



# Mission Messenger

February/March 2026

Margaret Dennis  
Editor

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH OF INDIANA

## President, La Donna Weber

What are we doing in 2026? WALKING BY FAITH TOGETHER!

This year is going to be amazing – in lots of new and unusual ways. To begin with we have successfully negotiated redistricting. Whoo-hoo! We owe huge **thanks** to the **retiring district teams** – the **presidents** who shepherded the process, the **treasurers** who had to get accounts closed and audits accomplished and still need to store seven years' worth of paperwork, the **rest of the teams** who kept the wheels turning and handed off reports, **and** the district membership – all of you who kept praying, asking questions, and showing up.

So now we are rearranged and reassembled in our new districts. Five new areas to find new friends and sisters. And now we can focus on continuing the mission. No more “we’ve always done it this way” because ... we haven’t done it before in just this way. Routines are shaken up; all things are new. So, think outside the box, try something new, but always remember our purpose. There are women, children and youth who need our love.

The 2026 district leadership teams are looking for ways to create these new district sisterhoods. Spring district events are coming up. Be sure to attend Mission u Express this year – one in each district – attend the one in your district to meet your district sisters but feel free to (also?) attend another. Volunteer your church as a meeting site – or if your unit is small ask a neighboring unit to join yours to host an event. And say yes when the nominations committee comes to call! What is God calling you to do for your district? How we create district teams has changed – some positions are elected, some are appointed. We are looking at new ways to mentor, guide, and help new leadership.

The conference leadership team is also working to try new things. Our communications team of conference and district communications coordinators have been asked to improve our ... um ... communications. The Constant Contact lists have been updated and realigned into district lists. Our nominations committee has issued a new volunteer form to streamline the nominations process – is God asking you to take a leadership role? We’ve updated the Mission Today form, the reading program continues, and we have funds to distribute for Youth and Young Adult Scholarships. We are Unstoppable.

AND, **ASSEMBLY!!** We have over a dozen scholarship winners who will be experiencing Assembly for the first time. If you haven't registered yet please do so as soon as possible since registration ends April 13. And if you have already registered invite someone to join you and get them registered. Remember that we are the host conference so we need lots of volunteers to be hostesses with mostesses (is that a thing?) but you must be registered to volunteer. Let me know if I can add you to the volunteers list.

## Vice President, Jeanie Park Estep

Do you have the WINTER BLAH'S???? Little energy? Feeling "Down in the Dumps?" There is a cure!

Welcome SPRING at the beautiful McCormick's Creek State Park.

Rev. Shannon Stringer, Director of Connectional Ministries, will be bringing us a message of hope through scripture and prayer. Check with your friends and/or others you'd like to get to know and invite them to join you March 27 and 28 at the Canyon Inn. There are even rooms for 3 to share. Be sure to register by **March 7** by sending your registration to Rita Gaither Gant. See the flyer in this newsletter or an earlier Constant Contact message.

PROGRAMMING!!! PROGRAMMING!!!

Whether you are a vice president or one in charge of programming at your District or local level, you

are a VITAL part of the team. Programming is the glue that holds everyone together. What type of program will interest your young women? This may not be the same program that your more seasoned members are interested in. *response* magazine and the Program Resource *Mapping Our Way Forward* both have programs that can be adapted to your women's interests and needs. Don't forget the Call to Prayer and Self Denial program as well as World Thank Offering. These are programs for special offerings that support our mission. They can take place anytime throughout the year. National has many of these programs on the website, [uwfaithresources.org](http://uwfaithresources.org).

Did your group have a program you felt really spoke to your women?? I'd like to make a collection of these programs and share in future Mission Messengers. Please send them to me at [jparkestep@gmail.com](mailto:jparkestep@gmail.com).

## Important reminder regarding financials

There is to be one checking account in the name of United Methodist Women d/b/a United Women in Faith for each unit. The president of the unit and the treasurer are the signers on the account. The bank will ask for a tax ID number [an EIN] to open a new account. This is held by your United Women in Faith conference treasurer. Please contact her [Carla Gillespie] for the documentation and the appropriate number. Do NOT deposit United Women in Faith funds in a personal account or local church account. Keep all United Women in Faith funds separate from personal and church funds. DO NOT USE YOUR LOCAL CHURCH'S tax ID number [EIN.] For details see *2025-2028 Funding the Mission* (D11309), <https://uwfaithresources.org/prodDetail.cfm?productID=12529&catid=2196>.



These services could not be provided without United Women in Faith. You can learn more about United Women in Faith National Mission Institutions in *response* Magazine in the March/April edition of the even years and online at <https://uwfaith.org/what-we-do/what-we-fund/national-ministries/>. *response* Magazine also features articles in each edition on a National Mission Institution. You can learn more about Call to Prayer and Self Denial and receive resources at <https://uwfaith.org/blog/2025/a-call-to-prayer/>. As the website tells us God calls us to not just love in words, but to love in action. Children are our gifts from God, and we need to protect them all.

### 2026 Conference Pledges

- Pledge to Mission \$200,000
- Pledge to Lucille Raines Residence \$102,000

### Communication Coordinator, Margaret Dennis

I hope you are enjoying this chock-full of information *Mission Messenger*! Remember that you will also be receiving monthly *Mini Messengers* in your inbox. Those will contain basic information, time-sensitive reminders and links to resources.

Do NOT unsubscribe from any Constant Contact newsletter related to United Women in Faith. The

Conference, Districts and Social Action coordinator all use the same account so if you “unsubscribe” you will not get ANY emails from any of our groups. Instead, you can “Update Profile” at the end of any of our emails to select which lists to be on. If you ever have any questions, just email me at [margdenn@att.net](mailto:margdenn@att.net) and I will help you figure it out!

### Resources Coordinator, Sara Mayes

I love the Reading Program books. I have learned so much from reading them. For this year you can read from the 2021-2026 lists. You will be surprised at the wide array of subjects included in these lists.

I try to introduce a book that I have read in each article I write and hopefully that gives you an idea of one that sparks your interest. Today I would like to recommend Hope in Disarray by Grace Ji-Sun Kim. This was one of the Mission u books in 2025. This is a book of short essays that can be used as devotions for individuals or groups. It gives you 2 or 3 thought-provoking questions after each section. It is a very good book and I strongly recommend it.

Now for the other part of my job. I have received some of your District list of participants in the 2025 Reading Program but not all. I need each District to send this information to me ASAP. I want to make sure everyone gets recognized our Annual Celebration program book.

I am just a call, text, email or snail mail away if you need any assistance concerning the Reading Program or any of our wonderful resources! A big thanks to all the readers! Happy Reading!

## Membership, Nurture, and Outreach Coordinator, Carol Tiller

We are excited that United Women in Faith is growing! There are so many ways to belong and participate. Join your way. You can get involved at a local church unit in your own community. Or you can opt for our All-Access membership, with easy online access to member resources nationwide. Either way, you choose to engage when, where, and how best fits your life. Here are some ways to belong:

- **Local Unit Member** - great for women who want to fellowship and participate in programming at a local level.
- **District or Cluster Member** - ideal for women who may not have a local unit but still want contact with women in our region. You can receive local news and attend district and state events.
- **All Access Member** - easy online access to member resources nationwide.

Regardless of which way you join, you can participate in ALL national, conference, district, or local resources and events! And remember you do NOT have to belong to any specific church to become a member of United Women in Faith. Just be sure to let me know as new members join so I can be sure that they are receiving all the information to maximize their engagement.

Interested in starting or reactivating a local unit? Email me at [csa5305@gmail.com](mailto:csa5305@gmail.com) so I can send you some resources and be of assistance. Also, email me if your unit plans to deactivate so a packet will be sent to you.

Please share with others the "FindUsOnline" flier later in this newsletter!!! It is a great listing of all the ways you can connect with UWFaith national.



Ready to grow with us? Whether you're leading a unit, serving as a district officer, or simply passionate about sharing the movement, <https://uwfaith.org/resources/growth-toolkit/> is your all-in-one hub for inviting more women into United Women in Faith. We are a sisterhood helping women find a spiritual home filled with purpose, sisterhood, and action.

This hub was designed to equip and empower you as part of our **Unstoppable Campaign** — a bold, four-year journey to reach more than 500,000 women with our message of **Real Faith. Real Women. Real Community**. The tools here are designed to help you usher in the spirit of **Excite & Invite** — helping you share who we are, what we do, and how others can find belonging within our sisterhood.

Get flyers, posters, etc. to reach out to others. Share with members of your book clubs, garden clubs, etc. Remember United Women in Faith members do not have to belong to a certain church or denomination.

## Unit Survey Season is here!

Unit Survey season is here and this year, it matters more than ever.

As part of our **Unstoppable** shared movement to grow, deepen, and sustain United Women in Faith for the future, the 2025 Unit Survey gives us essential insight into what's working, what's needed, and where we must go next. Your leadership, and the voices of women across your conference, help shape how we strengthen our sisterhood and expand our collective impact.

By completing this brief survey, member feedback will directly inform planning for 2025 and beyond, with a focus on:

- Growing and engaging membership
- Fostering leadership development
- Increasing program awareness and participation



### How to Access the Survey

The Unit Survey can be accessed in **two ways**:

1. **Directly at: [Unit Survey](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/INUnitSurvey2025) (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/INUnitSurvey2025>)**
2. **Through the Conference Officer Space on UWFaith Digital (UWFD)**

If you are not already logged into UWFaith Digital, you will be prompted to log in first. Once logged in, look on the side menu under “**Conference Officer Resources**”. Once there, click and navigate to North Central region and Indiana conference to access the correct survey link.

A [sample survey](#) is available as a reference to preview the questions and guide participation. Please note: the National Office will **not** accept paper submissions. However, we encourage districts to support local units that may need assistance completing the survey online.

### Important Reminders

- This year the survey response window is shorter, so please share/act now as time is of the essence.
- The survey takes approximately **10–15 minutes** to complete
- **The survey closes March 31, 2025**

**REMINDER: Local Units and District Members should send their pledge contributions to their district treasurer.** The remittance form can be found on <https://www.inumc.org/united-women-in-faith/>

## Mission u Dean Maureen Mauzy

Welcome United Women in Faith Indiana sisters to NEW beginnings as we come together in NEW ways to Experience Emmanuel, God with us. We'll be doing this in powerful, personal and transformative ways as we explore how Emmanuel is revealed throughout Scripture—and how that same divine presence continues to walk with us today,



In 2026 the Indiana United Women in Faith is really stepping up to the plate in a BIG and awesome way by having FIVE Mission u Express events. One Express in each of the five districts. These 'Express' events are going to be an even greater opportunity to get to know each other in new ways, in these new days, in this year of grace so that we can

Experience Emmanuel together. As of "press time" we have the following information for you.

The adult curriculum is *A DEEP KNOWING: Experiencing Emmanuel Through Every Part of Our Lives* by Linda Louise Furtado with contributions by Ellen Lipsey and Neomi Fletcher.

- Saturday, June 20<sup>th</sup> - Southern Rivers district
- Saturday, July 18<sup>th</sup> - Northern Lakes district
- Saturday, July 25<sup>th</sup> - Eastern Rivers district
- Saturday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> - East Central Heights district
- Saturday, September 12<sup>th</sup> - West Central Plains district

Your Mission u Committee this year includes: Dean, Maureen Mauzy; Assistant Dean, Trisha Stanart; Business Manager, Barb McCoy; Registrar, Mary Margaret Willbanks; Eastern Rivers Member-At-Large: Judy Moore and Southern Rivers Member-At-Large, Jonna Issacs; as well as all members of the Conference Leadership Team.

Visit <https://uwfaith.org/events/mission-u/> for more information on the curriculum and <https://www.inumc.org/united-women-in-faith/> for updates on our conference events.

## Social Action Coordinator, Lori Chambers

The Indiana 2026 General Assembly this year was a challenge and kept us busy. Thank you to all those who contacted their legislators to voice your opinion! The session ends the week of February 23.

**IMPORTANT!** If you would like to receive timely information about our Social Action priorities, make sure to "UpdateProfile" at the bottom of your Constant Contact email and select to receive Social Action Messages, or email me directly and I can add you. [Lochambers1122@gmail.com](mailto:Lochambers1122@gmail.com).

## Creation Justice Tips

**Plan for April's Earth Day/Month.** Consider visiting local environmental centers or setting up a resource fair with handouts, seedlings, samples, and crafts such as making seed balls or mobiles from nature items. Look for a service-to-Earth project, such as trail or invasives clearing. Hold an outside worship service with liturgy on the theme of Creation care.

**Dispose of worn-out, stained, torn clothes** and fabric scraps with Earth in mind. Send them to [ReTold Recycling](#). As of 2025 this repurposing company has diverted 312 tons from landfills, the equivalent of saving 4.4 million liters of water, preventing 980,805 pounds of coal burning, and removing emissions from 206 gas-powered cars for a year.

## Spiritual Growth Coordinator, Alicia Mitchell



### UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH OF INDIANA SPIRITUAL GROWTH RETREAT

**March 27-28, 2026**

Begins Friday, 7:00 p.m. EST ~ Saturday, 3:00 p.m. EST

*Dinner is not included.*

Canyon Inn at McCormick's Creek State Park, Spencer IN

**Leader: Rev. Shannon Stringer, Director of Connectional Ministries, Indiana UMC**

**Theme: "Horizons of Hope"**

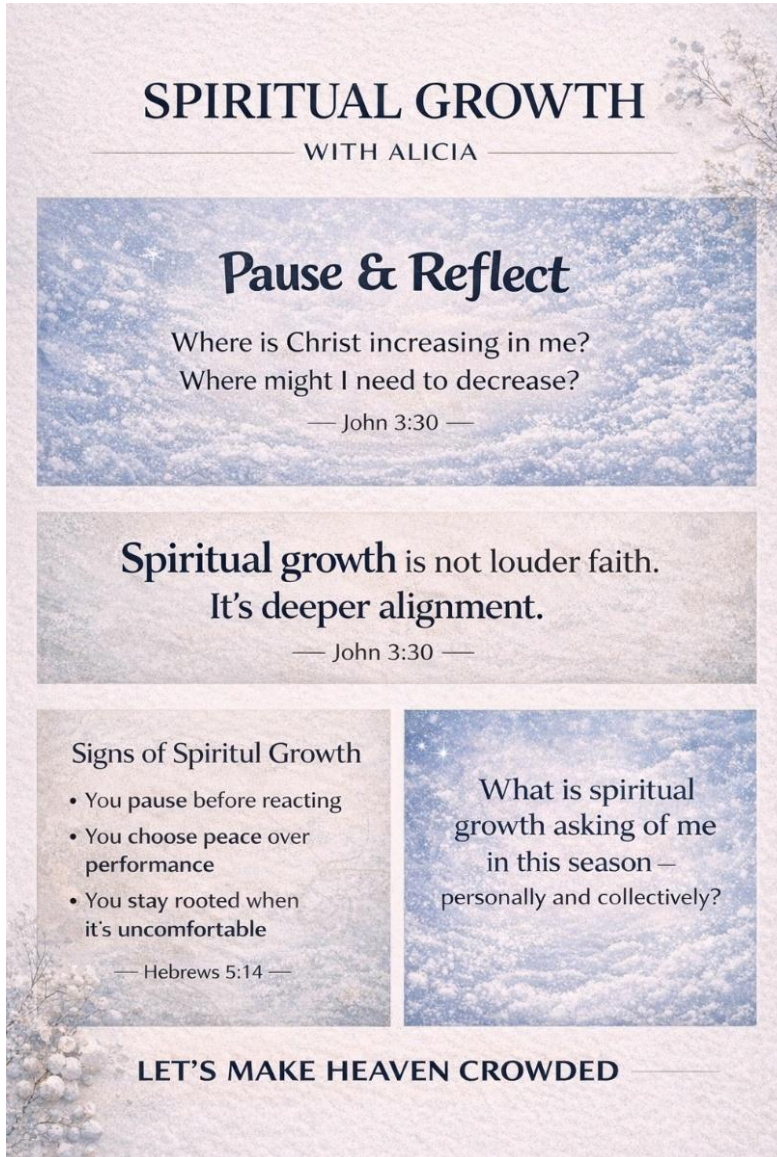
We are so excited to invite you to our only Spiritual Growth Retreat of 2026, and the theme could not be more perfect for the season we are in: Horizons of Hope. So many of us are carrying a lot: transition, questions, responsibilities, and the constant movement of life. This retreat is an invitation to pause, to breathe, and to meet God in a deeper way. We'll spend time in scripture and prayer, come just as we are, and explore how hope isn't just a feeling, but a steady peace rooted in God's presence and promises.

We are also blessed to have a dynamic speaker, Rev. Shannon Stringer, from our Indiana Conference who serves as Director of Connectional Ministries, with leadership over Leadership Development, Camping & Outdoor Ministries, Diversity, Missions, and Justice. Her heart is for helping churches and leaders connect people to Christ in real ways through practical mission, meaningful relationships, and purposeful discipleship.

This weekend will be a space for reflection, worship, connection, and real conversations, all in the beautiful setting of McCormick's Creek. Whether you come with friends or on your own, our prayer is that you leave feeling refreshed, encouraged, and reminded that God is still at work in your story.

**Spots are limited, so we encourage you to register soon.** The deadline for registering is March 7. The full registration form can be found online at <https://www.inumc.org/united-women-in-faith/> and further in this newsletter. We truly believe this will be a special time of renewal for our UWFaith community and would love to experience it with you.

## Meet our Spiritual Growth Coordinator & Why She Serves



My name is Alicia Mitchell, and I serve as the Spiritual Growth Coordinator because spiritual growth has been essential to my own journey with God. I am currently in a dual master's program in Divinity and Pastoral Care & Counseling, and I am also a Deaconess for the Indiana Conference. My heart is rooted in ministry that creates spaces where women can be real, reflective, and deeply connected to God in ways that honor the whole person.

I chose this role because I believe in giving back to the spaces that poured into me along my journey. So much of who I am today has been shaped by faith communities that held me, prayed for me, challenged me, and reminded me of my worth and calling. I want to be part of offering that same kind of space to others.

Spiritual growth isn't about having it all together. It's about showing up, asking honest questions, and giving ourselves permission to pause and listen for God. My hope is to help cultivate experiences that feel meaningful, accessible, and rooted in real life so that we can grow not just individually, but together.

If you ever need uplifting, prayer, or just someone to talk to, please feel free to reach out. We are in this together, and none of us are meant to walk this journey alone.

### Creation Justice Tips

**Connect the dots.** Climate change is affecting food prices. Super storms, drought, floods, extreme heat—all mess with food production and our budgets. Food cost is the second biggest way climate change is impacting people globally. Climate change is real.

**Be a bee saver.** One in three bee species is facing risk of extinction largely because of neonicotinoid pesticides in lawncare products such as Round Up. First, do no harm: boycott those products and their suppliers (Amazon and Home Depot). Second, do good: plant gardens or patches that offer pollinator blooms early spring through autumn.

## Lucille Raines Board President Cheryl Wilson

The Raines recovery ministry began in 1977, almost 50 years ago. God has led and guided every step of the way, and we continue to trust and seek His leadership. Recovery meetings are happening once again, resident rooms are being renovated, and life-skills classes are offered. Healing work is being done.

Our budget of \$675,000 is met a little over 50% from rent. The rest depends on \$102,000 from the United Women in Faith, and Advance Specials and donations. When you give to Lucille Raines, you become a part of the ministry. Henri Nouwen's book, [A Spirituality of Fundraising](#), states "We are inviting you to invest yourself through the resources that God has given you--your energy, your prayers, and your money—in this work God has called us". And when hope comes to broken lives, transformation occurs. That definitely is God's work.

I invite you to join me in becoming a monthly sustaining member of this ministry. To do so just go to our web page **[lucillerrainesresidence.org](http://lucillerrainesresidence.org)** and click the donate button. Tell the Raines story and give others the opportunity to share in our Mission. Challenge your church to become a monthly supporter. Remember...United Women in Faith of Indiana are the owners and responsible party for the Raines ministry. Together, with God, the future is bright!

United Women in Faith of Indiana are asked to contribute at least \$17 (per member) for the general support of the Lucille Raines Residence.

The Lucille Raines Board is looking for individuals with specific abilities to serve on the board. These individuals will not replace district representatives on the board rather they will be additional members of the board. Candidates will be reviewed by the Nominating Committee and presented to the board. Candidates do not have to be UWFaith members. The roles needed are:

Parliamentarian -- be our expert on the bylaws and standing rules of the board and Indiana UWFaith Conference to ensure the board is operating in accordance with these documents.

Grant Writer -- work with the executive director to create necessary documents to apply for grants from various sources to obtain necessary funds for things that cannot be covered by regular financial funds.

Legal Advisor -- work with the parliamentarian and the board during meetings, and the executive director and executive committee between meetings to ensure all actions of the board and management follow the laws of Indiana and the US.

Financial Advisor -- work with the board treasurer, executive director, and the board to create appropriate financial controls and review the financial documents to ensure the finances are handled to preserve the residence and its mission for the future.

Please submit recommended candidates for these roles to the Nominating Committee Co-Chairs, Jeri Ahlbrand, [seteach33@comcast.net](mailto:seteach33@comcast.net), cell 812-343-9971, home 813-379-9204  
Pat Meyer, [j.patricia.meyer@gmail.com](mailto:j.patricia.meyer@gmail.com), cell 732-881-1916, home 260-306-3166.

# SAFETY ALERT

## Clues to a phished email ...

We do so much by email at the conference and district level that we seem to get spoofed or hacked or phished or spearphished too often. Here are some examples and some clues to look for in a not-quite-right-email. The clue to really pay attention to is #1

**From:** La Donna Weber <t.coulter3@ntlworld.com>  
**Date:** December 11, 2023 at 6:32:14 PM EST  
**To:** kathylentz@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Operating & program services expenses

Hi Kathy,

I am currently out of office with limited phone accessibility. Could you handle an association Operating expense for the board's benefit?

Jacki Moore is unavailable to get it done now, let me know if you can pay for it through Zelle/Venmo/PayPal, so I can send you the vendor's payment information for any of the payment options most suitable for you, And I will have your reimbursement processed once the treasurer is available.

Kind Regards,

La Donna Weber  
President.

Sent from my iPhone

Clue # 1 -- what?? Who's address is this?? **Always** look for this clue.

Clues # 2-4 – these terms sound nothing like UWFaith. Spooky, though, that Jacki (who IS the treasurer) is mentioned. This is some pretty impressive phishing.

Clue #5 – I don't have an iPhone ... and never sign my letters that way anyway! If you are in doubt about an email and you've received email messages from that person in the past, go back and look to see how they usually end a message.

Here is another example:



**PASTOR UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**From:** pastorunitedmethodistchurch00@gmail.com  
**To:** ladonnarw@aol.com

Wed, Jan 14 at 8:44 A

Hello, I hope you are doing well. Are you less busy at the moment? I have a matter I would like you to handle discreetly. I will be entering a meeting shortly, so please refrain from calling and kindly respond via email.

Thanks

Bishop Tracy S. Malone

CLUE # 6 – Seriously? Does this sound real? Why wouldn't she have waited? And less busy? Less busy than what?

END RESULT ... don't hit reply (ever), don't send money (ever), don't send anyone gift cards (ever), just don't.

If you feel you need to double check – **don't reply** to the message but create a NEW message and use your contact list or the directory to find that person's email address.



United  
Women  
in Faith

# ASSEMBLY 2026

May 15-17, 2026

Indianapolis, Indiana

[uwfaith.org/assembly](http://uwfaith.org/assembly)

**Dream it!  
Believe it!  
Do it!**

**“Dream it! Believe it! Do it!” 2026 Assembly in Indianapolis, Indiana, this May! *Remember, registration closes April 13.***

### **Conference Challenge and Bring the Next Generation**

The conference that brings the most attendees new to Assembly will be celebrated. Keep recruiting and get women registered! Invite women of the NEXT GENERATION, daughters, nieces, mentees, church friends, community sisters, and neighbors. (For promotional materials you can use to invite others, visit <https://assembly.uwfaith.org/website/82390/promote/>)

### **Ask questions of Keynote Mother-Daughter Speakers:**

As part of their appearance, Stacey Abrams and her mother, the Rev. Carolyn Abrams have offered to take questions from our members and/or attendees. Please submit your questions to [AssemblyKeynote@uwfaith.org](mailto:AssemblyKeynote@uwfaith.org) by **March 15**, for consideration.

### **Leadership Fair**

Join in 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!

### **Legacy Banquet**

A special elegant evening of powerful speakers, great entertainment, food, and fellowship at the **Legacy Banquet** on May 16 at 7 p.m. ET. **Elizabeth Eckford, iconic civil rights leader and member of the Little Rock 9, will be the keynote speaker.** The evening’s program will also include Legacy Awards given to individuals and conferences who have gone above and beyond in supporting the future of United Women in Faith. **Tickets are \$125 each and include a plated 3-course dinner.** A ticket for the Legacy Banquet will only be available for purchase with your individual Assembly registration. After registration closes on April 13, there will be no other tickets to the banquet sold online or at the event.

### **Deaconesses and Home Missioners Lead 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.

## 2026 Calendar of Events

### World Day of Prayer

March 6

### Day of Giving

March 23

### Spiritual Retreat

March 27-28

Canyon Inn, Spencer, IN

### District Spring Gatherings

March 21 West Central Plains

March 21 East Central Heights

April 11 Northern Lakes

April 11 Eastern Rivers

April 11 Southern Rivers

### [Assembly](#)

May 14-17

Conference Center, Indianapolis

### Indiana UMC Annual Conference

June 3-6

St. Luke's UMC, Indianapolis

### Mission u Express

June 20 Southern Rivers

July 18 Northern Lakes

July 25 Eastern Rivers

August 22 East Central Heights

September 12 West Central Plains

### District Fall Gatherings

September 12 Eastern Rivers

September 19 Northern Lakes

September 12 or 19 Southern Rivers

### Annual Celebration

October 2-3

Location TBD

### Silent Retreat

October 16-18

Tipton, IN

### Conference and District Leadership Training Events

Tentative date November 7, Virtual

### [2028 North Central Jurisdiction Gathering](#)

June 8-12, 2028

Sioux City, South Dakota

faith

action

sisterhood



United  
Women  
in Faith

## 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](https://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](https://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](mailto:CCampos@uwfaith.org). We are highlighting various celebrations throughout the country.
- Scan this QR code to give now!





United  
Women  
in Faith



## Find United Women in Faith Online

### **United Women in Faith Website:** [uwfaith.org](http://uwfaith.org)

This is our primary website. Here you will find the latest news and information about United Women in Faith programs, initiatives, and events. It's where you connect with other members and get involved. You'll also find links to our many resources and the e-store.

**Downloads:** [umwmissionresources.org](http://umwmissionresources.org)

Find new brand elements, member materials, programs, and catalogs here.

### **Online Community:** [uwfaith.mn.co](http://uwfaith.mn.co)

Connect with United Women in Faith members on Mighty Networks, a safe and secure online space to deepen our community and engage digital resources for local programming and transformative education. The platform features the digital Program Resource, Prayer Guide, Mission u curricula, online groups around specific interests, and more.

### **Facebook:** [facebook.com/uwomenfaith](https://facebook.com/uwomenfaith)

If you're on Facebook, be sure to "like" United Women in Faith. Follow the link and sign up so that our regular posts will appear on your home page.

### **Twitter:** [twitter.com/uwomenfaith](https://twitter.com/uwomenfaith)

Do you tweet? So does United Women in Faith! Use the link to find our Twitter account @uwomenfaith. Follow us, tweet with us, and become a part of the continuing conversation around faith, hope, and love in action.

### **YouTube:** [youtube.com/uwomenfaith](https://youtube.com/uwomenfaith)

Need a video for a presentation? You'll find it on YouTube. Check out the video resources available by following the link. New videos are posted often!

### **Flicker** [uwfaith.org/flickr](http://uwfaith.org/flickr)

Need a photo for your newsletter or PowerPoint? Follow this link and you'll find terrific images illustrating the work of United Women in Faith members.



**UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH OF INDIANA  
SPIRITUAL GROWTH RETREAT**

**March 27-28, 2026**

Begins Friday, 7:00 p.m. EST ~ Saturday, 3:00 p.m. EST

*Dinner is not included.*

Canyon Inn at McCormick's Creek State Park, Spencer IN

**Leader: Rev. Shannon Stringer, Director of Connectional Ministries, Indiana UMC**

**Theme: "Horizons of Hope"**

SPACE IS LIMITED – DON'T DELAY!

Registration and payment need to be received by **March 7**. No refunds after **Feb. 27**.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ District \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Church \_\_\_\_\_

Please specify your choice by selecting the appropriate option:

- One (1) Person in room (1 Queen bed) plus Saturday breakfast and lunch \$129 for single
- Two (2) Persons in room (1 Queen bed) plus Saturday breakfast and lunch \$85 per person
- Two (2) Persons in room (2 Queen beds) plus Saturday breakfast and lunch \$101 per person
- Three (3) Persons in room (2 beds & sleeper sofa) Saturday breakfast and lunch \$86 per person
- Commuter (no overnight room) incl. Saturday lunch \$24 per person
- Need Handicap Accessible Room  Special Diet, Specify \_\_\_\_\_

List all people sharing the room along with their emergency contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ OR \_\_\_\_\_ use QR code or click for [Online credit card payment via Vanco.](#)

Remember, registration is **not** complete without both form AND payment.



Mail completed registration with check made payable to UMW IN to:

Rita Gaither Gant, 4102 N Dequincy Street, Indianapolis, IN 46226-4563  
317-549-3574/ [gaitrgantm@aol.com](mailto:gaitrgantm@aol.com)

**Note:** Pictures and videos captured during the event by conference representatives will be used for news and promotions, including social media. Registering for the event gives permission for one's image to be used. Names of youth and children will not be used with pictures

**This will be the ONLY Spiritual Growth Retreat in 2026 due to Assembly in May.**



# Volunteer Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

USPS Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/Zip+ \_\_\_\_\_

Local Church \_\_\_\_\_ District \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please consider me for: \_\_\_\_\_ (please indicate if interested in district or conference)

- President (Elected position) \_\_\_\_\_
- Treasurer (Elected position) \_\_\_\_\_
- Secretary (Elected position) \_\_\_\_\_
- Communications Coordinator (Elected position) \_\_\_\_\_
- Chair, Committee on Nominations (Elected position) \_\_\_\_\_
- Vice President/Event Planner \_\_\_\_\_
- Mission u Team member \_\_\_\_\_
- Committee on Nominations member \_\_\_\_\_
- Music leaders (pianist/song leader) \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate if district or conference for positions below \_\_\_\_\_

- Mission Coordinator (Appointed)
  - Spiritual Growth
  - Social Action
  - Membership Nurture and Outreach
  - Education and Interpretation
  - Resources
- Other Coordinator (Appointed)
  - Language Coordinator
  - Younger Women's Coordinator
  - Technology Coordinator

Age Under 40    40-60    Over 60

United Women in Faith of Indiana

Tell us about your interests and experience on the reverse side. Thanks!!

January 2026



## Volunteer Form

Return this form when finished to the **conference chair of nominations or your district chair of nominations** as appropriate. Now, tell us about yourself and why you would like to take on a leadership role in United Women in Faith of Indiana!



## United Women in Faith of Indiana 2026 MISSION TODAY REPORT

**WHY?** The goal of the Mission Today program is to encourage ALL local units to fulfill the PURPOSE of United Women in Faith by:

- **Energizing** United Women in Faith to be more involved in mission through prayer, study and action;
- **Increasing** contacts between local organizations and mission personnel and projects enabling a better understanding of where Mission Giving dollars go;
- **Encouraging** the use of a variety of mission resources;
- **Expanding** concepts of mission, including social justice as mission.

**United Women in Faith demonstrate their commitment to the PURPOSE through their Prayers, Presence, Participation, Gifts and Service. Use this checklist to help plan your upcoming year.**

### Prayers

- Used the Prayer Guide at each meeting to pray for mission personnel and projects. \*
- Communicated with at least 5 persons listed in the Prayer Guide during the year.
- Held a mini-Spiritual Growth Retreat or Soul Care event.

### Presence

- At least one member (not a conference or district officer) attended a Mission u event. \*
- At least two members were added to the membership roll.
- At least two members (not a conference or district officer) attended at least one district or conference event such as an annual celebration, a Soul Care or spiritual/silent retreat, Mission u event, Leadership Development or officer training.

### Participation

- At least two members subscribed to and/or read *response* magazine (including online articles). \*
- Used at least two programs from a UWFaith Program Book during the year. \*
- Conducted at least one Mission u study during the year. \*
- At least two members completed one of the Reading Program Plans. \*
- Initiated a new or expanded an already-existing Local Ministry Program which benefits women, children and/or youth. \*
- Attended a "Tour-Talk-Lunch" ("TTL") at Lucille Raines Residence or gave in-kind or monetary support beyond the conference asking. \*
- At least one member has signed up to receive the [UWFaith's Action Network](#) Alerts or the UWFaith of Indiana Social Action emails via Constant Contact, and shares with information with members.
- Told a mission story at meetings through sharing "member support" articles (identified by the Mission Giving logo—see other side) from *response* magazine.
- Included a book review/report on a Reading Program book during a meeting.
- At least two members watch or listen to at least 2 "Faith Talks" or "Voices from the Field", live or recorded on UWFaith website.

**Gifts**

- Made and met its Pledge to Mission. \*
- Remitted the Conference Asking of \$20 per member, plus Assembly asking of \$1 the year prior to Assembly. \*
- Received Five Star recognition by contributing to all five channels of Mission Giving by unit and/or member(s). \*
- Legacy Fund donation made by unit and/or member(s).

**Service**

- Implemented the Charter for Racial Justice in at least one way during the year. \*
- Invited a district or conference officer (not a local member) to one meeting during the year.
- Pledged to care for God’s creation by becoming a “Green” local organization.
- Participated in at least two events/activities during the year which focused on Current Justice issues.

**To be recognized by your District and Conference, please mark the checklist above as you complete an item and indicate what level was attained as follows:**

Category	Number of items for that level	Number of items completed
Honorary Mention	At least 6 (with at least one per category)	
Bronze	At least 8 (including at least 4 asterisked items)	
Silver	At least 12 (including at least 6 asterisked items)	
Gold	At least 16 (including at least 6 asterisked items)	

Local Organization: \_\_\_\_\_ District: \_\_\_\_\_

Name and Position of person completing this report: \_\_\_\_\_

Email or postal address, and Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Return completed form by January 15, 2027 to the Conference or District Education and Interpretation Coordinator.**

**Suggested Resources**



Read *response*, the magazine for Women in Mission, through a subscription or online: [uwfaith.org/resources/response-magazine](http://uwfaith.org/resources/response-magazine) or click [response Magazine | United Women in Faith](#). The Mission Giving logo found in *response* identifies a program and/or person supported by United Women in Faith’s Mission Giving.

Current Justice Issues, including the Charter for Racial Justice, are online at [uwfaith.org/what-we-do/serve-and-advocate/racial-justice/](http://uwfaith.org/what-we-do/serve-and-advocate/racial-justice/) or click [Racial Justice | United Women in Faith](#)



Current Climate Issues may be found online at [uwfaith.org/what-we-do/serve-and-advocate/climate-justice/](http://uwfaith.org/what-we-do/serve-and-advocate/climate-justice/) or click [Climate Justice | United Women in Faith](#)

*Making Disciples of Jesus  
Christ through Mission  
Opportunities for Youth  
and Young Adults.*

Youth and young adults receiving funds from the Youth and Young Adult Service Scholarship Fund will be asked to submit a summary of their experiences to the conference organization of United Women in Faith within 45 days of trip completion. Send report to the Conference E&I Coordinator.

Scholarship recipients' contact information may be obtained by contacting the Youth & Young Adult Scholarship Committee.

The Youth and Young Adult Service Scholarship Fund is funded by the giving of each local organization (unit) of United Women in Faith of Indiana.



United  
Women  
in Faith

### 2026 Youth & Young Adult Service Scholarship Fund

Direct questions to Rae Wallis,  
Conference Mission Coordinator for Education and Interpretation  
317-625-2523, [raewallis@comcast.net](mailto:raewallis@comcast.net).

Mail applications to 9431 English Oak Dr., Indianapolis IN 46235

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH  
OF INDIANA CONFERENCE



2026

Youth and  
Young Adult

Service Scholarship Fund

Mission Scholarships for  
Youth and Young Adults

A Project of United Women in  
Faith of Indiana conference

**Criteria for applying:**

1. Youth and Young adults ages 13-25.
2. Must attend a United Methodist Church.
3. Qualifying persons must participate in work, study, or travel experiences that develop leadership in the Youth and Young Adults Ministries of the Indiana Conference of the United Methodist Church.
4. Preference will be given to work with UWFaith national mission institutions, UMC mission sites or advance specials of the Indiana Conference UMC. Preference will also be given to those churches/youth who have not recently received a scholarship.
5. Amount of scholarship shall be determined by the Youth and Young Adult Service Scholarship Committee. As a general guideline, 15% of the individual's cost will be given for work with UMC missions and 12% for work with non-UMC missions.
6. Scholarships will be awarded on a first come, first serve basis, as funds are available.
7. Applications are due at least 6 weeks prior to trip.
8. **Funds will be available January 1, 2026.**

**For use by Scholarship Team**

Date Application Received \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date Application Processed \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date Application Approved \_\_\_\_\_  
 Amount Approved \_\_\_\_\_  
 Notes:

**2026 Youth and Young Adult Service Scholarship Application Form**

Please type or print plainly  
one form per group

Individual/Group Name: (circle one please)	# Eligible Youth & Young Adults in group: _____
Parent/Youth Leader name: (circle one please)	Email Address: _____
Home Address:	City: _____ Zip: _____
Applicant's UM Church Name	District: _____
Church Address:	Phone: _____
City:	Zip: _____
Mission Project:	
Indicate whether it is a United Methodist-Related Project and include Project Number (if Applicable):	
Project Location:	
Cost per youth/young adult: \$ _____	
Dates:	
Project Objective/Work goal:	
A letter of reference from Youth Leader or local church pastor <b>must</b> accompany the application.	
Mail completed form to the Youth & Young Adult Service Scholarship Fund Committee at the address on the reverse side of this form.	
Form may be duplicated as needed. Download at <a href="https://www.inumc.org/unity-women-in-faith/">https://www.inumc.org/unity-women-in-faith/</a>	

## INDIANA CONFERENCE UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH OFFICERS 2026

### **President**

#### **La Donna Weber (24-27)**

8300 Sawyer Brown Road, S303  
Nashville, TN 37221-7687  
260-444-8036  
[ladonnarw@aol.com](mailto:ladonnarw@aol.com)

### **Vice President**

Jeanie Park Estep (26-27)  
1827 S 445 E  
LaGrange, IN46761-9794  
260-463-1187  
[jparkestep@gmail.com](mailto:jparkestep@gmail.com)

### **Secretary**

Vacant

### **Treasurer**

**Carla Gillespie (25-26)**  
3245 Glenn Hills Drive  
Richmond, IN 47374  
937-414-8173  
[Ct25.cgillespie@gmail.com](mailto:Ct25.cgillespie@gmail.com)

### **Spiritual Growth Coordinator**

**Alicia Mitchell (26-27)**  
4728 Aerie Lane  
Indianapolis 46254  
317-313-5175  
[Alicia.mitchell@garrett.edu](mailto:Alicia.mitchell@garrett.edu)

### **Social Action Coordinator**

**Lori Chambers (24-27)**  
16529 Owen Drive  
Westfield, IN 46074-0460  
317-696-5965  
[Lochambers1122@gmail.com](mailto:Lochambers1122@gmail.com)

### **Education and Interpretation Coordinator**

**Rae Wallis (25-26)**  
9431 English Oak Drive  
Indianapolis, IN 46235-1147  
317-625-2523  
[raewallis@comcast.net](mailto:raewallis@comcast.net)

### **Membership Nurture and Outreach**

**Carol Tiller (24-27)**  
5305 Alameda Road  
Indianapolis, IN 46228-2402  
317-313-9376  
[Csa5305@gmail.com](mailto:Csa5305@gmail.com)

### **Resources Coordinator**

**Sara Mayes (23-26)**  
7766 Camp Brosend Drive #0  
Newburgh, IN 47360-1336  
270-577-9003  
[Skma092362@aol.com](mailto:Skma092362@aol.com)

### **Communications Coordinator**

**Margaret Dennis (26-27)**  
6500 Blue Spruce Drive  
Newburgh, IN 47630-1969  
812-604-5995  
[margdenn@att.net](mailto:margdenn@att.net)

### **Chairperson Committee on Nominations**

**Rita Gaither-Gant (25-26)**  
4102 N. Dequincy Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46226-4563  
317-549-3574  
[gaitrgantm@aol.com](mailto:gaitrgantm@aol.com)

### **Committee on Nominations**

**L. Janenne Stuber (class of 2026)**  
761 South Park Drive  
Chesterton, IN 46304-2941  
(H) 219-929-1935  
(C) 219-477-8748  
[stuberm@pnw.edu](mailto:stuberm@pnw.edu)

### **Edna May (class of 2028)**

6926 Bluff Ridge Place  
Indianapolis, IN 46268-1898  
317-291-6926  
[Emjmay42@gmail.com](mailto:Emjmay42@gmail.com)

### **Mary Ann Pollard (class of 2028)**

585 East Main Street  
Hagerstown, IN 47346-1421

765-994-1614

[m.a.pollard@comcast.net](mailto:m.a.pollard@comcast.net)

**Robin Hatton (class of 2028)**

2709 North Virginia Avenue

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765-212-7253

[rhatton@bsu.edu](mailto:rhatton@bsu.edu)

**Margaret (Margie) Schimmel (class of 2029)**

1802 Legoma Drive

Fort Wayne 46819-2012

[mes.4264@yahoo.com](mailto:mes.4264@yahoo.com)

**Jerianne Bonenberger (class of 2029)**

5610 Picadilly Lane

Evansville 47711-1876

[jabones59@gmail.com](mailto:jabones59@gmail.com)

**Heather Lewis (class of 2029)**

931 E Highway 150

Hardinsburg, IN 47125-8539

[heatherdawnlewis@gmail.com](mailto:heatherdawnlewis@gmail.com)

**Appointed Officers**

**Co-Language Coordinators**

**Margaret Dennis (25-26)**

6500 Blue Spruce Drive

Newburgh, IN 47630-1969

812-604-5995

[margdenn@att.net](mailto:margdenn@att.net)

**Ashley Flores (25-26)**

3245 Glenn Hills Drive

Richmond, IN 47374

937-689-9744

[ashley@richmondcumc.com](mailto:ashley@richmondcumc.com)

**Music Coordinator**

**Beverly Kennedy**

4713 North Camelot Drive

Muncie, IN 47304-6212

812-767-1611

[auntbevk@gmail.com](mailto:auntbevk@gmail.com)

**Young Women's Coordinator**

Vacant

**Legacy Coordinator**

**Rita Gaither-Gant**

4102 N. Dequincy Street

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317-549-3574

[gaitrgantm@aol.com](mailto:gaitrgantm@aol.com)

**Technology Specialist**

**Jacki Moore**

5134 Pike Creek Lane

Indianapolis, IN 46254-5784

317-413-3927

[Jacqueh6@yahoo.com](mailto:Jacqueh6@yahoo.com)

**Mission u Officers**

**Dean**

**Maureen Mauzy (2026)**

802 East Center Street Unit 111

Warsaw, IN 46580-3396

[maureenmauzy@gmail.com](mailto:maureenmauzy@gmail.com)

**Assistant Dean**

**Trisha Stanart (25-26)**

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317-867-2277

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**Business Manager**

**Barb McCoy (2026)**

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**Registrar**

**Mary Margaret Willbanks (2026)**

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