



CWU OF COLUMBIA HAPPENINGS NEWSLETTER

Human Rights Day

Summer Issue



August 2023

Greetings to all our supporters of Church Women United. We do hope you are continuing to enjoy your summer and at the same time remaining safe during the hot days we're having. We are very excited to announce our next event that the Columbia Unit of Church Women United will celebrate.

On October 6, 2023, we will have our Human Rights Celebration. This event will be held at Shandon Presbyterian Church, 607 Woodrow Street, Columbia, SC 29205. Registration and refreshments will begin at 11:30 AM followed by our program at 12:00 PM.

During this celebration, we will recognize persons who have been nominated to receive recognition for their work to educate and embrace the principles of human equality and dignity. These nominees should also exemplify a commitment to respect and protect the rights of all people.

Currently, we are accepting nominations for the Human Rights Award. Please feel free to submit your nominee's name along with a brief write-up and a photo. We would like to have all denominations participate in this very special recognition ceremony. We know each of you has that special someone who goes out of their way to support and work toward justice and equality for all. Nominees will be recognized at our October celebration and will receive a certificate noting their Human Rights Service. They will also be featured in our next newsletter.

Please help us spread the word among the various denominations. Information can be submitted by email to Juanita Henry at jhenry1@sc.rr.com or mail to Juanita Henry at 449 Holly Berry Circle, Blythewood, SC 29016. When I receive a nominee's information, I will send a return email or call to verify that the write-up and photo has been received. Please be sure to include the contact information for the person submitting the nomination. For additional information, you may contact Juanita Henry at the email listed above or at 803-730-9195.

All nominee information should be submitted by August 31, 2023.

Peace and Blessings,
Juanita K. Henry, President
Church Women United Columbia

Agreed to Differ

Resolved to Love

United to Serve

May Friendship Day Celebration 2023

On May 5, 2023, Church Women United in Columbia celebrated May Friendship Day. Our host church was Bethel AME located at 819 Woodrow Street in Columbia. We had over 60 guests in attendance. Our theme for this celebration was: “Labor with Love, A heart to Care” Matthew 25: 37-40.

Our celebration was twofold. We collected monetary contributions in lieu of health kits which will be divided among our mission projects. A final report of monies collected is shared below.

In addition, six young church women were recognized for the time and resources they each devoted to their individual church and community. The young ladies had excellent write-ups that spoke highly of the time and efforts they each placed on working hard to bring about a church and community environment where “Living a Legacy of Love: Doing God’s Work” was at the forefront of their work and caring for others. **The following young women were recognized during the May 5th celebration:**

Candace Ballentine	Ebenezer Lutheran Church
Brianna Ashford-Carroll	Bethel AME Church
Jennifer L. Coleman	Mt. Zion Baptist Church
Tara Miles	Mt. Zion Baptist Church
Anna Schafer	Cayce United Methodist Church
Ayanna White	Francis Burns United Methodist Church

MAY FRIENDSHIP DAY 2023 IN THE AFTERMATH OF A PANDEMIC

The effort to satisfy some of the unmet needs in our community was affected by the continuing presence of Corvid-19 among us. Church Women United could not carry out the collection and distribution of the health kits as in the last couple of years because of the possibility that a crowd of people would create an opportunity for the remnants of the virus among us and jeopardize the health and well-being of the participants. After prayerful consideration, serious thought and thorough discussion, the members of the Executive Board made a decision to continue the procedures implemented during the last three years.

The organization continued the process for implementation of the May Friendship Day that was begun in the spring of 2020. Participating churches were notified of the procedures for the project and began working to collect funds for its support. The funds were to be distributed to local organizations to support their efforts to provide personal hygiene products for their clientele. The collected funds were to be distributed based on the number of health kits received by the various organizations during the 2019 project.

Church congregations responded very generously to the call to continue supporting a project to meet some of the needs of our less fortunate neighbors. Three thousand eight hundred seventy-two dollars (\$3,843.00) were received from twenty-eight (28) churches and individuals. The proceeds were distributed to twenty-one (21) well-deserving organizations.

We are grateful for the contributions of each person and organization. May God continue to bless and keep you.

Gladys Cureton
July 22, 2023

Church Women United 2024 Tentative Calendar

The executive board of Church Women United is currently working on our calendar of events for 2024. To have accurate as well as current information, it's important that we secure church groups willing to host our celebration events. This is where we need your help.

Listed below are tentative dates for 2024. If you feel your church group would be interested in hosting one of our scheduled events, please check with your church's Operational Coordinator to confirm a date and contact Juanita Henry at jhenry1@sc.rr.com. I will contact you to confirm the date on our CWU calendar. Dates and events are listed below.

Bible Study	February 2, 2024	Site Needed
Annual Meeting (Venue and date set & Confirmed)	February 23, 2024	Brookland Baptist Banquet Center
World Day of Prayer	March 1, 2024	Site Needed
May Friendship Day	May 3, 2024	Site Needed
Human Rights Celebration	October 4, 2024	Site Needed
World Community Day	November 1, 2024	Site Needed

Thank you in advance for your assistance in securing a site for our upcoming celebrations for 2024.



ALL THINGS NEW

“New Beginnings, New Perspectives”

**2024 QUADRENNIAL ASSEMBLY
JUNE 19 – 23, 2024**



CHURCH WOMEN UNITED, INC.

ALL ROADS LEAD TO OAK BROOK, ILLINOIS IN 2024!

REGISTER NOW – ONLINE OR PAPER REGISTRATION AVAILABLE

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION: 7/26/23 – 12/31/23

\$345.00

REGULAR REGISTRATION: 01/1/24 – 5/22/24

\$395.00

COMMON COUNCIL REGISTRATION

\$100.00 – INCLUDES MATERIAL & DINNER

ALL OBSERVERS/GUEST MUST REGISTER TO ATTEND COMMON
COUNCIL – \$100.00

Upon completion of registering for the Quadrennial 2024 Assembly all
participants will receive a hotel link to make your reservation.

Hotel registration link expires: May 22, 2024

Should you have questions or concerns, please email cwuqa2024@gmail.com

Or call (678)705-3711

**Doubletree by Hilton Hotel
Chicago – Oak Brook
1909 Spring Road
Oak Brook, IL 60523**



Rev. Lillie Holman

SPIRITUAL FORMATION DIRECTOR

July Inspiration

Summer "Selah" Moments

"Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shall thou labour, and do all thy work: but the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work." (Exodus 20:8,9-10a).

Customarily during the summer months, our CWU movement takes time to refresh, vacation and enjoy family/friends. During this brief hiatus, we continue to be cognizant of our National CWU Mission that we are an inclusive ecumenical Christian women's movement celebrating unity in diversity and empowering women to work towards a world of peace and justice. The Hebrew word, "Selah," is a musical term found in the biblical books of Psalms and Habakkuk and often been found to mean, "to pause and meditate upon." In that regard, the following thought-provoking quotes are provided for us experience a few "Selah Moments" this month where we pause and meditate upon a variety of perspectives that align with our Mission.

"Nothing can stop the power of a committed and determined people to make a difference in our society. Why? Because human beings are the most dynamic link to the divine on this planet." — Former US Representative John Lewis

"Make us worthy, Lord, to serve those throughout the world who live and die in poverty or hunger. Give them, through our hands, this day their daily bread; and by our understanding love, give peace and joy. Amen." — Mother Teresa

"Let us march on poverty until no American parent has to skip a meal so that their children may eat." — Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

"We can't save the planet without uplifting the voices of its people, especially those most often unheard." — Leah Thomas

"A vibrant, fair, and regenerative future is possible — not when thousands of people do climate justice activism perfectly but when millions of people do the best they can." — Xiye Bastida

"Justice will not be served until those who are unaffected are as outraged as those who are." — Benjamin Franklin

"Justice grows out of recognition of ourselves in each other — that my liberty depends on you being free too." — Former President Barack Obama

"Fight for the things that you care about, but do it in a way that will lead others to join you." — Former Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, Ruth Bader Ginsburg

"Never forget that justice is what love looks like in public." — Dr. Cornel West

"Let future generations say we were the ones who stood up. Let them say we were the first to live in a world where all girls can learn and lead without fear." — Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Malala Yousafzai

Each of these intuitive quotes were written by ordinary persons who experienced extraordinary accomplishments for the benefit of humanity. We, too, as CWU women of faith, possess the capacity to do likewise; we can transform our families, churches, communities and our national movement to impact the world advocating for human rights, social justice, climate change and the eradication of gender bias, food insecurity and poverty. As we enjoy our summer "sabbath," may we "pause and meditate" on innovative, new methods to ensure our movement continues to remain viable well into the future galvanized by our CWU National Mission. Let us also remember keep each other in prayer for a blessed, safe and refreshing summer experience.

Joyfully Submitted,
Rev. Lillie Holman, Director
CWU Spiritual Formation



SAVE THE DATE

Inhumanity - Society's Greatest Sin

Church Women United, Inc.

Social Justice Virtual Conference

Saturday, September 30, 2023

10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Registration: \$20.00

Please Mark Your Calendar and Plan to Attend.

Sponsored by the Action and Global Concerns Committee





The Knots Prayer

Dear God:

*Please untie the knots
that are in my mind,
my heart and my life.*

*Remove the have nots,
the can nots and the do nots
that I have in my mind.*

*Erase the will nots,
may nots,
might nots that may find
a home in my heart.*

*Release me from the could nots,
would nots and
should nots that obstruct my life.*

And most of all,

Dear God,

*I ask that you remove from my mind,
my heart and my life all of the 'am nots'
that I have allowed to hold me back,
especially the thought
that I am not good enough.*

AMEN