at all levels of government. We have been at this work for longer than the longest-serving member of Congress. We have been here for more than 150 years, and we aren't going away any time soon!

Climate Justice Now! – Send by June 30 - but I am sure you could still send them in! We urge governors to advance state environmental protections for our families and to work with local leaders to build climate-adapted, strong rural communities.

[Download the postcard here.](#)

You can also send emails to your members of Congress to:

[Counseling Not Criminalization in Schools](#)
[Tell Congress to Support the Ending PUSHOUT Act](#)
[Tell Congress: End Corporal Punishment in Our Schools](#)

To learn more about United Women in Faith's social justice priorities, visit uwfaith.org/climate-justice and uwfaith.org/mass-incarceration.

MAKE MISSION HAPPEN!



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 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

View the flyer [HERE](#).

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

United Women in Faith Cary UMC

Annual Rummage Sale

9:00 am-4:00 pm Thursday, July 23

9:00 am-2:00 pm Friday, July 24

9:00 am-1:00pm Saturday, July 25

Cary United Methodist Church
500 North First Street, Cary, IL



\$10 BROWN BAG SALE!

Thursday & Friday

\$ Larger items priced
Separately. \$

SATURDAY ONLY

BARGAIN BAG SALE

Fill each bag for \$5
Larger items will be half price!

Shop for:

gently used clothes/shoes
household items/furniture
small kitchen appliances
games, books, crafts, tools

Proceeds of the Rummage Sale
benefit United Women in Faith
Community Mission Giving

Sponsored by



United
Women
in Faith



Car Show

Only Saturday, July 25
10 am - 1:00 pm

Come see Antique cars, Street Rods,
Electric cars and more.
Judging and Awards

Hosted by the Cary United Methodist

Clean out your closets!

Bring your donations:

Sunday, July 19, 11am-2pm

Monday, July 20, 9am-3pm

Tuesday, July 21, 9am-1pm

Wednesday, July 22, 9am-12pm

Prairie North District

Save the date!

Prairie North District Annual Celebration

Saturday, September 26

9:30 a.m.

Freeport First United Methodist Church

503 W Lily Creek Road, Freeport, IL 61032

The guest speaker will be Winnebago County CASA



Highlights from the Prairie North Spiritual Growth Event on April 18, 2026.

***Photos submitted by Karen Andrus*





The Prairie North District enjoyed a wonderful Salad Supper at Lanark United Methodist Church in Lanark, Illinois. More than 50 ladies attended the event, sharing fellowship, delicious food, and a memorable evening together.

A special highlight of the program was a performance by the Stephenson County Boys & Girls Club Dance Team, whose talent and enthusiasm were greatly appreciated by everyone in attendance.

The evening was a joyful celebration of community, friendship, and fellowship, and all who attended had a wonderful time.



***Photos submitted by Laura Werner*

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



CIRCLE Academy

By Ginger Mills

At CIRCLE Academy, every student is more than a diagnosis, a challenge, or a difficult chapter in their life. Cunningham's therapeutic day school provides a safe, supportive environment where students can build confidence, strengthen relationships, and develop the skills they need to succeed both in and out of the classroom. Through individualized education, therapeutic support and opportunities to participate in extracurricular activities, students discover their strengths and begin to envision a brighter future.

Because of faithful supporters like United Women in Faith, students are given the encouragement, resources, and stability they need to grow. One of those students is Mandy.

When Mandy first arrived at CIRCLE Academy, she was quiet and hesitant to engage with those around her. Over time, with consistent support and encouragement from staff, Mandy began to come out of her shell. She grew more comfortable interacting with peers and adults, developed stronger social skills, and became an active participant in classroom discussions and group activities.

Outside the classroom, Mandy discovered another avenue for growth through athletics. She demonstrated exceptional ability and determination as a member of the CIRCLE Basketball Team, Volleyball Team, and Running Club. Her involvement in sports not only showcased her athletic talents but also strengthened her confidence and leadership skills. Teammates looked to Mandy as a positive role model who consistently demonstrated good sportsmanship and encouraged others to do their best.

Today, Mandy is preparing for an exciting new chapter. This fall, she will transition back to her home school equipped with greater confidence, stronger social connections, and the tools she needs to succeed. While we will miss seeing her each day, we are proud of all she has accomplished and excited to watch her continue to thrive.

Stories like Mandy's are possible because of you. Your generosity helps create opportunities for students to discover their strengths, overcome challenges, and build hope for the future. Thank you for making a lasting difference in the lives of young people at Cunningham's CIRCLE Academy.



Cunningham Children's Home CIRCLE Staff

Photo submitted by Ginger Mills



KIDS ABOVE ALL's 2026 Back to School Drive Happening NOW!

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.

Visit our [Amazon Wishlist!](#)

View the flyer [HERE](#).

Or visit our [website](#) for more information.

Thank you for your faith, [Deaconess Catherine Inserra](#)

KIDS ABOVE ALL'S

BACK TO SCHOOL BACKPACK DRIVE

JUNE 8, 2026 - AUGUST 20, 2026



Each year, we invite individuals, community and faith groups, and businesses to step up so the 1,500 school-aged kids in our programs have the supplies they need for the new school year. Lists of needed items are below.

Visit kidsaboveall.org/bts for more information, or to make a financial gift to help fill specific needs for our clients.

Amazon Wishlist



MOST NEEDED ITEMS:

- Spiral Notebooks
- Sketchbooks
- 2-Pocket Plastic Folders
- Headphones
- Texas Instruments TI-34 Calculator

BACKPACKS FOR ALL AGES NEEDED

KINDERGARTEN

- Large Pencils
- Large Crayons
- Washable Markers
- Dry Erase Markers
- Dry Erase Eraser
- Glue Sticks
- Scissors (Round Tip)
- 2-Pocket Folders
- Play-Doh

1ST-3RD GRADE

- Pencil Case
- Pencils
- Pencil Top Erasers
- Erasers
- Crayons
- Colored Pencils
- Washable Markers (Both Fine-Point and Broad Line Markers)
- Dry Erase Markers
- Dry Erase Eraser
- Yellow Highlighters
- Liquid Elmer's Glue
- Glue Sticks
- Scissors (Round Tip)
- Ruler
- Post-It Notes (3x3)
- Notebooks (Wide-Ruled)
- 2-Pocket Folders
- Headphones

4TH-6TH GRADE

- Pencil Case
- Pencils
- Pencil Sharpener
- Pencil Top Erasers
- Erasers
- Crayons
- Colored Pencils
- Watercolors
- Markers
- Dry Erase Markers
- Dry Erase Eraser
- Highlighter
- Pens (Red, Blue, and Black)
- Glue Sticks
- Scissors
- Ruler
- Post-It Notes (3x3)
- Index Cards (3x5)
- Loose Leaf Paper (Wide-Ruled)
- Notebooks (Wide-Ruled)
- Composition Notebook (Wide-Ruled)
- Sketchbook
- 2-Pocket Plastic Folders
- 3-Ring Binders (1 Inch)
- Clear Sheet Protectors
- Earbuds/Headphones

7TH-12TH GRADE

- Pencil Case
- Pencils
- Pencil Sharpener
- Pencil Top Erasers
- Large Erasers
- Colored Pencils
- Markers
- Dry Erase Markers
- Highlighters
- Pens (Red, Blue, and Black)
- Glue Sticks
- Scissors
- Ruler
- Post-It Notes (3x3)
- Index Cards (3x5)
- Quad Ruled Graph Paper
- Loose Leaf Paper (College-Ruled)
- Notebooks (College-Ruled)
- Sketchbook
- 2-Pocket Plastic Folders
- 3-Ring Binders (1 or 1.5 Inches)
- Subject Dividers
- Calculator (Texas Instruments TI-34)
- Earbuds/Headphones

To set up an appointment to drop off donations,
contact our Manager of Faith & Community
Relations, Catherine Inserra.

Phone: (847) 224-2870

Email: cinsera@kidsaboveall.org

1801 E. Oakton St. Des Plaines, IL 60018



Check out what other conferences are doing.

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



Must-see musical, SUFFS

Suffs is a must-see musical with music, lyrics, and a book by Shaina Taub, based on suffragists and the American women's suffrage movement, focusing primarily on the historical events leading up to the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution in 1920 that gave women the right to vote.

Watch it for free on PBS.org or download the PBS app.

[Suffs](#) | [About](#) | [Great Performances](#) | [PBS](#)

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](#)

[Sign up for E-News](#)

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

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



Try email marketing for free today!