



NEWSLETTER

APR 2021
Volume 21

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED IN ATLANTA, INC.

“Agreed to differ, resolved to love, and united to serve”



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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.

LAWN and GARDEN MONTH

Lawns and gardens go together. By spring we are all anxious to get outside and enjoy the nice weather and the rebirth of all things green. April is the perfect time to clean up your lawn and get it ready for summer.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Springtime is here. Warm weather, Easter/Resurrection Sunday, cookouts and family reunions and blooming of flowers!!

With Springtime I often think about spring cleaning and fresh beginnings. Many say “spring cleaning” means to wake up from a melatonin-induced slumber of spirit and mind.

Spring cleaning as relates to Church Women United Atlanta to me means a clearing of things that did not work in the past but moving forward to a thorough review of our work and agenda as the movement prepares for the year ahead. New ideas are brought forth. New people are encouraged to join the movement. Spring Cleaning is a difficult and time-consuming chore. But with TEAM work the task can be accomplished.

1Corinthians 15:58, NLT states: “So, my dear brothers and sisters, be strong and immovable. Always work enthusiastically for the Lord, for you know that nothing you do for the Lord is ever useless.”

Living out the above scripture as a Team of volunteer Ecumenical Christians in Church Women United Atlanta, Inc. we work excitedly for gender equality for women and girls, ending hunger and poverty, and building a diverse and inclusive community better known as “The Beloved Community”. This means our agenda for the movement must include activities and events that address these issues.

To accomplish this the membership in May will be ask to vote on several events and projects that Church Women United Atlanta will host for the next 2 years (through December 2022).

Suggested projects and events to be voted on are: A Girls Rites of Passage, A Disabilities Project, The annual Atlanta Community Food Bank Hunger Walk, The Stork Nest Baby Clothing Project, United Way Shoe Box Project for Homeless Women, Books for children, Carrie Steel Pitts Home Birthday Parties, continuation of Conversations on Racism: Becoming the Beloved Community and support CWU National as an Non Governmental Organization (NGO) at The United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, especially “Thursdays in Black”.

Affirming our goals of gender equality I joined the CWU delegation at The 65th Commission of the Status of Women (March 14-26) via Zoom out of New York City. This annual event addresses concerns of women and girls throughout the world. There were 25,000 attendees from across the globe who were educated via virtual parallel and side events about the marginalization of women and girls. A discussion and review of the Beijing +25 Platform for Action adopted by the UN at the Fourth World Conference on Women September 15, 1995 in Beijing was done. Bettie J. Durrah, Atlanta CWU member attended that conference. Also reviewed were the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, a blue print to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all but especially for women and girls. It was agreed that there is still much work needed to achieve these 17 goals.

Easter weekend 8 senior CWU members were delivered Easter lilies to their homes. One



Easter weekend 8 senior CWU members were delivered Easter lilies to their homes. One member received a floral bouquet in celebration of her 90th birthday.

We thank Rev. Joyce Myers Brown's for her advocacy efforts where she signed an interfaith letter with approximately 500 clergy and lay leaders from the Atlanta area addressing SB 202 (Voting Rights Reform in Georgia). Thanks also to CWU Atlanta members who signed the letter delivered to GA Governor Brian Kemp's office.

Please join the Prison Ministry work of the Ecumenical Acton Committee, Barbara Leath, Chair and committee members Bettie J. Durrah, Sherrie Wilson, Rev. Dr. Alberta Bosell, and Emma Olds. This ministry work with women detainees at the Fulton County jail, Union City, GA. will provide needed toiletry items, gift cards and Marta cards upon their release. It is hoped this ministry can expand to assist these women when released with finding housing and resources to become productive citizens. Our appreciation to Rev. Allison Newman for bringing this awareness to the CWU Atlanta movement.

Kudos to all members who made a financial donation toward the Atlanta Community Food Bank Hunger Walk March 14, 2021. Your support will help to end hunger and support Quadrennial Priority #2 of CWU National to end poverty and hunger-Especially Childhood Hunger.

As we prepare the movement of Church Women United in Atlanta, Inc. for "Spring Cleaning" and doing "A New Thing" please let your voices be heard through paying your \$25 annual dues and joining our Zoom monthly meetings to:

CWU Atlanta, Inc.

P.O. Box 311795

Atlanta, GA 31131

OR download the Zelle app (www.zellepay.com) or locate Zelle in your bank app

Blessings in the days, weeks and months ahead.

Blessings and Peace,

Sheila Louder, President, CWU Atlanta



April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, one in four children has experienced some sort of abuse or neglect at some point in their lives, and one in seven experienced abuse or neglect in the past year. Prevention and reporting cases of abuse are the best ways to reduce child abuse and neglect, and improve the lives of children in the United States.

CELEBRATIONS

THE **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER** was held virtually on March 5, 2021 at 11:30 A.M. It is a national program that is held throughout the United States. The program was prepared by the Word Day of Prayer Committee of Vanuatu. Vanuatu is an **island** country **located** in the South Pacific .We learned about the women of Vanuatu, their community, culture, and concerns. It was a great opportunity to take time out of the day to stop and focus on prayer. The National Theme for 2021 is **Build On A Firm Foundation**.

One of the highlights of our program was the Bible study lead by CWU-Atlanta member, Rev. Dr. Alberta Bosell. The Bible Study was interactive with many women joining in to express their thoughts on prayer.

Our program ended with words of encouragement from President Sheila Louder and an appeal by singer and activist Myrna Clayton for us to get involved in making sure our churches and worship spaces are accommodating for all of God's children.

MAY FRIENDSHIP DAY

May Friendship Day is Church Women United's next celebration. This year's national theme is Becoming One in 2021. We will celebrate **May Friendship Day** on May 7 at 7:00 P.M. The theme for May Friendship Day is "Making Room at the Table." This evening program we hope will bring more young women to the table to celebrate with us. May Friendship Day is filled with members of other churches, awards to some important women in our movement. And it gives us an opportunity to celebrate new and old friends. We look forward to making room at the the able to all women who are committed to peace and justice.

This years friendship celebration will also include a skit by members of Church Women United and will continue to solidify the goal of making room at the table. Other celebrations you will enjoy this year are the **Human Rights Celebration** in September and **World Community Day** in November.





Faith community calls on Kemp to block controversial Georgia election reform legislation

This photo shows a group, including CWU member Rev. Joyce Myers-Brown, at the GA Capitol presenting an interfaith letter to the governor from nearly 500 faith leaders, affirming that voting is a sacred right & must be equally available to all citizens. It expresses grave concern that some bills moving through the Georgia Legislature threaten to erase many of the voting rights that so many have fought hard to secure.

<https://www.fox5atlanta.com/news/faith-community-calls-on-georgia-governor-to-block-controversial-election-reform-legislation>

YWCA is on a mission to Stand Against Racism!

We take a Stand Against Racism every day by raising awareness about the impact of institutional and structural racism and by building community among those who work for racial justice.

Stand Against Racism provides the opportunity for communities across the United States to find an issue or cause that inspires them to take a #StandAgainstRacism and to unite their voices to educate, advocate, and promote racial justice.



YWCA USA's 15th annual Stand Against Racism campaign will take place April 22 – 25, 2021.

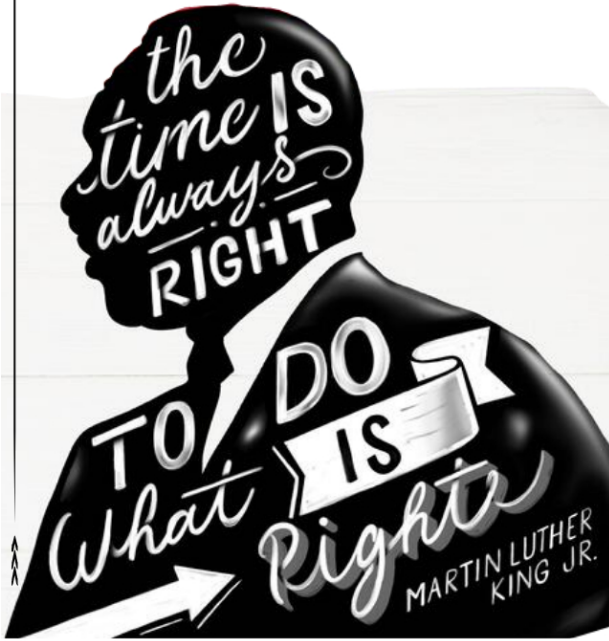
Structural racism plays a large role in determining the conditions in which people are born, grow, work, live, and age. These factors affect people's access to quality housing, education, food, transportation, political power, and other social determinants of health. Understanding and addressing systemic racism from this public health perspective is crucial to eliminating racial and ethnic inequities, and to improving opportunity and well-being across communities.

Our collective efforts can root out injustice, transform institutions, and create a world that sees women, girls, and people of color the way we do: Equal. Powerful. Unstoppable.



Becoming the Beloved Community? Where Do We Go From Here?

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2021 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM



Guest Speakers

Reverend Timothy McDonald
Pastor
First Iconium Baptist Church

Rabbi Lydia Medwin
The Temple

Jeriene Grimes
Cobb County NAACP

Reverend Cameron Pennybacker
Diversity Assets



Meeting ID: 835 320 3221
Passcode: 83532032

Hosted by Church Women United Atlanta Unit, Inc.

Becoming the Beloved Community: Where Do We Go From Here?

Submitted by Sheila Louder

On Sunday, February 28, 2021 Church Women United in Atlanta, Inc. hosted a Conversation on Race: Becoming the Beloved Community: Where Do We Go from Here?

Forty-seven (47) CWU Atlanta Inc. members, family and friends joined this informative and educational conversation. Members from CWU Units in Athens and Cobb County also joined the virtual Zoom and participated as planners and program participants.

The distinguished panel members were: Rev. Timothy McDonald, pastor First Iconium Baptist Church and Immediate past president 100 Black Clergy, Rabbi Lydia Medwin, The Temple, Atlanta, GA, Rev. Cameron Pennybacker, Founder

and CEO Diversity Assests, Jeriene Grimes, President NAACP Cobb County, and Ariana Wilkins, Manager, Housing and Community Development, East Point Housing Authority.

The catalysts for the conversation was a concern brought at the January membership meeting by CWU Atlanta member Rev. Joyce Myers Brown due to the divisive climate we find ourselves. Rev. Myers Brown also spoke on where the moral compass of America find itself. As a result the membership held its' second Conversation on Race. The first being held April 10, 2018.

Panelist spoke on topics about Voting Rights, Affordable Housing, Ending Mass Incarceration, Education Inequality, and the overall responsibility of the Faith Community to take the lead with challenging and addressing the moral compass of America. More importantly it was discussed how all races must come together to admit and discuss the injustices found in America and how these injustices ca be corrected.

Matthew 25:35-36 summarized the event "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me." (NIV)

It is hoped each attendee will live out Micah 6:8: "And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." (NIV)





Road to Recovery -Abrams, Fair Count, SEAP Launch #CountMeIn to Help Communities Get Vaccinated

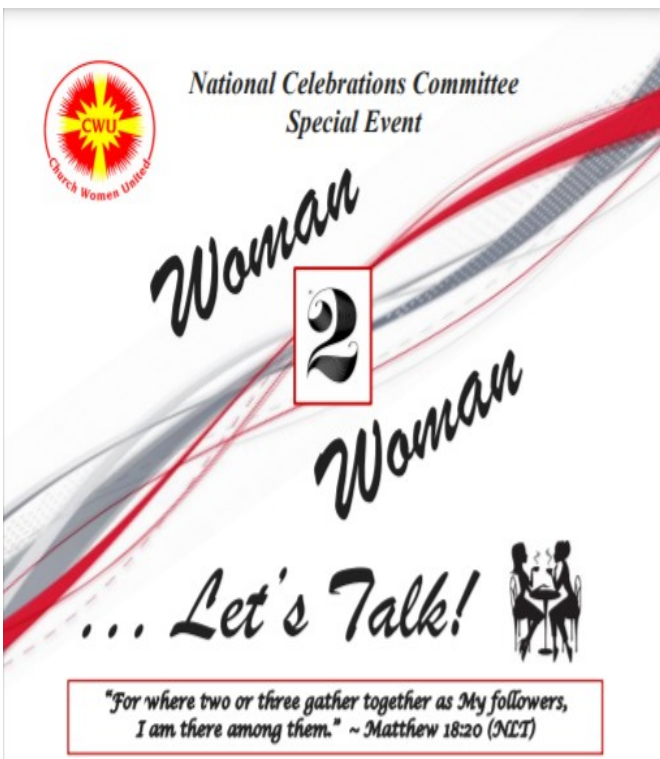
The Stacey Abrams-founded groups Fair Count and the Southern Economic Advancement Project (SEAP) are turning their powerful organizing and data operations toward helping hard-to-reach Georgians get vaccinated.

The Road to Recovery: Count Me In initiative kicked off March 16. Initially focusing on Southwest Georgia, the program will soon expand to other Middle and South Georgia communities.

“If we do the best job we can in Southwest Georgia, we can set a precedent for how we serve the nation,” Abrams said.

Count Me In will work to assist Black, LatinX and Native American communities that face barriers to access in the COVID vaccination process, using an equitable recovery as a catalyst for civic participation. It will be spearheaded by SEAP’s deep data and policy expertise and Fair Count’s considerable organizing strength.

For more information, visit CountMeInGA.org and follow Fair Count and SEAP on social media. Georgians who want to get vaccinated should call their public health department at 888-457-0186.



It’s Time for the next National Celebrations committee event!

We’re extending you the opportunity to join us over a cup of coffee, tea, or your favorite beverage to praise, worship, and fellowship together. Have we peaked your interest? Here’s how you can join us:

WHEN: Saturday, April 24, 2021 1:00 PM (EDT)

Registration Link: <https://forms.gle/K6ukCn6MsVG3seN16>

NOTE: Once you register using the above link, an event confirmation email will automatically be forwarded to you. Approximately two days prior to the Event date, you will receive the Zoom Link via email from Sandy Meyer, Celebrations Committee Registration Coordinator. We look forward to your attendance!

Mira J. Washington, CWU National President

Rev. Karen Michell, National Celebrations Committee Chair

IN MEMORIAM



Doris Peaks Jones was born in Salisbury, North Carolina, on December 7, 1932. She departed this life on Wednesday, March 10, 2021

Mrs. Jones attended public schools in Salisbury, North Carolina, obtaining her Bachelor of Arts in elementary education from Livingstone College, and her Master's degree in guidance counseling from North Carolina Central University. She also completed additional graduate courses at the University of Pittsburh, North Carolina A & T State University, Hampton University, and Rutgers University. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) recruited her to serve as the Equal Employment

Opportunity Specialist. Throughout her time at the IRS, she oversaw equal opportunity programs and federal women's programming for the Southeast Region.

An advocate for Black women and social change and a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, Mrs. Jones joined Mrs. Coretta Scott King at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center. Her role as the program director of the MLK Jr. Federal Commission was so influential that the IRS temporarily released her during this time. One of the significant efforts she oversaw was collaborating with the National Building Committee to create a living memorial for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in Washington, DC.

She was a founding member of Faith A.M.E. Zion Church and served as Key Woman for her congregation.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Church Women United, Inc

Agreed to Differ, Resolved to Love, United to Serve



A call to action for women of faith to gather for a powerful hour to discuss social issues and concerns to help redress the global and national problems that impact elderly, youth and families and marginalized communities including. **Mental and Physical Health Wellness, Education, Housing, Environment and more.**

Join **APRIL** Zoom Meeting @ 1:00PM EST

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86449360028?pwd=ZE5wV1hpQ2kyU1NzNm1iaVplb1JsQT09>
Meeting ID: 864 4936 0028
Passcode: 509928



April 7
Gloria Vaugh, Author
Cost of Oil



April 14
Cathy Smith
Quakers
Religious Society of Friends



April 21
Church World Services



April 28
International Human
Trafficking Institute

April 21 and April 28

WIN Wednesday 1PM

April 22– April 25

YWCA Stand Against Racism

April 25

CWS—Lunch & Learn Webinar: Unauthorized Practice of Immigration Law; When Helping Can Hurt

May 7 Monthly Meeting - 7 PM

May Friendship Day

Submit News for our next newsletter to Leslie McCrary, Roberta Rhodes or Rev. Angela Rice by

MARCH 19 to cwuatlanta@gmail.com

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cwuatlanta@gmail.com

For More details, please contact us info.churchwomenunitedinc@gmail.com
To learn more about our organization or to www.churchwomenunited.et

www.cwuatl.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:

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.

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Mail To: P.O. Box 311795
Phone: 404-696-3247
Atlanta, GA 31131

*Please give us additional information about
yourself. Thank you.*

Current/Former Occupation:

Hobbies:

Church Positions Held:

Travels:

Additional Information:

Comments:

Suggestions:

Thank you!