CHURCH WOMEN UNITED IN ATLANTA



JULY 2020 Volume 19

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE—CLAUDETTE RAINEY

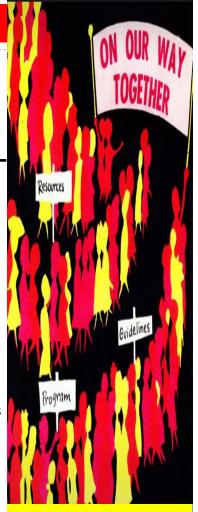


Hello ladies I hope this finds you safe, well, blessed and covered by God's Grace and Mercy . We have been unable to gather as a body since our March meeting, a Celebration of World Day of Prayer.

In these troubled days of not only Covid-19, but demonstrations which at times turn violent on the streets of our city - leaning on our Faith in God and praying often is one of the strategies for getting through these days. I have been fortunate to have prayers delivered daily to my Facebook page by a friend. It gives me pleasure to share his morning Prayer with you:

Good morning God: For my rest and my rising I give you thanks and praise. At the start of this day and all our days, please help us keep our focus on you. Give us the wisdom to make the best choices and the desire to seek You first in every thing we do. Please breathe Your power and spirit into us. Let it make us strong enough to handle anything that comes our way. Thank you Lord that your presence is with us, and Your joy is not dependent on our circumstances. It is our real and lasting strength no matter what comes our way. Now Lord, please wrap our hearts and minds in peace, love and tolerance so that we dwell in You and you in us. Amen.

Our next activity is going to be in September God willing in light of the labile nature of the Covid-19 pandemic. Please remember to pay your dues and send your Everybody's Birthday donations to support the treasury . We now have a new National President, Mira Washington, who lives in Rochester, NY. Enjoy the summer! Stay safe, well and covered by God's Grace and Mercy!



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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.





## **Church Women United-Atlanta New Outreach Project brings smiles**

Everyone loves to celebrate birthdays and especially their own. To make each birthday a special one for the youth at Carrie Steele Pitts Home, Church Women United — Atlanta section is committed to making every birthday special. Carrie Steele Pitts Home is a group home for youth who have been placed in foster care. Started over 132 years ago, this organization was started by an ex-slave who cared for orphans in the black community. In October, Carrie Steele Pitts Home will celebrate 132 years of service to the community.

Since April, Church Women United has created festive occasions to help each child at Carrie Steele Pitts Home enjoy their special days. It has been a joy to plan and host a pizza party, cook out, a game day and to help the youth bury a time capsule to help the residents envision their future. The current director of the Carrie Steele Pitts Home, Dr. Evelyn Lavizzo was excited about planting the time capsule. She said it was a valuable activity for the youth especially in the time of the Corona Virus where everyone is confined and concerned about their future.

Carrie Steele Pitts Home is an Atlanta legacy organization and is one of the few homes of its kind in the United States. The home was founded by an ex-slave who worked to ensure the care of the black orphans who lived on the streets of Atlanta.

Church Women United – Atlanta is honored to be a part of an organization that has such a proud history of service and is proud to be a part of helping the youth of Carrie Steele Pitts Home has a day filled with love and encouragement.

## June 1- July 31 City of Atlanta **Summer Food Service Program**

The Summer Food Service Program, also known as the Summer Meals Program, was established to ensure that children continue to receive nutritious meals when school is not in session.

Barbara Leath (Church of the Master PCUSA) and Leslie McCrary (Faith AME Zion Church) are serving as coordinators at their churches for the City of Atlanta Summer Food Program. During the program, all children ages 18 and under can stop by their locations to pick up FREE breakfast and lunch.



#### THESDAYS

Bible Way Ministries Intl. | 10 AM - 11 AM 894 Constitutional Rd., Atlanta, GA 30315

Su-Kor, Inc. | 1 PM - 2 PM 521 Capitol Ave (Gold Lot) Atlanta, GA 30312

Salvation Army Kroc Center/Pittsburgh ATL Homeowners United, Inc. | 10 AM - 11 AM 967 Dewey St. SW, Atlanta, GA 30310

St. Paul Episcopal Church | 1 PM - 2 PM 306 Peyton Rd. SW, Atlanta, GA 30311

#### **THURSDAYS**

St. Mark AME Church | 10 AM - 11 AM 3605 Campbellton Road SW, Atlanta, GA 30331

Camp Fulton-Truitt | 1 PM - 2 PM 4300 Herschel Road, College Park, GA 30337

Please visit https://fultonfresh.foodtalk.org to register for a FREE account and to complete a short online module before arriving to an outdoor market location to get your FREE produce.

- Week I: June 9 11 | Keeping Track
  Week 2: June 16 18 | No Thanks, I am Sweet Enough
  Week 3: June 23 25 | Small Changes = Big Results
  Week 4: June 30 July 2 | What Gets in the Weigh
  Week 5: July 7 9 | Your Food, Your Choice

For more information visit www.ugaextension.org/fulton or contact us at 404-762-4077 or uge1121E@uga.edu.









#### Food that's in when school is out.

The USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer

## June 9 - July 9 **Fulton Fresh Mobile Market**

The Fulton Fresh Mobile Market was created to educate residents living in communities designated as "food deserts" on the importance of fresh and in-season produce. Every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday attendees will participate in a 10-minute UGA Extension SNAP-Ed online nutrition education module and then be provided with a free bag of in-season produce from our mobile market.

Every week, attendees will participate in a 10 minute online UGA Extension nutrition education module. On the day of the market, completion of the online module will be verified and participants are given a free bag of in-season produce from our mobile market to take home and prepare. Pick-up will be outdoors, contact-less, and curbside.

https://fultonfresh.foodtalk.org/

#### INTRODUCTION LETTER FROM MIRA J. WASHINGTON

22<sup>nd</sup> National President (July 1, 2020)



TO
CHURCH WOMEN UNITED, INCORPORATED

I greet each of you, our glorious and powerful sisters with love, grace, and joy in Jesus' name.

Since June 8, 2019, the day I was elected your incoming president of Church Women United (CWU), I was moved with humility to serve God's daughters. It reminds me of my first day at CWU over 25 years ago as a young CWU. Like you, I made a conscious choice to be involved in a womens ecumenical body because I believed CWU was the best organization that expressed my shared values for women empowerment whose voices of faith can be heard. I saw then how clearly powerful women of faith came together and like potters whose artistry of social justice required them to immerse themselves in all that was broken, dirty, and beautiful to reconcile a divided world. Our job is to ensure that CWU thrives as a stronger than ever women of faith movement with the goal to reinvent social justice in new ways. As we start a new phase of our journey together, I wanted to share some background on myself and what inspires and motivates me.

#### Who am I?

I am a native of Providence, Rhode Island. I am a member of the United Methodist Church. I gave my life to Jesus Christ at 11 years old. I love the Lord. In fact, Jesus is everything to me. Through Christ, I have been blessed to walk with my husband, the Rev. Dr. Marlowe V.N. Washington as we partner together in life and ministry. Our two adult children, Brittany and Marlowe II serves as my constant reminders of strength. My wonderful son-in-law, United States Army SSG Willie and three adorable granddaughters, Zahriyah, Willow, and Zuri are my heartbeats. I am a Human Resource Advisor, employed with Paychex, Inc, a national provider of human resource, payroll, and benefits outsourcing services. I graduated from the Community College of Rhode Island with a A.A.S. in Liberal Arts in Providence; B.A. in Human Resource Management from Empire College of the State University of New York in Rochester, NY; and prayerfully by October 2020, I will complete my Master of Strategic Leadership (M.S.L.) from Roberts Wesleyan College also in Rochester. In addition to serving on the National Council for Negro Women, I serve on various local boards and civic organizations.

#### Why am I here?

I am here for the same reason I think most women join CWU — to change the world through faith that empowers women to do amazing things. While we have seen great successes of CWU, I must admit, I am hungry for more. Although our organization respects tradition, I am introducing a new level of respect called, innovation. Make no mistake - , CWU is headed for greater places. I believe over the next decade faith and social justice will become more ubiquitous for CWU. Faith and social justice will better connect us to our communities and help us see, express, and share our world in ways never before possible. Women of faith are fierce and determined to engage against dark places and powers whose only purpose it is to silence voices and quench hopes. There are times when we should study the pain, and times when we should share and feel the pain. I am here asking you to be an organization that must come together and mobilize to end the pain.

#### CONTINUED - INTRODUCTION LETTER FROM MIRA J. WASHINGTON

#### Why are we here?

In our early history, CWU's mission clearly affirmed that prayer and social action were inseparable and that both have immeasurable influence in the world. Today we are focused with similar understanding, but can we step up? While we need to pray and reflect for new direction and purpose for CWU, we must zero in on what CWU can uniquely contribute to the world. The opportunity ahead will require us to reimagine a lot of what we have done in the past for a prayer-centered and social action movement and do new things.

This "new thing" starts with clarity of vision, mission and purpose that will lead us to reimagine the impossible and deliver it. We need to prioritize innovation that is centered on our core values and quadrennial priorities to do more. Next, you ladies are leaders in more ways than you realize. I need each of you to re-examine from the local, state, and regional levels to do more than your best, but to lead and help drive cultural change.

We sometimes underestimate what we each can do to make things happen and overestimate what others need to do to move us forward. We must change this. Finally, I believe each sister must find meaning in her work with CWU. The best work happens when you know that it is just not work, but something that will improve other people's lives. When I think of Georgia jogger Ahmaud Arbery's death in Brunswick, Georgia, I see this as a dark place. But underneath our pain lies our power to bring justice to his family, the Brunswick community, the nation, and the ecumenical world. We want to prevent these things from happening in our communities. But what we need require talents, grit, resources, and perseverance. Few organizations have these required elements all at once. But I am hungry for that - what I want to know, are you hungry for that too? I am looking forward to building new foundations with you. We begin July 1st, so stay tuned on what is to come.

With love and affection, Mira

## SAVANNAH STREET MISSION

**The homeless include our Veterans.** Discharged after a week in the hospital....Dumped back on the sidewalk with his bag of meds for congestive heart failure.

#### **Support Tapestry Church**

https://tithe.ly/give\_new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/51018





# 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: <a href="https://jewelpads.charity/id/">https://jewelpads.charity/id/</a> ChurchWomenUnitedAtlantaChapter

#### The Typical YCWU Church Women United Fails to Recognize



It has been my experience in most CWU gatherings that when the subject of getting YCWUs involved is brought up, a sudden silence fills the room followed by complaints of YCWUs' unavailability, and sometimes goes further to qualifying them as somewhat "disrespectful." While some units struggle to recruit these women based on their level of engagement in their communities, others have given up on them. Growing up in very different centuries may to an extent explain the misunderstanding and divergent sense of interest and priorities that exist between YCWU's and CWU, which accounts for why most CWUs feel comfortable in preserving their routines until we hear the sad news of units closing down due to members aging out.

One way of ensuring the continuity of our local units and by consequence our movement is the need to educate ourselves on how to appeal and win a contemporary young woman's interest. And, the only way of identifying her interest is by knowing her and genuinely accepting her whole.

Going through some archives I found someone's description of the typical young woman under her forties which may help us understand that YCWUs may not be "disrespectful" as some may think but are just different.

A young contemporary woman is very aware, vitally interested, and verbal on most subjects from inflation, eating habits, community politics, education, sex, racial discrimination to lifestyle changes. She is more aware of her capabilities and shortcomings than the woman before her, and may sometimes be locked in a battle between being her own woman and being somebody's wife, mother, or employee. She is probably embarrassingly blunt about her problem and has been taught to communicate her needs to her peers, although she may be less willing to share with others.

A YCWU is more likely employed outside the home, but even if she is not, she is a working woman. For no one works harder than the mother of preschoolers, or a woman who has to worry about how she will pay the next week's rent. She may resent boring business meetings, not because she is young but because they are indeed boring and an infringement on her most precious commodity - time. She may also be less tied to tradition, more mobile, less easily swayed, and somewhat less dependable. She may also in some areas be less educated as her schooling may have not included the proper way to set a table or the work of our sisters who have gone on before.

The above description is that of the young woman we need to welcome in our group and provide her with the spirituality she craves.

Since knowing and accepting a young woman isn't enough to retain her in the movement, the upcoming issue will focus on her needs and how belonging to our group will be less of an infringement to her most valuable commodity - Time, but an increase in value to her life as a whole.

Sorelle Ngatchou

MA/RI YCWU National Representative

Hello Church Women United:

This is last letter to you as your National President. I want you all to know how honored I am to have been your National President for the past four years. I'm so thankful for all of you that have walked with me during this time. Your prayers, cards and gifts that you have sent to me have been a true blessing.



We've come a long way since I gave my first speech to you at our 75th anniversary. I talked about change and how we need to think outside the box in order to maintain our movement. Even though, you all dreaded even the mention of the word, you stood up and took the challenge. As I travelled to the different states, it was wonderful to hear discussions and activities that each state was working on to make the presence of Church Women United known in their communities. Especially when it involved recruiting younger women. I also really enjoyed seeing butterfly signs and pins. It let me know that you all want to be the butterfly not the caterpillar.

I'm sure you would all like to know why I selected butterflies. There is an actual Butterfly Revolution. This revolution is a metaphor for the concept that even small actions...like the fluttering of butterfly wings...can have far reaching effects. I believe that by taking action, everyone of us can have a major impact on making the world a better place to live. Remember together we are unstoppable. We have been called for such a time as this, to be the voice of change in order to sow the seeds of love and justice.

I'm proud to say that we are a group of Christian women that say: Don't talk about it---Be about it.

Everyone continues to show that we are one team with one mission, to keep moving forward in order to keep reaching out to those in need and to continue to change the lives of Christian women.

Finally, I would like to say how much I've enjoyed my term, which has put me through ups, downs, stress and calm.

Always remember that my heart walks with all of you.

Many hugs and blessings to all.

Patti

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

July—August SUMMER BREAK September 6 Human Rights Event

Submit News for our next newsletter by

OCTOBER 23 to <a href="mailto:cwuatlanta@gmail.com">cwuatlanta@gmail.com</a>

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK! 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

Zip

Address

Address

City State

Home telephone number:

Other telephone:

Email address:

Birthday month/day \_\_\_\_\_/ \_\_\_\_\_/

Church

Action or

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 Relation CWU Young Legislative
Youth Children's Issues

Heath 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!