Alaska Women's Response



Upcoming Events

Mission u 2026 Training for Study Leaders. April 14–28, 2026 on Zoom. Contact Debra Gerrish (jdgerrish@alaska.net) to register before Feb. 20.

Book Study April
April 23, 2026, 7 pm, De-westernizing Spiritual Formation

Assembly 2026
May 15 – 17, 2026
Indianapolis, Indiana

Mission u 2026
Look for Mission u events in the second half of the year in 2026.

Annual Gathering 2026
September 17-19, LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR, based on Leviticus 19: 18b, 33-34, United Methodist Church of Chugiak

A Note from the President

Matthew 19:14 "Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.'"

Recently, I traveled to West Africa, where approximately 15 million people were captured and enslaved. Senegal was part of the Triangular Trade Route: ships brought manufactured goods from Europe to Africa, transported enslaved people across the Atlantic, and returned to Europe with slave-grown products. We visited Goree Island, there is a heart-wrenching spot, a small "door of no return" through which every man, woman, and child walked to the slave boats, catching a last glimpse of their homeland.

Decades later, Senegal is "independent", but France still has a strangle hold on Senegal's resources, currency and leadership maintaining poverty for the Senegalese people. Generational poverty is facing Senegal children's future. Hidden colonialism is impacting the people still today.



I had the opportunity to travel to Washington DC to represent United Women in Faith at a joint lobbying effort for passage of **House Representative bill 7325 and Senate bill 761: Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies legislation.** The multi-day event brought together many church dominations. The U.S. Indian boarding schools represented a federal policy of forced assimilation that aimed to "Kill the Indian, Save the Man". Hundreds of thousands of Native American children were removed from their homes, often forcibly, to attend over 526 government-funded, often church-run, institutions designed to strip them of their Native culture, language, and traditions.

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Pearl Chanar, an elder and Indian Boarding school survivor shared her experiences. She was from Minto. Fifty years later, as she spoke, the pain was still visible in her body. The images of teenagers being rounded up forcibly and taken away, some never to be seen again bought tears to my heart. Imagine, a rural village without children and the energy

they bring. Elders had no one to whom they could pass on traditional ways. The villages were quiet and depressed. It was another tragic effort to colonize people, our Alaska Native people.

Reverend Charlie Bower shared when he returned to the Barrow, he had no idea how to live the indigenous ways. He didn't know how to hunt, whale, live off the land. He didn't know parenting skills, which are modeled as we grow up. I understood the intergenerational trauma created. The commission will not remove the pain inflicted but will begin the healing process. It will help tribes figure out where the children who died are and bring them home. It will allow first-hand accounts to be recorded before the elders pass away. It will hold accountable the faith organizations, who perpetrated such harm in US government's name.

I stood on the street between the Capital and the Supreme Court, two pillars of power in our country. Off to the side of these seats of government, stands the Methodist Church Building. It is the only non-government building on Capitol Hill. It reminded me that as Methodists, we are called to participate in our government. That power is given to the federal officials by the citizens of our country. A power as citizens we have as well. Please contact Senator Sullivan's office Phone: (202) 224-3004 and Representative Begich's Office phone (202) 225-5765 encourage active public support and passage of Senate bill 761 and House Bill 7325.

Participate in United Women in Faith Action alerts visit:

https://uwfaith.org/what-we-do/serve-and-advocate/advocacy/

We can BOLDLY make a difference!

—Susan Williams
President, Alaska United Women in Faith

Tid-Bits From the Treasurer

It is hard for me to believe that we are in the middle of February. I must remind myself that although the Annual Gathering isn't until September 18th, it is time for me to begin to plan for it.

Part of planning is, as always, the budget. Please begin to think about what your Unit will be able to pledge in 2027. I will begin working on the budget and sending out the Pledge forms in June. Hopefully, this will give the Units that take the summer off time to prepare. The 2025 Annual Gathering planning team received excellent feedback regarding how to improve our/my presentations, etc. and I look forward to incorporating those suggestions into this year's event.

I also wanted to use this moment to share a brief update on the fundraising success of last year's Annual Gathering. Thanks to the silent auction, we were able to send a check for $1,374.00 to each of Alaska's National Mission Institutions; Nome Community Center and Alaska Child and Family. Additionally, we collected 300 lbs. of food for the Willow Food Pantry, which serves approximately 160 families per month from the Willow community. *All three organizations expressed their sincere gratitude for everyone's generosity.*

Thank you to everyone!

The mission of United Women in Faith is to connect and nurture women so that they can inspire, influence, and impact local and global communities.

—Elizabeth Wilson, treasurer

Comments on Annual Gathering 2025



Thank you to everyone who attended and gave feedback about Annual Gathering 2025: Bring Your Lunch. The Leadership Team wants to thank Ola Toe Fuataina UMC for their welcome and hospitality.

We were graced by Deaconess Sung-Ok Lee (Office of Deaconess/Home Missioner), Rev. Lisa Talbott (Assistant to the Bishop Equity & Intercultural Competency), Rev. Kelly Marciales (Executive Director, Kellogg Campus, Alaska Pacific University), Rev. Lydia Wilson (Executive Director, Birchwood Camp) and Ms. Heba El-Hendi (Refugee Resettlement Services, Catholic Social Services). And I can't forget Stretch Breaks with Julia Smith.

The women indicated they gained a great deal of information and understanding about the various missions and ministries presented. Some of their comments included:

What went well? What should we keep?

- Stretch breaks with Julia, updates from Birchwood Camp
- Overall, it was a good experience and I enjoyed seeing everyone. Loved the Ubuntu experience.
- Appreciated the connections to speakers that related to content relating to UWFaith topics but that were outside of the internal organization itself.
- Having all group sessions rather than break-outs
- I thought it was a fabulous Annual Gathering. I especially loved the presentations. I enjoyed meeting new folks and loved being part of OTF.
- Speakers that are interesting and challenging
- Loved the presentations from local organizations

What can we do better next year?

- Seating for meals; layout of silent auction, ministry tables - missed AK Child and Family, Nome Community Center, Racial Justice work/progress
- The meetings were too long. 12- and 13-hour days became very uncomfortable.
- Would have preferred more factual past budget information to see how it was used in establishing the proposed budget.
- Earlier access to agenda would also be helpful.
- More music; more singing.
- Option for craft as a memento of the event.

Thanks to all who made this Annual Gathering 2025 a Success!

Sandra Woods

Photos from Annual Gathering 2025 (Don’t miss AG2026!)



Ubuntu Food Bank



Silent Auction Tables



Awards



Dancing

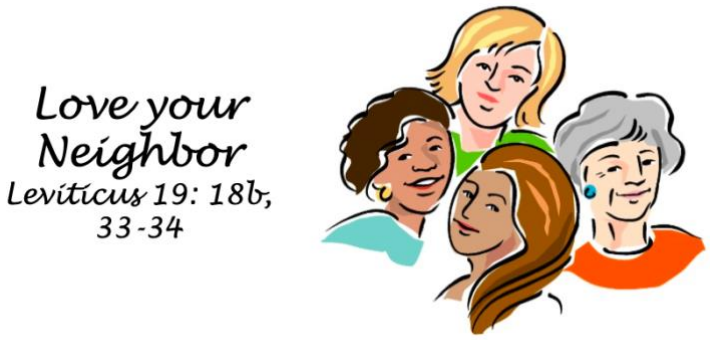


Socializing



All of Us

Annual Gathering September 18-19-20, 2026



United Methodist Church of Chugiak
Focus on Immigration and Refugees

(vote on the schedule you prefer! Sept 18-19-20: Friday, Saturday, Sunday)

As the Leadership Team plans for Annual Gathering 2026, we'd like to hear from the previous attendees and those who haven't attended because of scheduling (length of the event). Some considerations include starting earlier on Friday and ending on Saturday. But we want to hear from those who would attend before we get too deep into the process. Please take a couple of minutes and let us know what would help you.

ANNUAL GATHERING 2026 SCHEDULING SURVEY
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdmltRpjFNPKwNTrTgSDgF7l6j_YPuo4yZ9fncI08LwJREiwQ/viewform

My "Immigration" Story

By Sandra Woods

When I was growing up my paternal grandmother (dad's mother) frequently told stories of growing up poor in New Orleans, Louisiana. She told stories of playing with her numerous cousins and brothers, and of her distinction in her immediate family of being the only child born in the US after their immigration from Sicily. She also told of being bullied for being a "dirty Italian."

The Bordonaro family arrived in New Orleans in October 1906 in search of a better life. Her father died in a railroad accident and in those days, there wasn't survivor's benefits for families. "Mamie," my paternal great-grandmother, among other things, rented her barn to trainers from the nearby thoroughbred race track. My grandfather was one of those trainers who rented space from Mamie. He spotted the beautiful Italian daughter, and made sure he was in Mamie's good graces in order to spend time with Grandma. A couple of years ago, my cousin found the house where our grandmother grew up and the barn is now a detached garage.

My grandmother was born September 26, 1907. The family sent the older brothers to register the birth with the city. She was supposed to be named Josephine, after her father. However, the clerk didn't know how to spell Josephine so used her own name, Palma, on the birth certificate. This wasn't discovered until later. I'm not sure if or when my grandmother was able to legally change her name. She went by Jojo to her family and friends and was buried with the name her parents gave her.

Late this summer when the White House began sending the US Marines and National Guard to cities to "crack down" on "illegal" immigrants I began thinking of my grandmother's story; a child in a family looking for a better life only to learn her new country didn't want her.

I also think of the "Christmas" story and Jesus' life as an immigrant; and his answer to the Pharisees about the greatest commandment. God commands the newly free Israelites to "Love your neighbor," and "do not mistreat the stranger." (Leviticus 18b, 33-34) I read different translations of these versus to see how various editors translated the concept of

"stranger." The words immigrant, refugee and foreigner are used. We are not to mistreat, oppress, or otherwise do wrong to this group. One editor even translated the phrase to "do not vex." I don't know about you, but there is a lot of vexing going on right now.

The Alaska Annual Gathering will be a time to learn more about the issues around immigration and refugee status in the US and Alaska. I'm looking forward to sharing this time with you. Put this event on your calendar now and look for updates as speakers are confirmed.



The house my grandmother lived in as a child.



The garage that was the barn for rent.

Alaska United Women in Faith Leadership Team 2026

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Racial Justice Task Force Seat D	Mesepa "Sepa" Fa'avae	viigamarturia@yahoo.com	Soldotna UMC
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Western Jurisdiction Leadership Team Committee on Nominations	Jennifer Miller	Alaskan_miller_girl@yahoo.com	Anchor Park UMC

Legacy Endowment Fund Day of Giving, March 23, 2026



Day of Giving 2026
How to Give and Celebrate

United Women in Faith
777 United Nations Plaza
New York, NY 10017
uwfaith.org

Day of Giving, March 23, 2026, is our opportunity to gather together as one sisterhood in faith 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 to 5 p.m. EST call 1-800-278-771
- Give securely online at: 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 subject line.
- Text Give to 20503 or scan the QR code.
- Consider giving a planned gift through your estate. Visit **uwfgift.org** for more information.
- Watch for our live Facebook feeds and updates throughout the day and throughout the country.
- Plan your own Day of Giving celebration and let us know about it.
  Email **ccampos@uwfaith.org**

Scan this QR code to give now!

Where the Money Goes 2026

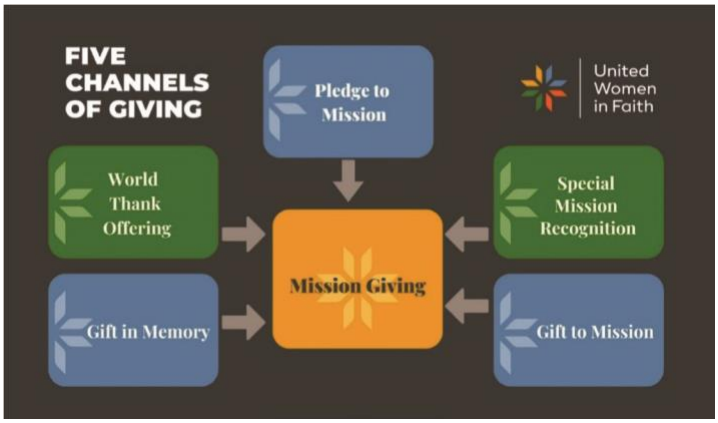
First, let's hear about where the money comes from, the sources of our funding...

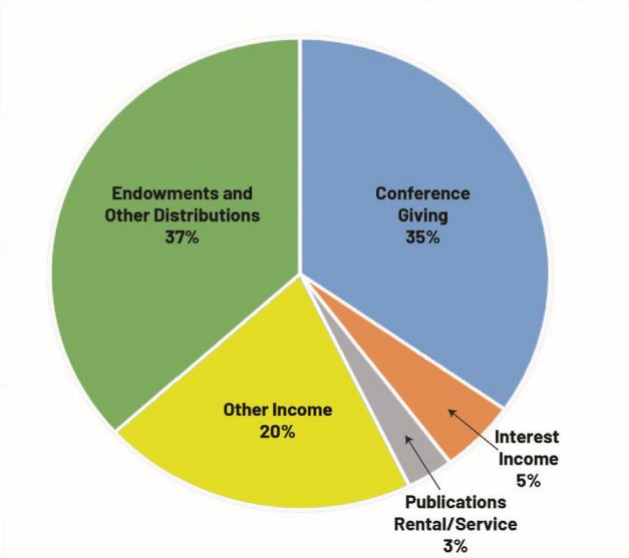
United Women in Faith is trusted with contributions from members, mission partners, and donors who have a heart for the work we do. Our national office is committed to good stewardship of this generous support.

Many of our members are organized into conferences. Conference giving includes the Five Channels of Giving as well as designated gifts. The Five Channels (pictured below) include the undesignated funds received by our organization. Conference giving is budgeted to help cover 35% of the national office's programs and supporting services in 2026.

In addition to the conference giving, we receive revenue from investments, publications, rental fees at the Church Center for the United Nations (CCUN), service fees at Brooks-Howell Retirement Home (BHH), and other miscellaneous sources. The revenue from CCUN and BHH is invested back into the operations of those two facilities. A significant portion of our annual budget is supported by endowment and other designated funds bestowed upon our organization, with various purposes and restrictions.

We currently have an active Legacy Endowment Fund Campaign, which is a permanent source of income, undergirding all of our work for years to come. This fund has reached over $52 million and has a goal of $60 million.





- *For 2026, we budgeted $4.5 million for Mission Giving (unrestricted) and $320,000 for Designated Giving (restricted).*
- *Gifts to the Legacy Endowment Fund Campaign are deposited into an investment account. Each year, we draw down a percentage to undergird the operations of our national office.*
- *All revenue from CCUN and BHH is invested back into the operations of those facilities.*

Now, let's learn about where the money goes...

Social Action & Justice Work

We mobilize our members to learn about and act on key social justice issues. Currently, our focus is on climate justice and racial justice. The climate justice campaign, Just Energy for All, supports monthly events such as educational webinars, a yearly Earth Day of service, resource development for members and the wider public, Social Action Coordinator training in every conference, and participating in national advocacy coalitions working for environmental justice. The racial justice campaign focuses on interrupting the school-to-prison pipeline through educational webinars, action alerts, and training leaders.

A total of $1.0 million is budgeted in 2026 for this work.

Education & Leadership Development

+ Spiritual Growth & Nurturing Opportunities

Through our education and leadership development efforts, we equip women, children, and youth to become leaders in the church, their communities, and the world. Programs include:

- Leadership trainings
- Mission u study leader trainings
- Reading Program
- Scholarships for students in the United States and overseas

Through our spiritual growth and nurturing opportunities, we offer resources and programming that enable women to explore their faith and nurture their souls, including:

- Daily Prayer Guide and Program Resource
- Bible studies
- Soul Care events
- *Faith Talks* podcast

A total of $1.5 million is budgeted in 2026 for this work.

National Mission Institutions (NMIs)

We support over 80 NMIs across the United States that offer vital services to and advocate for women, children, and youth in vulnerable communities. In 2024, the NMIs served 172,456 women, children, and youth through United Women in Faith grants. In addition to the grants, the national office also provides NMIs with training, technical support, and networking opportunities.

A total of $1.6 million is budgeted in 2026 for this work.



National Mission Institutions Map

International Mission

We support international partners that are enhancing the capacities of local and regional women leaders and supporting economic development programs for women and youth. We support Regional Missionaries, personnel serving in their home regions with church, ecumenical, and grassroots partners in educational and empowerment programs. Our international work empowers women and youth to find local solutions and make positive, measurable change in their communities.

A total of $1.2 million is budgeted in 2026 for this work.

Deaconess & Home Missioner

Deaconesses and home missioners are laypeople who are called by God to be in a lifetime relationship in The United Methodist Church for engagement with a full-time vocation in ministries of love, justice, and service. Together, they form a covenant community that is rooted in Scripture, informed by history, driven by mission, ecumenical in scope, and global in outreach.

A total of $677,000 is budgeted in 2026 for this work.

Mission Resources

We provide resources to support ministry, including items available through UWFaith Digital, our eStore, and response magazine.

A total of $1.3 million is budgeted in 2026 for these resources.

Other Programs & Program Support

In addition to the programs and resources listed above, we have smaller programs and supporting services throughout the year, as well as Assembly, which occurs every four years but takes preparation to host an event with more than 3,000 attendees.

A total of $2.1 million is budgeted in 2026 for this work.

Organizational Supporting Services

Funds are also used to support services that are critical to making the programs listed above possible. These services include:

- Board and staff meetings and development
- Fundraising
- Accounting and financial services
- Grants and scholarships administration
- Human Resources
- Information technology

A total of $4.3 million is budgeted in 2026 for this work. This represents 18% of total budgeted operating expenses for the year.

What We Don't Fund

United Women in Faith does not fund projects and programs that:

- Don't benefit women, children, or youth
- Don't comply with our United Methodist Church Social Principles
- Are administered by discriminatory organizations

Here is more information about our finances…

Each year, we release an Annual Report that describes the work we accomplished and includes our audited financial information. You can read notes from our key leaders, see pictures and stories about projects, view the financial reports, and imagine the possibilities for the coming years!

Visit our Financials webpage to learn more: uwfaith.org/who-we-are/financials.

Mission u 2025-2026

Mission u is a transformative educational program supported by United Women in Faith. This Mission u was made up of scripture study, learning segments (Most segments were about Jade's family's experience as refugees and the hope (the study) that kept them going. Despite the struggles which were a hard reality in their life.), mini-art projects and music to enrich our experience. This year Mission u was different in each of the three places we presented.

Kenai/Nikiski

Mission u in Nikiski was a two-day affair led by Jade Hayden on October 17-18. It was held at North Star UMC. This Mission u was filled with lots of small group discussion and art activities about building hope. There were about 14 women at the event including the study leader. They came from North Star, Soldotna and Kenai UMC. Special thanks to Bonnie Miller who was the registrar and helped to make lunch happen with other ladies from her church.

Local Mission Giving - The ladies on the Kenai collected supplies for the LeeShore Center which is the women's shelter. It combines the idea of Hope (study) with harsh realities. Women who are leaving domestic violence situations need hope that they can build a better life. Domestic violence is one of those harsh realities that the study points out we need to deal with. Hope and Love in Action!

Anchorage

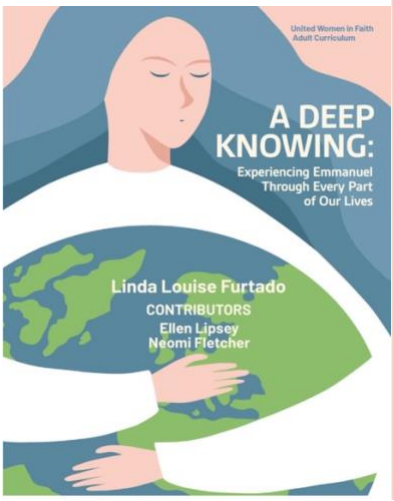
The Mission u in Anchorage was supposed to be held on January 16-17 at First UMC. Mother nature changed our plans in the form of an ice storm on January 16th. The roads were unsafe to drive and it looked like January 17 was a big question mark. So we spent hours changing things around so we could present Mission u on Zoom. We had 17 women on-line at one point but it settled down to 11 women.

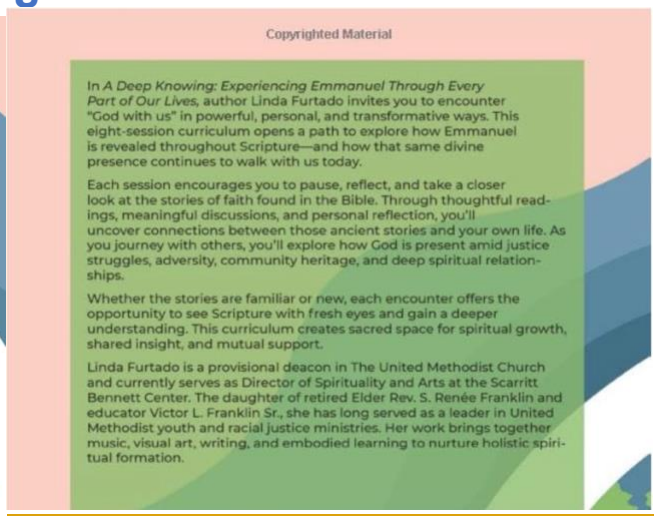
Special thanks to Linda Heim who was the registrar and Sandra Woods who was our technical person dealing with Zoom

Juneau

The Mission u in Juneau was a one-day affair held on February 7th at Aldersgate United Methodist Church. Twelve women attended and collected food for the Aldersgate UMC food pantry. Hunger is another harsh reality people have to deal with and the food pantry provides hope for the hungry. Special thanks to Barbara Mitchell who handled all the food and Julia Smith who was our registrar. Barbara was approached by several ladies who thought this study was one of the best they had attended. A big thank you to Jade and Debra!

Mission u 2026 Program





Call for Mission u 2026 Study Leaders

“Experiencing Emmanuel.” How are these pieces of information connected?

Characters in the Bible we will learn about are “Shiphrah and Puah, Hagar, Woman at the well, Esther, Genealogies and spiritual heritage, Isaiah’s vision”.

Chapters in the book we will explore are “1. Beginning Together: Experiencing Emmanuel, 2. Experiencing Emmanuel Through Holy Resistance, 3. Experiencing Emmanuel in Adversity, 4. Experiencing Emmanuel Through Transforming Community, 5: Experiencing Emmanuel Through Confronting Injustice, 6. Experiencing Emmanuel by Embracing Heritage 7. Experiencing Emmanuel Through Visualizing in Prayer, 8: Bringing It All Together”.

We will look deeper at some Bible stories and what they mean. “Holy Resistance - Introduction - As we transition from Session 1 to Session 2, we move from establishing a foundation for deepening our experience of Emmanuel as a community to focusing on responding to God’s call through courage and conviction, even in challenging situations. This session centers on the midwives Shiphrah and Puah, whose brave actions preserved life and served as powerful examples of resisting injustice. Their story highlights how ordinary acts, motivated by faith and reverence for God, can disrupt systems of oppression and reveal God’s presence in unexpected ways.”

All of these pieces come from the 2026 Mission u study book by “Furtado, Linda; Lipsey, Ellen; Fletcher, Neomi. A DEEP KNOWING: Experiencing Emmanuel Through Every Part of Our Lives (p. 20).” (Function). Kindle Edition.

To find out how they are connected. Check out the 2026 Mission u theme: “Experiencing Emmanuel” where we 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?

United Women in Faith (formerly United Methodist Women) is recruiting for a Study Leader to teach at Mission u Events throughout the Alaska Conference. The time frame for teaching is fall of 2026 through spring of 2027. Those responding to this call will become trained and “certified” and are expected to teach at Mission u Events (3 or 4) held throughout the Alaska United Methodist Conference. Certified leaders do not have to be a member of the United Methodist Church. The certification process for study leaders includes attendance and full participation in all aspects of the Mission u Leader Training. The training will be held April 14-April 28, 2026 by Zoom. The cost for training as a study leader plus costs of travel and supplies for Mission u will be covered by Alaska United Women in Faith.

To volunteer, email Debra Gerrish - Dean of Mission u at jdgerrish@alaska.net to ask for the form to fill out before February 20th.

Clean and Declutter from a Spiritual Perspective

When I am feeling overwhelmed, I go into one of two modes. I sit and do nothing and by nothing, I mean mindlessly scroll social media, or clean and declutter like a women possessed. You can decide for yourself which one is numbing and which is spirit and soul restoring.

There are times when I wish I would declutter my spirit and soul the way I declutter my closets. With spring “just around the corner” (how many times have we thought that this month?) I have been thinking about ways to declutter my soul.

I suppose I must think about why I need to declutter my soul. I just cannot work in a cluttered space. Just ask my coworkers. If my desk or office is untidy, I cannot stay focused. When my soul is cluttered, I cannot focus on my spiritual practices.

What works for me is taking a break from social media. I even turned off my phone one day, yes, turned it off for a whole day and the world did not come to an end. I also try to tackle one thought in my head at a time and decide if it is worth hanging onto or tossing. Mental declutter is trickier because it’s not as easy as putting things in a donation box and driving away, it lingers and hides in the corners. And journaling, the go-to advice, doesn’t work for everyone. Ok, it doesn’t work for me. Journaling feels like I am cramming something onto my mental shelf. And then I have one more thing to feel guilty about.

I have a friend who, after her husband died, her daughter suggested she create one calming space in her home to go to as she reorganizes her life. Smart daughter! Creating one calming space during a chaotic season — is quietly brilliant. It is a reminder that clarity doesn't require the whole house (or whole mind) to be perfect. Sometimes one corner is enough to breathe again. Mental fatigue is real. Do what you can to stay mentally rested. Your body, your spirit, and soul will thank you.

Oh, and if you need a ruthless decluttering partner, I am your woman!

— Janice Nightingale
Spiritual Growth Coordinator

Invitation to Book Study



Christian spiritual formation resources and teachings have primarily come from Western spiritual traditions. Our current approach to formation comes out of that way of thinking and being, communicating that the white experience of God is the norm and authority.

Cindy S. Lee proposes that we as the church need a new way to engage in spiritual formation. To thrive in our increasingly diverse contexts, we need an un-forming and a reforming of our souls. We need to un-form the ways of Western-dominated church leaders have understood formation. We need to reform- to image and create a more intricate spirituality that includes diverse experiences of God.

Study Leader: Sandra Woods
Thursday, April 23, 2026
7:00 pm

Join Zoom Meeting
https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84516484748?pwd=wlbR4ZwYmPBnQrag8VZu0U2k4hEIIe.1
Meeting ID: 845 1648 4748
Passcode: 2Z37De

Book Review

I've just finished a moving book from the 2026 Reading Program list. A memoir written in prose poetry, it reads like the diary of a 13 year old girl because, in essence, *it is*. From the first pages, The In-Between by Katie Van Heidrich, I was drawn into a full force account of the struggles and small triumphs in the life of this very relatable young woman. The custody agreement established with her parents' divorce several years earlier has Katie and two siblings shifting between life in a chaotic environment of unpredictability with their fluid state mother and a highly regulated every-other-weekend life with dad and his new wife.

Through the frank and fresh recounting of Katie's emotional observations as she moved through this period of her adolescence, I traveled along with her resilience toward greater compassion and deeper understanding. Sure, I'm a "fully grown" adult grown from circumstances markedly different than Katie's, but her responses to various relationships within her orbit resonated truthfully with my experiences in home and community life. I encourage you to read this selection from the Nurturing For Community category of the reading program list and I will be surprised if you don't feel compelled to share it with someone in your own orbit!

— Betty Burke
Committee on Nominations

Social Action

Galatians 6:2 reminds us to carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

I went back into my music archives this week. A song that planted itself in my heart again is a song from several decades back:

Who is watching the World?
Who is changing the balance of power?
Who is watching the world?
Are we building a future or just standing still?
(Artist: Mister Mister - 1987)

As United Women in Faith, we have opportunities to build a different future for our world. Here are a few reminders of two of our current campaigns.

There is a gathering in Washington DC advocating for Immigrant Justice. The virtual registration just opened. In addition to individual registrations, there is an encouragement to host local watch gatherings. You can find more information here: https://faithful-resistance.squarespace.com/

Are you aware of the Just Energy 4 All Campaign? Have you taken action to remind our leaders about Climate Justice? Please look at the UWFaith campaign page and take a moment to reach out to your local leaders and remind them that Climate Justice is important.

Primary campaign page: https://uwfaith.org/what-we-do/serve-and-advocate/just-energy-4-all/

This is the link to Take Action: https://win.newmode.net/unitedwomeninfaith/legislationforclimatejustice

Blessings to you in *all* the ways you take action for others. Every action is seen by the one who created us to be in community with each other.

—Carrie Gruhn
Mission Coordinator for Social Action

Welcome to the Unstoppable Campaign

Everything You Need to Grow the Movement

Ready to grow with us? Whether you're leading a unit or simply passionate about sharing the movement, there is an 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 there 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.

Alaska Conference United Women in Faith invite you to explore these resources at https://uwfaith.org/resources/growth-toolkit/. Go to Resources then to Unstoppable. Get excited about what you at a United Women in Faith are accomplishing and learn who and how to invite other women to join you. At annual gathering all units who have new members will be recognized.

https://uwfaith.org/resources/growth-toolkit/

Make an Impact

Faithful Resistance:
A Public Witness for Immigrant Justice

Virtual Registration Option

February 25, 2026



We invite you to register for the livestream and be part of this powerful gathering from wherever you are.

We especially encourage churches, small groups, and community partners to host local watch gatherings. Bring your congregation together to pray, learn, and reflect in real time. Consider sharing a meal, building in discussion time, and creating space to discern how your community is called to faithful action in this moment.

To register for the livestream, please visit the event website, **http://faithfulresistance.org**.

Registration for in-person participation has now closed.



WHY YOU SHOULD REGISTER

There has never been a more important time for women of faith to come together, tap into our strength, and unite to change the world. Assembly 2026 is that moment—a once-every-four-years gathering of women committed to faith, empowerment, and making a difference. Picture a weekend that uplifts your soul, strengthens your faith, and brings you together with an unstoppable sisterhood.

At United Women in Faith's 2026 Assembly, you can **DREAM IT! BELIEVE IT! DO IT!**

PRICE

Assembly is a great value at the early registration fee of $365.

Few other faith-based conferences offer the following for such a low fee:

Inspiring Speakers: Hear from women leaders who will spark your passion and energize your purpose.

Powerful Worships: Experience deep reflection, renewal, and connection in faith.

Workshops: Gain tools to create meaningful change in your life and your community.

Sisterhood: Connect with women from around the world who share your commitment to justice and Soul Care.

SAVE FOR ASSEMBLY

Start now! Calculate the costs as broken out below for your location and divide by 15 for a monthly savings amount. Now it doesn't seem so daunting. The unforgettable experience of Assembly will make it worth every dollar.

Early Registration fee of $365 runs from Sept. 1 through Nov. 30, 2025.

Hotels range from $164 to $199 per night for up to four people (double/double room)

Travel expenses

Meal expenses

uwfaith.org/assembly United Women in Faith

There is still time to register for Assembly 2026! Assembly is a gathering of women committed to faith, empowerment, and making a difference. It only happens once every four years—you won't want to miss it! Special opportunities this year include the 2026 Legacy Banquet where, Elizabeth Eckford, one of the Little Rock Nine, will share her story as the keynote speaker.

Learn more and secure your spot today at uwfaith.org/assembly.



Call to Prayer and Self-Denial offering



Dear Sister,

I would like to invite you to join United Women in Faith in prayer and giving through the 2026 Call to Prayer and Self-Denial offering. Together, our sisterhood is making a difference in the lives of children and youth served through the work of National Mission Institutions.

NMIs provide low-cost early childhood education, after-school programs, enrichment programs, mental health support, guidance for the transition to adulthood, and more. One such NMI is AK Child & Family in Anchorage, Alaska. AK Child & Family offers hope to young people ages 12–18 who have experienced deep trauma such as abuse, neglect, separation from family, and profound loss.

For these young people, God's love is felt in tangible ways: a handmade quilt on their first day in treatment, prayers lifted by hundreds through an email prayer chain, warm cookies and stories shared in the sunshine, music ministries that help them hear God's call, and quiet moments of care that remind them they are seen and valued.

One student shared how this ministry helped them: "Before I got here, I never really ever talked to anyone, and I didn't have any friends. But now I see that I can finally enjoy my life, and I see a lot of time with my family, which is going to be so good. When I leave here, I'm going to try to find my way in the world. I'm going to work hard on school and get a college education."

The Program at AK Child & Family helped this student to move from anger and isolation toward healing, connection, and hope for the future. This is what happens when faithful people come together to boldly stand in the gap.

Will you join us and support NMIs that are often the last safety net for the next generation?

When you give to the Call to Prayer and Self-Denial offering, you help ensure that NMIs like AK Child & Family can continue offering safety, healing, and God's good news to children and youth who need it most. Thank you for prayerfully considering a gift today.

Faithfully Forward

Sally Vonner
CEO & General Secretary