



Faith • Action • Sisterhood

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President's Corner

Sisters in faith,

This summer offered powerful reminders of what happens when United Women in Faith gathers with purpose. Forty women from Eastern Pennsylvania traveled by motor coach, plane and car to Assembly 2026 in Indianapolis. We joined approximately 3,000 women for worship, learning, music and connection.

From the opening Abundance Altar to the final songs, Assembly celebrated the faith, action and sisterhood that unite us. EPA contributed a basket of apples and corn, representing the abundance of our region. Throughout the weekend, town halls, workshops and conversations challenged us to care for our own well-being, advocate for justice and strengthen our communities.

I was especially inspired by United Women in Faith CEO Sally Vonner and by the conversation with the Rev. Carolyn Abrams and her daughter, Stacey Abrams. Their reflections showed how faith can guide both courageous justice work and public service.

The greatest blessing was sharing the experience with our EPA sisters. We worshiped, explored Indianapolis, enjoyed meals and deepened relationships that too often happen only through a screen. That spirit of connection continues through Mission u, Soul Care, the Reading Program and the work of our local units.

May we keep dreaming, believing and doing for women, children and youth.



EPA Represents at Assembly 2026

Faith, Action and Sisterhood in Indianapolis

Assembly, held every four years, brings United Women in Faith members together for worship, singing, learning, connection and renewed motivation. In 2026, 40 women from Eastern Pennsylvania joined thousands of sisters at the Indiana Convention Center in Indianapolis.

The gathering opened with conference leaders presenting baskets from their regions to create an Abundance Altar. EPA Treasurer Lillian Mannon and President Rhonda Rea presented apples and corn from Eastern Pennsylvania.

Music filled the convention center as approximately 3,000 women raised their voices together. Participants also attended two large town halls and two smaller workshops designed for conversation and participation. These sessions explored faith, social justice, resilience, mental health and ways to turn learning into action.

Connection happened everywhere. Within minutes of arriving, EPA participants began meeting women from other conferences and discovering shared friends, experiences and commitments. The gathering reinforced that the sisterhood of grace is both personal and powerful.

Presentations from CEO Sally Vonner and other leaders encouraged members to remain bold in faith and service. The Rev. Carolyn Abrams reflected on her justice work as a Black woman pastor in the 1960s South. Stacey Abrams described public service as people-centered work grounded in faith.

EPA members returned home with new ideas, renewed energy and stronger relationships. Their reflections reveal that Assembly was more than an event: it was an invitation to keep learning, connecting and acting.





Save the Date: EPA Annual Celebration

Saturday, October 24, 2026

9:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. | Lunch included

Scottsville United Methodist Church | Langhorne, PA

More information: Rhonda Rea at jrpiz@aol.com

Event updates: [EPA United Women in Faith webpage](#)

Mission u Committee Requests your Prayers and Bold Actions

EPA United Women in Faith will elect new Mission u officers and Members-at-Large during the Annual Celebration on October 24. If you claim United Women in Faith as your sisterhood, you are already eligible to vote, nominate candidates, and be nominated for an open position. The Mission u Nominations Committee asks for your help in two ways:

1. Please pray that the committee will faithfully follow God's guidance in preparing a complete slate of nominees.
2. Please recommend candidates for Dean, Assistant Dean, Recording Secretary, and seven Members-at-Large. Members-at-Large should be interested in learning more about Mission u, able to attend four or five Zoom meetings during the year, willing to ask questions and share ideas, and available to attend the 2027 Mission u event.

Consider whether God may be calling you to learn more about or serve in one of these roles. You may also know another United Women in Faith sister who would be a good fit. Please share the prospective nominee's name, contact information, and position of interest so the committee can promptly provide additional details and answer questions.

The Mission u Nominations Committee members are Elaine Brown, Esther Geter, and Linda Youngstrom, Chairwoman.

Submit nominations to Linda Youngstrom:

Text or call: 267-789-6386

Email: linda2017da@gmail.com

Mail: 107 Chester Ave., Folsom, PA 19033

~Linda Y.



Mission u 2026: Experiencing Emmanuel

Eastern Pennsylvania Conference United Women in Faith gathered for Mission u 2026, a time of meaningful study, spiritual growth and fellowship centered on this year's text, Experiencing Emmanuel.

The virtual experience was held July 15, 16, 22 and 23, with the Rev. Julia Singleton serving as study leader. Participants gathered online for four evening sessions to explore the study's themes together.

The in-person Mission u followed July 24-25 at the Chester Hotel in Exton, Pennsylvania. Deaconess Darlene DiDomineck and the Rev. Jonette Gay guided participants through the two-day study, which also provided opportunities for fellowship and connection.

Through both virtual and in-person options, Mission u continued its tradition of bringing people together to deepen their faith, engage in thoughtful study and grow in community.

Soul Care in Action: Renewal & Sisterhood

United Women in Faith's Soul Care initiative invites women to do just that. Created in response to women's desire for both self-care and spiritual rejuvenation, Soul Care offers opportunities to rest, reconnect, experience sisterhood and become more aware of the Divine's presence.



In June, the Camphor Unit brought Soul Care to its community through Flow & Flourishing: A Soul Care Fundraiser at Camphor Memorial United Methodist Church in Philadelphia.

Women gathered for an afternoon of restoration, connection and joy. The experience included accessible chair and mat yoga, a Beauty Bar with skincare and makeup consultations, refreshments, fellowship and raffles. Most importantly, the gathering created space for women to receive care, not just provide it.

The Camphor Unit hopes Flow & Flourishing will become a quarterly experience open to all. The unit also hopes to inspire other groups to create Soul Care gatherings suited to their own communities. An event does not need to be large or elaborate. Begin with what brings women together and offers opportunities to rest, renew and flourish.

[Learn more: United Women in Faith Soul Care](#)



Voices from Assembly 2026

Members of the EPA leadership team shared moments that inspired them and actions they hope to carry forward.

Truzella, Spiritual Growth Coordinator

"The worship, Scriptures and music set the tone for our day." Truzella left Assembly committed to supporting underserved people through advocacy, financial support and encouraging letters, including correspondence with incarcerated women. She also valued the reminder that caring for mental health, including seeking therapy, is important.

Susan H., Co-Vice President

Susan treasured the moment EPA gathered for its conference photograph and welcomed Chanda Rule and Sally Vonner, who received UNSTOPPABLE EPA T-shirts. She plans to become more engaged with resources on the United Women in Faith website and continues to value the warmth of in-person fellowship.

Elaine B., Membership, Nurture and Outreach Coordinator

Elaine was moved when mothers and daughters were invited to stand during the conversation with Stacey Abrams and the Rev. Carolyn Abrams. Her daughter, Nicole, was also at Assembly. Elaine plans to invite women outside UWF to join a Reading Program group, using books and conversation as a welcoming pathway into the organization. James describe her journey from incarceration to founding the National Council for Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Women and Girls. The presentation reinforced the importance of due process, fair sentencing and advocacy led by directly affected women.

Polly R., Social Action Coordinator

Polly enjoyed the fellowship on the bus and appreciated sessions about resilience and using knowledge. As a participant with cochlear implants, she valued access to the American Sign Language area and presentation transcripts. Her action step is simple and enduring: keep learning.



Deaconess Barbara D., Mission U Dean and Interim Conference Secretary

Barbara highlighted the Legacy Banquet, where Elizabeth Eckford reflected on desegregating Central High School in Little Rock. She also celebrated the consecration of 22 deaconesses and home missionaries and connected with Bishop Peggy Johnson about supporting Philadelphia's school for deaf students.

Another powerful moment was hearing Andrea James describe her journey from incarceration to founding the National Council for Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Women and Girls. The presentation reinforced the importance of due process, fair sentencing and advocacy led by directly affected women.



Newsletter Submissions and Contacts

Help shape the voice of our EPA sisterhood. We welcome articles, event notices, reflections, book reviews and photographs for future issues.

Submission Guidelines

- Submit written content as a Microsoft Word document or other digital platform.
- Article must be edited (ready for publication) and limited to **250 words** unless arranged in advance.
- Include the full names and titles of people mentioned in the article.
- Provide high-resolution, clear photographs rather than screenshots or grainy images. Include a suggested caption and identify everyone pictured, when possible.
- Confirm that people pictured or quoted have approved publication.
- Include active website links, registration information and resourced that readers can use.

There are two methods to submit an article:

1. Complete the Google form located **here** or
2. Email submissions to camphor.comms@gmail.com and put "**UWFaith Newsletter Submission**" in the subject line.

Submitted by either method will require:

- Name, contact information (email address, cell phone number and Unit, if applicable), article title, article text (edited and ready for publication), photos, if available (high resolution in digital format) and permission to edit the article to meet these guidelines and share your name and information in the article.

Questions? Contact Nicole Brown at 914-887-0877 (text is preferred) or email (camphor.comms@gmail.com)

***Upcoming articles MUST be
submitted by November 15th for
the Fall issue***