



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE—CLAUDETTE RAINEY



I greet you in the name of our Risen Savior, Jesus Christ. God has been good to me I have been able to fit in two beautiful vacations in the past six weeks; and then our country changed to a place some would barely recognize. The coronavirus would consume every waking moment if we allow it. It's a time for reflection and prayer and many of our churches are closed as we are being confined to our homes for safety. It was Rosa Parks who said: "I Believe we are here on Planet Earth to Live. Grow Up and do what we can to make this World a better place for all people to enjoy Freedom." That was then, now we are being asked to live in the larger community, and for the good of each other, practice Social Distancing and fellowship in a different way. It's a time for prayer and Church Women United did rise to the occasion when we celebrated World Day of Prayer on the first Friday in March. The program written by the women of Zimbabwe was heartwarming. Refreshments prepared from African dishes laid out on a colorful African print table cloth was delicious. The central point a table draped in the colors of the Zimbabwe flag was complimented by the colorful African attire worn by CWU/Atlanta members and guests. The photos are a welcomed sight in these troubled times. I might add that this service took place one week before the new Social Distancing regulations were instituted to slow down the rapid growth of the coronavirus. Most of our members are seniors and must protect yourselves by following these regulations, no matter how rigid they may appear. Please maintain telephone contact with your family and friends. As I am writing this message, it's becoming clear to me that we may be unable to meet in April for our planned Health discussion. Then its on to May Friendship Day and the jury is out on that event as it is on our upcoming Quadrennial, scheduled to take place from June 11-14th 2020. Until we meet again, be safe, lighten up: He will fill your mouth with laughter and your lips with shouts of joy. Job 8:21



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

President's Message	1
News	2
Honors	4
Upcoming Events	6

Church Women United is a racially, culturally, theologically inclusive, ecumenical Christian women's movement, celebrating unity in diversity and working for a world of peace and justice.

NEWS



March 3 CHURCH WOMEN UNITED CELEBRATES WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Each year women, men, and children in more than 170 countries and regions celebrate World Day of Prayer on the first Friday in March. Each year a different country is featured. The Southern African country of Zimbabwe was featured this year. The program was created by women of Zimbabwe. It called us to consider these words “Rise! Take Your Mat and Walk.” With these words as backdrop, we were invited to learn about Zimbabwe’s history and rich cultural diversity. The WDP 2020 program was based on Jesus’ encounter with a person who, although positioned for healing, had not acted upon the opportunities given (John 5:2–9a). Jesus asked, “Do you want to be made well?” “Rise! Take your mat and walk,” said Jesus.

This year’s World Day of Prayer service presented by the Atlanta section was lead by Rev. Karen Jones and guest vocalist Tammy Harper who sang the Zimbabwean songs. The members of Church Women United were invited to wear African clothing to make the event more festive and to show unity with our African Sisters. Life member, Bettie Durrah displayed items that she had secured on a visit to Zimbabwe. She presented a Letter from Zimbabwe that was upbeat and informative. Members of the Atlanta section of Church Women United were included as leaders and readers and lead the prayers for the day. The reception was exciting and member Odessa Huff prepared a wonderful African dish that everyone raved about. The program was well received by all.

World Day of Prayer is a worldwide ecumenical movement of Christian women of many traditions who come together to observe a common day of prayer each year on the first Friday in March. World Day of Prayer was founded on the idea that prayer and action are inseparable in the service of God’s kingdom. Each year a different country’s committee serves as the writers of the World Day of Prayer worship service. And each year, we are called to action in response to the concerns raised by the writer country.

CWU ATLANTA WOMAN OF THE YEAR



On February 8th, the nine active units of Church Women United in Georgia Traveled to Macon to support their nominees for the CWU/GA Woman of the year Honor. Fifteen of us traveled from the Atlanta Unit by van. We are grateful To Jesse Milner for getting us there and back safely and in record time. The event was enhanced this year by baskets supplied by the units and sold at a Silent Auction. Members had fun placing their bids. A very attractive basket created with items pertaining to Michele Obama, including her book “Becoming Michele Obama” was presented to our outgoing State President Mrs. Faye Fikes.

Margaret Koehler was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award for her years of dedicated service to Church Women United on the Local, State and National levels. The audience was blown away by the Speaker /Presenter Sharon J. Willis and the many Faces of famous women in US history who she portrayed, including Harriet Tubman and Eleanor Roosevelt. Congratulations! to Mrs. Sheila Louder who was co-chair of the Luncheon with Darlene Duke State President and was also honored as the CWU/GA 2020 “Woman of The Year.” Kudos to both ladies for a job well done.

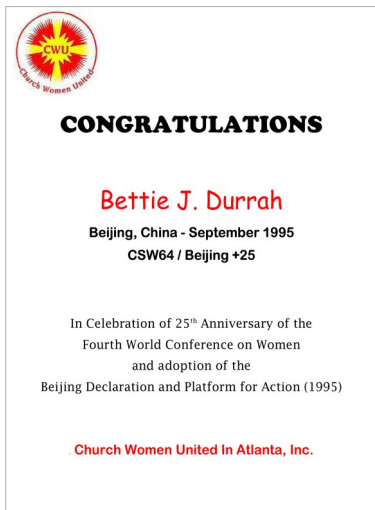
HONORS



Although CSW64 in New York City was canceled due to COVID-19, Sheila Louder proudly shared the handbook that was to be distributed to the more than 11,000 registered attendees.

Visit ngocsw.org to view or download your copy. It is a great resource for future programming on gender equality.

Betty Durrah was honored with an ad from CWU Atlanta and Sheila is pictured below with the Planning Team.



FOR MY JEWEL CAMPAIGN FUNDRAISER



Our organization is collaborating with the Justice For My Jewel Campaign (jfmj.org), which sheds light on the silent suffering females have endured because of the chemical and inferior makeup of the tampons and sanitary napkins made available to them. The campaign has become the voice of the silent suffering and Jewel has become the healthier alternative. Funds raised from this campaign will supplement and improve our outreach projects.

SHARE THIS LINK: <https://jewelpads.charity/id/ChurchWomenUnitedAtlantaChapter>



Greetings and Salutations of Comfort Dear CWU Sisters in Christ;

The headlines related to the corona virus, known as COVID-19, are steady and—at times—unsettling. According to the [World Health Organization's Coronavirus situation dashboard](#), the quickly spreading illness has infected more than 125,000 people worldwide.

Health officials with the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) have offered a variety of tips to help us keep the virus at bay:

1. Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
2. Use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
3. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
4. Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
5. Put distance between yourself and others; protective social distancing.
6. Stay home if you are sick, except to get medical care.
7. Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow. Then wash your hands.
8. Wear a facemask in public if you are sick.
9. Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily, including tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, and sinks.

In these things, we are called to be diligent and faithful for the benefit of ourselves, our families and loved ones, our community, our state and our nation.

However, there is also some great breaking news!

GOOD NEWS FOR ALL

Today, a bill is set to be signed in the Oval Office for COVID-19 testing. This battery of tests, which usually costs over \$1,000.00 per person, will be offered FREE to all US Citizens regardless of their insurance coverage, or lack thereof. The bill was brought forward by US Congresswoman, Katie Porter, who actually did the math on this critical issue! In questioning Robert Redfield, Director of the Center for Disease Control, and breaking down the average cost for an uninsured person in America to go through the process of COVID-19 testing, she brought up a stature that allows Redfield himself to authorize payment to make testing for the virus free for everyone. For more on this, please visit:

<https://medcitynews.com/2020/03/roche-gets-special-fda-nod-for-covid-19-diagnostictest>

BUT WHAT ABOUT DEEPER MATTERS OF THE SOUL?

A particular challenge for CWU is social distancing; we are told that isolating ourselves is the best way to protect others. But what about our need for connection and community? What about empathy and caring for each other?

Turning Inward, Looking Outward to find Peace

John 14:27 (NIV) Peace I leave with you; My Peace I give you. I do not give you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. As CWU members, we can yet widen our circle of concern during this time of constraint by embracing and remembering our core mission, vision and values. We can, as an organization, be instrumental to helping women, children and families in need of fervent prayer during this time of crisis. Instead of simply enduring this time of isolation, we can instead, make this a time of spiritual growth, greater unity, and deeper connection for our CWU members. Quite to the contrary, this time can help us feel even more connected with Christ and our CWU Sisters, through faithful prayer and intercession. This time apart, can be a gift that we can use to help us strengthen our faith and increase our hope and optimism, both individually and collectively as an

organization. It can, in short, lead to the promise of HIS PEACE amidst the storm. Not surprisingly, medical experts and researches also validate that deepening our personal relationship with Christ, has a direct impact on our physical health and quality of life. Among the many benefits, studies have shown individuals who pursue their faith, find not only the promise of peace, but relief from feelings of anxiety, depression and anger, along with decreased feelings of loneliness. In addition, as evidenced by many 12-Step programs, there is a decrease in alcohol and substance abuse, lowered blood pressure, and better control of pain and discomfort when actively pursuing our faith.

Deepening our spiritual relationship with Christ through prayer, studying God's Word, personal reflection, journaling, and listening to uplifting hymns and praise music are just a few of the many ways to find the calm in the midst of the storm for us as Christian Women, and Church Women United. Let us commit to using this time of social isolation to draw closer to God in sacred relationship; interceding for others, and choosing to be an active part of His 'divine intervention' at this time of national crisis. Let us choose to be part of His divine solution - one that also yields greater peace and comfort for ourselves, Church Women United and indeed, the World. Prayer is one of the most vital prescriptions available to us right now - with no chance of running low on supply!

Please let us know if this has been helpful and supportive to you, personally. If so, we will continue to offer a weekly CWU Good News Series to continue to support Church Women United and our Sisters in Christ.

Yours in Christ,

Mary

Mary Panek

Conference Coordinator

Communications Chair

Church Women United in Michigan



March 28, 2020

Dear Church Women United Members and Friends,

Because of the COVID-19 Pandemic and our concern for the health and safety of our members, your National Board voted to cancel our 2020 Quadrennial Event planned for June 10-14, 2020 at the Sheraton Hotel in Atlanta Georgia. All registration and ad payments made will be returned. We also suggest that if you made hotel and airline registrations, please cancel.

Please note:

- The 2020 Quadrennial Event has been canceled
- All registration and ad payments will be returned
- If you made hotel/airline reservations, please cancel

This event will be rescheduled for 2021. A new National Committee will be established to determine location and dates for the event.

I would like to personally thank the Board members that have gone above and beyond in working on the 2020 Quadrennial Event: Shirley Belk, Mildred Butler, Elaine-Bailey Johnson, Ronda Hill and Margaret Rushing. Special thanks to Roz Collins and Turance Cobb for their work on keeping our website updated.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact, your Regional Coordinator or any of the National Board members.

As we move forward during this time of disruption, please check our website frequently for updates:
www.churchwomenunited.net.

Thank you for your patience and your cooperation. As women of faith, let us remember our Lord's words to Solomon in 2 Chronicles 7:14-20 "...if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sins and will heal their land." So as we follow the World Health, CDC and Public Health Guidelines, let's remember our source - our Heavenly Father and continue to go to Him in prayer.

In His Service,
Church Women United National Board

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 3	<i>Monthly Meeting - CANCELLED</i>
May 1	<i>May Friendship Day - Ecumenical Program- Faith AME Zion Church</i>
June 7	<i>Everybody's Birthday Peachtree Christian Church</i>
June 11-14	<i>2020 Quadrennial Assembly—CANCELLED</i>

Submit News for our next newsletter by

JUNE 19 to cwuatlanta@gmail.com

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK! [Facebook.com/cwuatlantainc](https://www.facebook.com/cwuatlantainc)

Visit us on the Web! www.cwuatl.com

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED IN ATLANTA

Church Women United is a racially, culturally, theologically inclusive Christian women's movement celebrating unity in diversity and working for a world of peace and justice. Founded in 1941, Church Women United is:

A movement representing Protestant, Roman Catholic, Orthodox, and other Christian women; Biblically based, shared Christian faith;

Organized into more than 1,200 local and state units working for peace and justice in the United States and Puerto Rico;

Supported by constituents in state and local units and denominational women's organizations;

Impassioned by the Holy Spirit to act on behalf of women and children throughout the world; and

Recognized as a non-governmental organization by the United Nations.

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED IN ATLANTA

P. O. Box 311795
Atlanta, Georgia 31131
Phone: 404-696-3247

E-mail: cwuatlanta@gmail.com



**Church Women United in Atlanta
Individual Membership**
**Please join or renew your membership
by January 31st**

We request \$25 annually for an individual membership contribution

Title: circle Mrs. Miss. Ms. The Reverend Dr. Esq.
Other _____

First Name: Middle Initial Last Name

Address _____

Address _____

City State Zip

Home telephone number: _____

Other telephone: _____

Email address: _____

Birthday month/day _____ / _____

Church membership/Denomination _____

Name of Church Women's Association President and Church Address: _____

Please indicate your special interest/ministry or activity:

- Peace Race Relations Women's Initiative
- Interfaith Relations CWU Young Legislative
- Youth Children's Issues
- Action or
- Health Care Domestic Violence
- Development
- Human Trafficking Ecumenical
- Program Planning Awards Comm.

Church Women United in Atlanta
Church Women United
Mail To: P.O. Box 311795
Phone: 404-696-3247
Atlanta, GA 31131
Peachtree Christian Church
Meeting address: 1580 Peachtree Street NE
Atlanta, Georgia 30309

Please give us additional information about yourself. Thank you.

Current/Former Occupation:

Hobbies:

Church Positions Held:

Travels:

Additional Information:

Comments:

Suggestions:

Thank you!