

# November 2026

## Thanks for Every Part

### November 2026 National Native American Heritage Month

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 All Saints Day	2	3 Election Day	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 Veterans Day	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence (Nov. 25–Dec. 10)	26 Thanksgiving Day	27	28
29 Anniversary of the Sand Creek Massacre; First Sunday of Advent; United Methodist Student Sunday	30		<div>Memo</div> 			

# November 2026

## Thanks for Every Part

### OBJECTIVES

- Encourage members to support local free and fair elections.
- Remind ourselves when we experience political conflict that we are one body, connected deeply, and responsible for caring for one another.
- Celebrate the World Thank Offering and encourage members to participate.

### LEADER NOTES

#### Context

Elections can be a very sensitive topic. This session seeks to engage the topic in a way that is faith-led and allows all to see themselves and commit to doing better. Keep in mind that members may need time or special care in facilitation to discuss this topic openly with one another in some contexts. The map included in this program provides different ways to look at voting results.

#### Materials needed

- World Thank Offering boxes from [bit.ly/giving-box](http://bit.ly/giving-box) printed on cardstock or another method of creating boxes or jars
- Scissors and tape to cut out and secure the boxes
- Craft supplies to decorate the boxes, such as markers, stickers, and collage materials





## November 2026 Program

### **WELCOME** (5 minutes)

*Welcome participants to the group and invite everyone to introduce themselves, if there are new folks, or wave/fist bump/hug hello if you already know each other. Then say:*

Let us spend a moment in silence to prepare our hearts for this sacred time of learning and joy together.

*[One minute of silence.]*

God, be with us today as we read, discuss, imagine, and map our way forward. Some things may be unknown, but what we do know is you are always with us, and we always have each other. Amen.

*If your group has a practice of lighting a candle or other practice to open a meeting, do so now. Otherwise, move to the Scripture reading.*

### **SCRIPTURE READING** (3 minutes)

*The Scripture may be read by the leader, as a group shared reading, or by taking a moment for all to read silently together, according to your group's needs and preferences.*

#### **1 Corinthians 12:12–26 (NIV)**

Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.

Now if the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear,



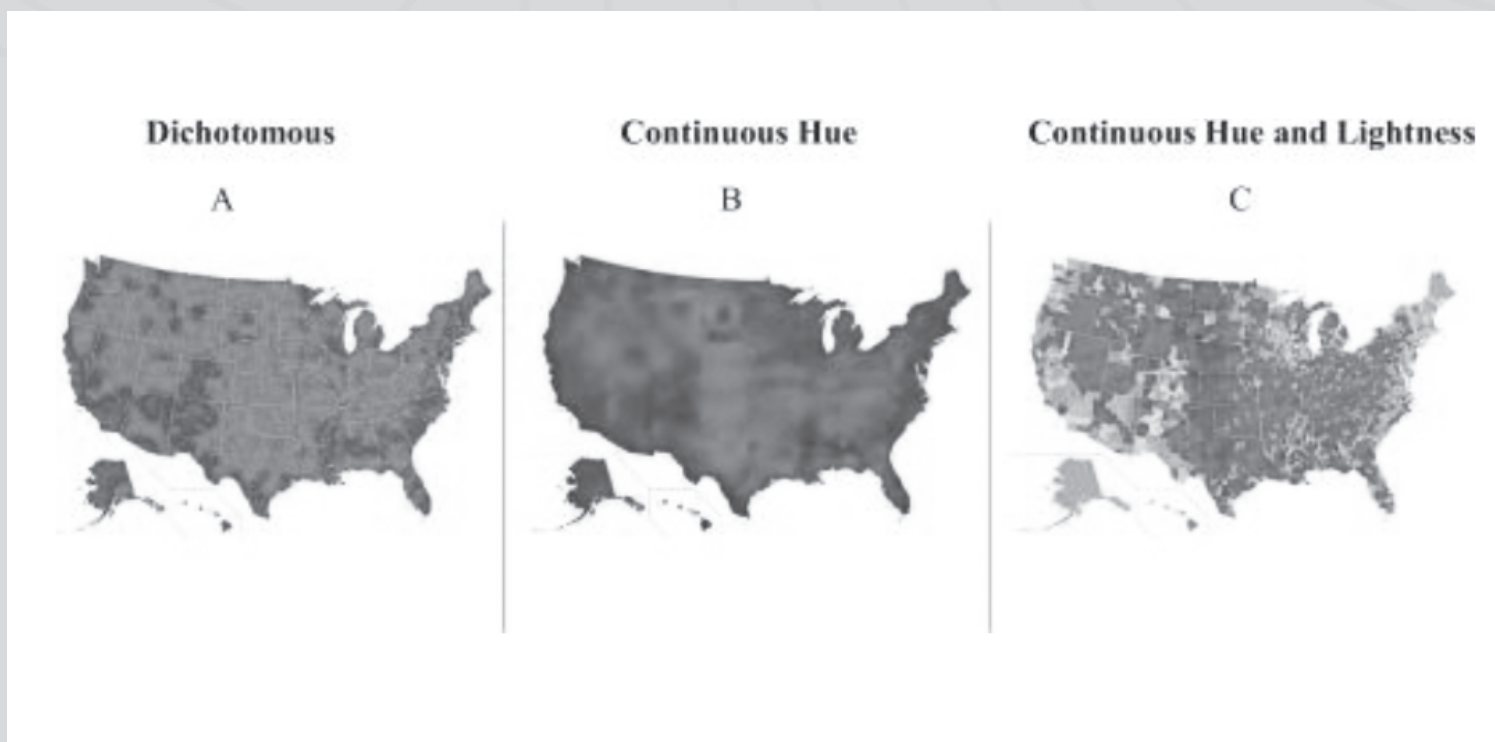


The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!" On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.

The sense of abundance that gratitude gives us is also a well from which generosity and action can spring, giving us the foundation to give as we have been so generously given to.



## HOW MAPS SHOW VOTING INFLUENCE

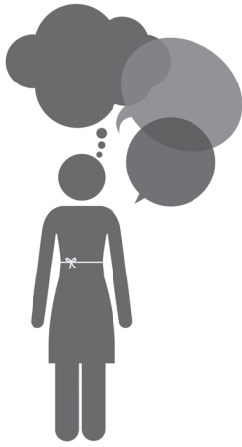


These maps show three different approaches to represent the outcomes of the 2016 elections at the county level. You can view the maps in color using the link, where you can see three different ways to translate the same voting results: Map A) Counties where the Republican candidate received the most votes are colored red and Counties where the Democratic candidate received the most votes are colored blue. Map B) Counties are shaded according to the candidate's percentage of the vote. Map C) Counties are shaded according to who won the vote and by how much.

Studies show that polarization is reduced by viewing data as presented in Map B. Why do you think that would be? Does Map C change your view even more? Explore the map at the website below:

 [pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC9908792](https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC9908792)

Credit: Rémy A. Furrer, Karen Schloss, Gary Lupyan, Paula M. Niedenthal, and Adrienne Wood, "Red and blue states: dichotomized maps mislead and reduce perceived voting influence" *Cogn Res Princ Implic*. 2023 Feb 9;8(1):11. doi: 10.1186/s41235-023-00465-2. PMID: 36754923; PMCID: PMC9908792.



## Key Points

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## REFLECT (20 minutes)

During election season in the United States (and many others around the world), it can sometimes be hard to feel like one body. We feel our divisions so keenly and can have real fear and danger about the parts of the body that, it may seem to us, wish they weren't connected to our part.

But Paul, living in his own time of political turmoil and being targeted by his fellow residents of Empire, remained wholly convinced that God's promise that we are one means that we really are one. We can't look at each other and say, "I don't need you!" We can't cut each other off and say, "You don't belong!" We all belong, we are all a part of one community, one nation, one humanity, and part of being alive and faithful is figuring out how to live like it, and fight for a world where that deep, intimate oneness brings joy rather than danger.

As we take our small part in working for a world of one body, where all are honored in God, we might volunteer for local elections or do acts of service or support the rights of all to vote, even those who disagree with us, alongside using our political power to try and shape the world towards our goals. We can hold up election systems to make them work for everyone so that all our voices might lurch toward a world where we rejoice together instead of suffering apart.

We can also lean into the things that sustain us, whether or not we move closer or further away from justice, mercy, and oneness in any election season. One of the most important of these is gratitude and the knowledge that living in abundant gratitude is one way to not only become closer to God but to the kinds of bonds God invites us to.

In her recent book *The Serviceberry*, Indigenous scientist and author Robin Wall Kimmerer considers the notion of abundance, gift economies, and the necessity of gratitude through the view of the humble juneberry or shadberry, which many of us may know from local backyards or mountains. She details all the ways this humble berry is a gift to us, to the earth, and to the birds who eat it, then writes, "Enumerating the gifts you've received creates a sense of

abundance, the knowing that you already have what you need.”<sup>1</sup>

Gratitude and naming it can alert us to all of the incredible things God has already given us, which gives us hope and strengthens us for what is needed in the future. The sense of abundance that gratitude gives us is also a well from which generosity and action can spring, giving us the foundation to give as we have been so generously given to. Kammerer writes, “Abundance is fueled by constantly circulating materials, not wasting them” and “the prosperity of the community grows from the flow of relationships, not the accumulation of goods.”<sup>2</sup> When we are thankful and name what we have, we share, creating abundance and gratitude in others, and our body of so many wonderful parts grows stronger and deeper.

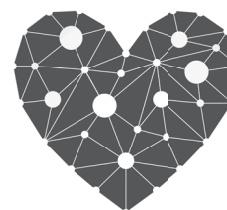
This month, as we celebrate World Thank Offering, let’s take the opportunity to give and show gratitude for the great gifts they are to us and our communities. When we give, we show gratitude for the blessings in our lives. When we give, we build each other up, and by doing so, we build ourselves. This is part of how we create a healthy community where the most vulnerable are the most lauded, the most gifted, and the most in receipt of abundance, as God has promised they will be in the kin-dom. Even if we cannot make our nation or the world in the image of that kin-dom yet, by declaring our joy and interdependence in whatever small circles we have, we move closer to it each day. What a thing to be grateful for.

## ACTIVITY: WORLD THANK OFFERING (20 minutes)

Abundance in us and abundance in offering and abundance in peace come from the same place—valuing wholly what every individual has to bring to the common table. World Thank Offering gifts allow all people to have a place at the table and join the feast. There is a shared reality that if everyone can participate, we can each give a little to create sufficient resources for all. This World Thank Offering, let’s celebrate the unique gifts we bring to the



*If one part suffers,  
every part suffers  
with it; if one part  
is honored, every  
part rejoices with it.*



[bit.ly/giving-box](http://bit.ly/giving-box)



*The World Thank Offering is a way for members of United Women in Faith to show gratitude for God's blessings and find creative ways to raise funds to improve the lives of women, children, and youth.*

Through your gifts to the World Thank Offering, you support the total program of mission carried on through United Women in Faith's National Office in the United States and around the world.



table by making offering boxes or decorating jars in a way that most speaks to us and our community. After you take the time to assemble and decorate your boxes or jars, share with one another why you decorated yours the way you did, and what it says about what you want to offer to the world.

### **World Thank Offering Litany**

When your United Women in Faith group brings their combined gifts to the altar, you may bring it in your created boxes or in one new collective box, and say this litany with all present:

Today we offer our resources, ourselves, and our faith, in holy commitment, in eternal hope, and most of all, in thankfulness, for all the ways our prayers have been answered. We ask you would hear our prayers now, and use these gifts of gratitude to transform the lives of women, children, youth, and their communities around the world.

Make this World Thank Offering, which emerges from our spontaneous gratitude, a source of gratitude to you for all. In Jesus' name. Amen.

### **How to Give to the World Thank Offering**

**Online:**

[uwfaith.org/blog/2022/world-thank-offering](http://uwfaith.org/blog/2022/world-thank-offering)

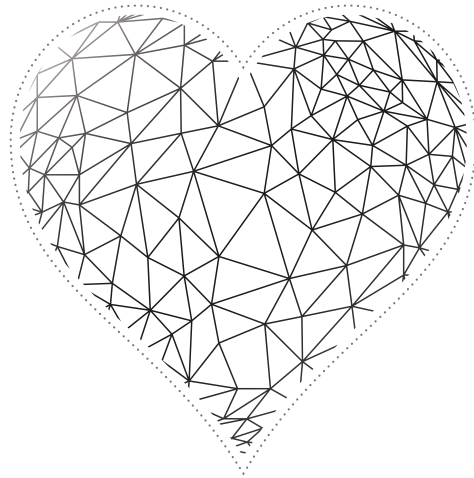
By Check: Mail checks to United Women in Faith  
Church Center for the United Nations  
777 United Nations Plaza, 11th Floor  
New York, NY 10017  
Attn: World Thank

### **CLOSING REFLECTION** (2 minutes)

God, help us to connect across the body, to every part, and to advocate that our part does not go unseen. Amen.

1. Robin Wall Kimmerer, *The Serviceberry: Abundance and Reciprocity in the Natural World* (New York: Scribner, 2024), 12.
2. Kimmerer, 34.





## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**The Rev. Hannah Kardon** is a pastor, parent, writer, and spiritual companion. She serves a local United Methodist church and in extension ministry at Interfaith America, bringing people together across difference to strengthen their communities. She has helped bring to life vibrant church experiences like spring break camps for kids, cultural dance groups, health fairs, street Ash Wednesday evangelism, Drag Worship, and Tattoo Testimonies. She is a certified Spiritual Director trained by Still Harbor. She is co-author of *Finding Peace in an Anxious World* and author of *Healing & Joy on Your Journey to God*. She lives in Chicago with her husband and two children.

## Welcome to the 2026 Daily Prayer Guide

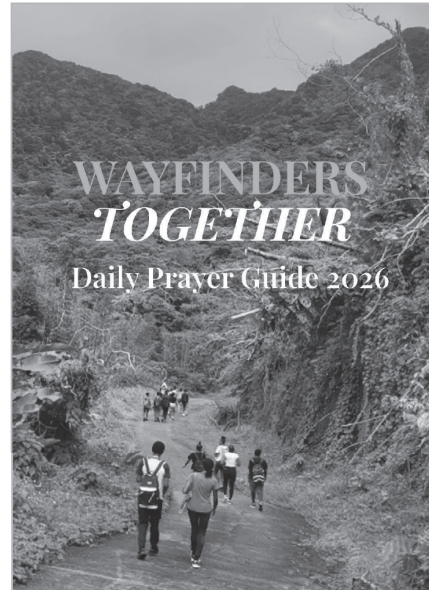
This year's Daily Prayer Guide focuses on how we, as God's people, are forging a new path as wayfinders in these "unprecedented times." The 2026 Daily Prayer Guide features accounts and graphics that illustrate spiritual and social wayfinding in such a time as this.

The Daily Prayer Guide includes many features to lead you through the year:

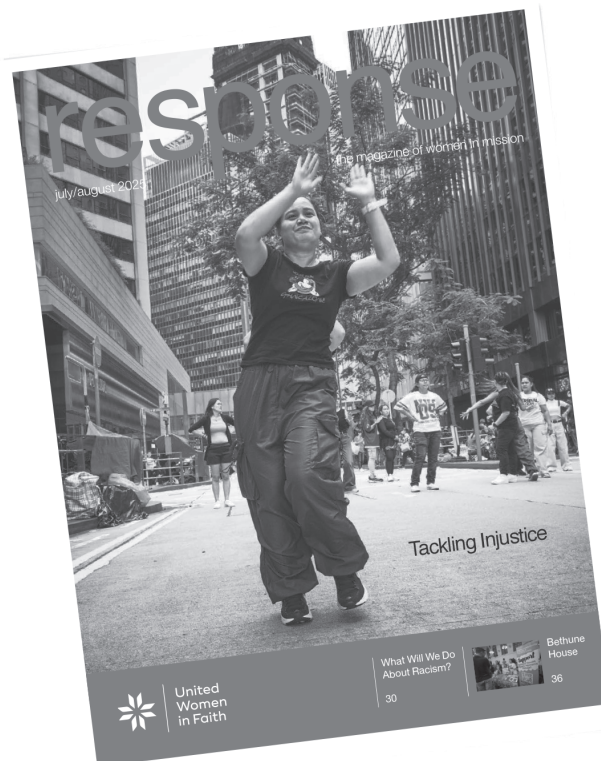
Weekly pages with photos, inspiring reflections, prayers, holidays, advocacy days, and lectionary readings.

A directory of mission personnel affiliated with United Women in Faith and Global Ministries. And more.

Use the QR code to order your Daily Prayer Guide today!



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### Want to embark on a courageous journey of faith and action?

**response** highlights the many ways United Women in Faith members are boldly tackling injustice and transforming the world.

Subscribe to **response** magazine:  
[uwfaith.org/response](http://uwfaith.org/response)

faith

action

sisterhood



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The 2026 United Women in Faith Program Resource, *Mapping Our Way Forward*, is about finding our way, mapping our plans, and holding on to the balance of grounding and flowing as we do it. In the midst of the uncertainties that surround us, we can map our way forward into the unknown by holding on to God and our core values, letting them keep us grounded as we face each challenge.

Monthly programs feature a thematic reading about a Bible story, a map to explore, a group activity with discussion questions to share, and a closing prayer. Most months will have a specific tie-in to a United Women in Faith program or theme.

Author Hannah Kardon is a pastor, parent, writer, and spiritual companion. She serves a local United Methodist church and in extension ministry at Interfaith America, bringing people together across their differences to strengthen communities. She is a co-author of *Finding Peace in an Anxious World* and author of *Healing & Joy on Our Journey to God*.

You can also experience this resource in an online platform via UWFaith Digital. Join and participate in local programs to grow in faith, participate in action, and connect with sisters!



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ISBN: 978-1-952501-39-5  
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