



NEWSLETTER

AUG 2021
Volume 22

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED IN ATLANTA, INC.

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



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| President’s Message | 2 |
| Celebrations..... | 3 |
| News | 4 |
| Upcoming Events | 7 |

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.

August is National Immunization Awareness Month (NIAM). This annual observance highlights the importance of getting recommended vaccines throughout your life. We know the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted all aspects of life, including your ability to attend important appointments and receive routine vaccinations. During NIAM, we encourage you to talk to your doctor, nurse or healthcare professional to ensure you and your family are protected against serious diseases by getting caught up on routine vaccination.



**National
Immunization
Awareness
Month**

#ivax2protect

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings Church Women United Atlanta, Inc. Members and Friends,

I pray each of you are enjoying your summer even though COVID19 still lingers with us.

As Church Women United Atlanta, Inc. prepared to take a summer break we found ourselves celebrating May Friendship Day and Everybody's Birthday via Zoom.

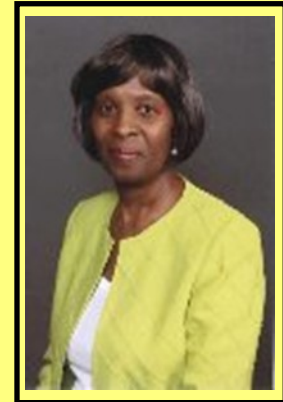
I congratulate our honorees recognized at May Friendship Day, Friday, May 7th, Mrs. Nedra Juniel and Mrs. Leslie McCray, Valiant Women; Mrs. Helen Sprewer, Key Woman and Mrs. Dequania Barksdale Cameron, Young Church Woman. These extraordinary women were honored for their exceptional work in Church Women United and or their local congregation and community. The skit (filmed at a member's home) capturing the theme: "A Place at the Table" was suggested for an Oscar nomination for best production and acting! We thank the seventy-nine (79) members and friends for joining the celebration and all program participants who made the program a success. Sincerest thanks to the Celebration Committee Rev. Angela Harrington Rice, Chair; Mrs. Odessa Huff, Mrs. Roberta Rhodes, Mrs. Carolyn Hart, Mrs. Janice Walker and Mrs. Lillie Hercules for planning and implementing the stellar program.

Everybody's Birthday, an annual celebration was enjoyed Friday, June 4, 7PM. This annual fundraiser was a hit by participants due to testing our skills of memory and quickness. Games, pink punch and dressing by color of birth month was the talk of the zoom party. Prizes were awarded to all game winners. Special thanks to new member and young woman Mrs. Leticia Haynes and advisor Mrs. Odessa Huff for implementing the program.

May 18th CWU Atlanta, Inc. members joined the 90th birthday celebration of Mrs. Minnie Clayton. Her daughter Myrna hosted a fun filled evening for family and friends at Mrs. Clayton's beautiful home. Cards, flowers, Zoom well wishes, family from out of town and monetary gifts delighted Mrs. Minnie on her special day.

Although the organization is on summer break the Board of Directors continue to meet and work. A review of the survey results for selected projects through 2022 is being evaluated. Watch your email or snail mail for survey results. A Visioning retreat via Zoom was held to discuss growth of the membership, calendar preparation through December 2021, opportunities to empower Key Women, creating a membership directory and strengthening Committees.

Please remember to "WEAR BLACK ON THURSDAY'S" to observe Thursday's in Black! This global movement led by World Council of Churches for a world without



violence is your opportunity to speak out and show support for victims affected by the injustice of gender-based violence.

Save the Date:

Human Rights Celebration, Friday, September 10, 7:00 PM via Zoom
Honorees: Rabbi Lydia Medwin, The Temple, Atlanta, GA; Rev. Luther and
Dr. Helen Pearson Smith, Interfaith Children’s Movement and
Mr. Charles Person, Civil Rights Activist and Freedom Rider

CWU Georgia State Virtual Assembly, Saturday, September 18

Registration:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_r3gEewBjStSkssYK4UYXog

CWU 2021 Quadrennial Virtual Assembly, Thursday, October 7 through Saturday, October 9, 2021.

Registration: July 10 through September 21, 2021.

Information and Registration: www.churchwomenunited.net, (212) 835-1507 or

Registrar: Norma Borgmann: nborgmann@charter.net (618) 292-4617

Last but not least: Thanks to all new and renewing members Church Women United Atlanta, Inc. Your membership is invaluable to the movement and the work of the organization.

To all! Stay safe and see you in September.

Blessings and Peace,
Sheila Louder, President, CWU Atlanta



Did you know that August is “National Make a Will Month”? It’s the perfect time to be reminded of the importance of drafting or updating your will to ensure your final wishes are executed as you intended.

Despite the importance of having a will, many Americans never get around to drafting it, citing that they simply didn’t have time, never got around to it, or disliked the idea of preparing for their death. Another common misconception is that unless you’re wealthy, you do not need a will—but that’s furthest from the truth. Thankfully, getting your affairs in order, does not need to be a lengthy or costly project.

MAY FRIENDSHIP DAY

May Friendship Day, held May 7, 2021, was one of Church Women Atlanta's most attended virtual celebrations of the year. May Friendship Day celebrates the inter-generational bonds among women. This annual event is an opportunity to worship together and to highlight the awesome contributions of outstanding women in the community. Our Mistress of Ceremony, Leslie McCrary, led the program with grace and skill and gave all who attended an opportunity to participate. The program included special recognitions presented to **Dequania**



Barksdale Cameron, Young Church Woman, **Leslie McCrary** and **Nedra Juniel**, Valiant Women and **Helen Sprewer**, Key Woman a legacy member for her stellar service. An amusing skit, *The Invitation*, that illustrated the inclusiveness of God's Kingdom was the highlight of the program. Music was offered by Louvella Miller of Shaw Temple A.M.E. Zion. This service also celebrates the Fellowship of the Least Coin, a worldwide movement based on the power of prayer and the willingness to set aside the "least coin" of a country. The May Friendship Day program made room at the table for everyone and emphasized the importance of welcoming everyone to God's table. Church Women Atlanta were excited to have women join the celebration from numerous churches in the Atlanta area.

PARTY TIME AT CARRIE STEELE PITTS

Church Women United presented a birthday party and graduation salute for the residents of Carrie Steele Pitts Home. COVID-19 had slowed up the monthly celebrations of birthday parties, but all was made up with a celebration for those who observed birthdays from January to June. Dr. Evelyn Lavizzo, Executive Director of Carrie Steele Pitts, indicated that having one come together to celebrate the birthdays and graduations was a good way to close out the school year. The festivities included a prayer of celebration for the children, gifts for the celebrants and their favorite foods, chicken wings, pizza, and of course. cake.



VIRTUAL HUMAN RIGHTS CELEBRATION SEPTEMBER 10, 2021

Please join Church Women United Atlanta, Inc. for our Virtual Human Rights Celebration, Friday, September 10 at 7:00 P.M. as we recognize persons in the community who are working for the rights of all. This year's theme is "Becoming One in 2021." Honorees include Mr. Charles Person, Civil Rights Activist and Freedom Rider; Rabbi Medwin who leads social justice work through the Rothschild Social Justice Institute named in honor of The Temple's esteemed Civil Rights Leader Rabbi Jacob M. Rothschild, the Reverend Dr. Luther Smith and his spouse the Reverend Helen Pearson Smith. Dr. Luther Smith, Jr. is a Christian Methodist Episcopal Pastor and Professor Emeritus of Church and Community at Candler School of Theology/Emory University. He has written extensively on Howard Thurman and is one of the co-founders of Interfaith Children's Movement and Helen Pearson Smith, Professor Emeritus of Theology at Candler School of Theology/Emory University and a United Church of Christ Minister who worked nationally with Church Women United. We look forward to celebrating the achievements of these powerful community and national leaders.

Stand for Peace!

Stand for Peace, the vigil group launched in August 2002, resumed weekly activity on Friday, April 30 at the corner of Peachtree and 15th. CWU Sisters Joyce Meyers-Brown and Sheila Louder participated.



Prison Toiletry Drive

While the state supplies some toiletry items to inmates, it often is not enough, and prisoners have to rely on family or friends to provide the rest. The Ecumenical Action Committee led by CWU Sister Barbara Leath collected toiletries for the women inmates of the Fulton County Jail on Saturdays, May 15 and May 22.



Minnie Clayton's 90th Birthday Celebration

Minnie Clayton's 90th birthday celebration was held Wednesday, May 19th via Facebook Live .



CWU Perpetual Day!

When CWU Sister Joyce Myers-Brown celebrated her 80th birthday in 2017, she was miles away from Atlanta. Her relatives asked that we send incognito a message. The messages filled up 365 days. Each year since that time, Joyce sends the message back to the individual. June 7th was CWU Sister Bettie Durrah's day. These pictures show the many ways that Joyce-Meyers Brown is involved with CWU in Atlanta.



Food Bank

On March 7, we supported the Atlanta Community Food Bank Hunger/Walk Run with a \$200 donation to benefit the Food Bank and five local hunger relief organizations.



Back to School Bash

CWU Sisters Vivian Davis, Leslie McCrary, Joyce Thomas and Dr. Sadye Potter served in the Drive-Thru Back To School Bash at Faith AME Zion Church on Saturday, August 7, 2021. They distributed over 200 book bags to students in the MLK Community helping to prepare them for the first week of school. Special thanks to CWU Sister Roberta Rhodes for donating additional school supplies and to the unit for supporting the event.



Georgia Southern Spring 2021

Commencement Speaker

Jason Louder



Actor, Teacher, Coach, Mentor, general Lover of Life, and son of **CWU President Sheila Louder**, Jason C. Louder's star has been steadily rising, Guest-starring in the CW's "Black Lightning" in the integral role of Frank "2-BITS" Tanner, and as Jamaican Drug Lord "CRESSY", on "Wu-Tang: An American Saga" an original series on HULU. Jason was also extremely blessed to lend his Voice to the 2016-2017 Adidas Sports Needs Creators National campaign. While persistently honing his craft, he has become one of the most decorated and desirable actors in the Atlanta market and his consistent work at home has also led him to some international acclaim, landing him in Bollywood alongside one of their finest, Kangana Ranaut in the hit movie "SIMRAN". And he most recently wrapped on a Netflix project starring Jamie Foxx, John Boyega and Teyonah Parris entitled "They Cloned Tyrone".

A Native of Atlanta, Georgia, Jason has been in more than 30 Stage Productions since 2009, working with some of the most active Directors and Playhouses in Atlanta. Jason was also able to take his stage work to New York in 2013. And he has been working off and on with a transformational production entitled "GO", a non-dialogue exploration into abuse and its wholistic affect and impact on our lives.

Presently, Jason has worked on 40+Independent projects(Full-length features, Shorts, Web series), including a major SCAD Film, "Odyssey: A Star Wars Story and "Grey Hairs", a Post Apocalyptic Science-Fiction pilot. Jason's work has also been recognized by various outlets, being awarded for Best Actor in the 2017 Constellation Film Festival for his role in Darion D'Anjou's Short Film "PONY". He has also been in development on a groundbreaking auteurs series addressing Post Traumatic Slave Syndrome and is beginning to trend more heavily on various social media platforms.

And as a Storyteller, Jason joyfully appears as one of his most coveted characters, 'Babatunde The Griot' and has inspired thousands of students throughout the state of Georgia. And in the spirit of paying it

forward, Jason has worked as an Acting Coach at the incomparable Nova House and is currently working as a youth Acting Instructor with AGI Entertainment. Jason's calendar is steadily being filled with evidence from his upcoming projects: "The Homecoming", "ABIDING", "Sinister Minister", "My Brothers Keeper", "Pretty For a Big Girl", "Moonless Nights (New Jersey)", "ROADTRIPPING"(N.C.), "BATTERED JUSTICE", "Christmas Pine" (Chicago) and "The EYES of Providence" just to name a few.





Savannah Street Mission

Church Women United In Atlanta, Inc. would like to highlight Freedom Fellowship Church and the work they are doing at Savannah Street Mission. In-person services have not been able to take place because of Covid-19, but they have been diligent in reaching out to the community.

On August 14, 2021, Freedom Fellowship Church hosted “Family Night” – an evening filled with worship, fellowship, games, food, photos, and back-to-school giveaways – to ensure kids in the community have the supplies needed to thrive in school this year. Although the event took place off-site, Freedom Fellowship Church invited the Savannah Street Mission community to participate in the activities. Please refer to the attached flyer for more information about this wonderful event.



State Assembly SAVE THE DATE

*
Saturday, September 18, 2021
Via ZOOM
10:00 am to approx. 1:30 pm
Hosted by the Thomasville Unit

The event program will be emailed to all who register.

Register in advance for this webinar:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_r3gEewBjStSkssYK4UYXog

CWU PROJECT SURVEY RESULTS

In June 2021, a survey was conducted among the CWU Atlanta membership. The purpose of the survey was to rank proposed projects we could implement for 2021-2023 to affirm the Mission and Priorities of Church Women United.

The survey was conducted by means of a Google Forms questionnaire given to members for completion. Members were asked to rank proposed projects for a Signature CWU Unit Project, Projects Meeting CWU National Priorities and Monthly Projects as 1-Highest, 2 and 3 - Lowest. Members could select more than one project in their rankings. We had a total of 20 responses.

The bolded projects listed below received the highest percentage of votes for the highest ranking.

SIGNATURE CWU UNIT PROJECTS

- ◇ **Girls Rites of Passage Based on Book: "Her 12th Year: She's Not So Little Anymore" by Dr. Lisa T. Sistrunk, Ed.D**
- ◇ Handicap Accessibility Survey of Church Buildings (Members Buildings)
- ◇ Conversations on Race: Becoming the Beloved Community

PROJECTS MEETING CWU NATIONAL PRIORITIES

- ◇ **Atlanta Community Food Bank Annual Hunger Walk (Held in March)**
- ◇ United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CWU is a Non Governmental Organization (NGO) member)-Attend Annual March Event and locally support "Thursdays in Black"
- ◇ Stand for Peace-Every Friday at 12 Noon Corner of 15th and Peachtree Street

MONTHLY PROJECTS (TIE)

- ◇ **United Way Shoe Box Project for Homeless Women (Held in May)**
- ◇ **Host Carrie Steel Pitts Quarterly Birthday Parties for Resident Children TIE**
- ◇ Stork's Nest Baby Clothing Project
- ◇ Books for Children

A Prayer for the Hurting World

by Terri McDowell Ott

God of mercy, as wildfires and wars rage, earthquakes shake the planet, tropical storms threaten, we are at a loss as to what to say or do. In these moments of anguish and fear and grief, we turn to you in prayer, Holy God, confident that you hear the cries of your people.

As we send our daughters back to school, free to raise their hands in class, free to study and to speak, we pray for the daughters of Afghanistan. We pray for women shrouding themselves in fear, for liberties recently gained to hold despite the new oppressive regime. We pray for the Afghani men—fathers, brothers, sons, uncles— desperately seeking refuge for their families. We pray for all the Afghani people whose lives are trapped in a war zone. We pray for American troops, morally torn over leaving this country and their service behind.

Lord, have mercy. Turn us from violence as a justified means for achieving our ends.

Guide humanity toward your path of peace.

In your mercy, God, hear also our prayers for Haiti. Why, O God, have the people of Haiti suffered so? How long, O Lord, must your people on this island endure tragedy after tragedy?

We pray for this nation rocked by economic crisis, political assassination, a spiraling pandemic, and now an earthquake causing death and destruction. O God, we see the faces of those who have lost their homes and their loved ones. We grieve for your beloved ones and cry out on their behalf. Rescue the people of Haiti, God, desperate for help. Protect them from the next deluge heading their way, from the flooding and the mudslides. Guide us in global mission so our efforts might provide relief and support.

Great God of all, you know us so well. You know our pain. You know our loss. You grieve with us as wildfires consume homes and COVID-19 fills hospital beds. You cry with us as tragedies plague your people. You work beside us in ministry and mission. God of grace, open our eyes, hearts and hands to the movement of your Spirit in this broken world. Restore hope to the suffering, mend the hearts of the hurting, grant us all the strength to support those in need. As we forage for hope along the path of tragedy, may we bear the good fruit of faith, turning to each other and to you in love. Restore us, Holy God, with your hope.

We pray this in the name of Christ. Amen.



GIRL GREATNESS!

CWUA has adopted the Girl Greatness Rites of Passage, program for 10-15 year old girls. The inaugural groups' theme: "It's A Gen Z Thing!" (AGZT). Girl Greatness is a rites of passage experience seeking to create to instill a sense of selfhood in each program participant. Young girls will have access to the wisdom of women from various walks of life, be able to develop and hone interpersonal and intrapersonal skills to serve them throughout their lives and gain a bond of sisterhood knowing they are not alone.

This 6-week program was developed by Dr. Lisa T. Sistrunk, Ed.D. Girl Greatness will provide a supportive environment encouraging meaningful conversations, intentional thought enhancement, and fun activities with peers from diverse backgrounds. It will enhance the trajectory of its participants' overall wellbeing: spirit, mind, body, and soul.

Church Women United Atlanta (CWUA) members will benefit from their participation as mentors. CWUA members will expand their reach of sisterhood and unity creating meaningful, intergenerational interactions and connections with their mentees based on trust, nurturing, respect, and the sharing of their wisdom.

Girl Greatness has six objectives. Participants will:

- Gain knowledge and skills to enhance their servant leadership abilities
- Learn human development skills to improve their resiliency including effective communication, conflict resolution, and team building
- Learn ways to increase their self-efficacy to decrease incidences of teenage pregnancy, ATOD (alcohol, tobacco and other drugs), school failure, suicide, bullying, and incidences with the juvenile justice system
- Learn the importance of building healthy relationships with themselves and others to form positive bonds and healthier lifestyles
- Have opportunities to interact with their peers from diverse cultures, backgrounds, ethnicities, and differing abilities
- Have the opportunities to develop, learn and practice life skills including budgeting, personal safety, goal setting and stress and anger management

CWUA members will cultivate meaningful relationships with their assigned participant (s) by connecting one-on-one with each girl, thereby elevating the girl's experience with the program, while simultaneously uplifting their own lives of CWUA members.

Start spreading the word! As a part of CWUA you may purchase the "Her 12th Year: She's not so little anymore" guide to raise healthy tween girls, which is the basis of the Girl Greatness, for \$18.00 and discount from the retail price of \$26.99 (including shipping and handling). The Discount Code is CWUA2021 . Please do not share this discount code with others outside of the Atlanta unit.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- September 10 7:00 PM**
Human Rights Celebration (ZOOM)
- September 18 10:00 AM**
CWU Georgia State Assembly (ZOOM)
- October 7-9**
Quadrennial Celebration (ZOOM)
- December 11**
80th Year Celebration (ZOOM)



RECRUIT New Members by October 31st. The member who recruits the most new members by this date is eligible to win a prize! More details will be shared at our next meeting.

YOU ARE INVITED

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED, INC.
2021 VIRTUAL QUADRENNIAL ASSEMBLY
OCT 7-9, 2021

RESILIENCE THROUGH THE STORMS, RENEWED BY GRACE | CONNECTING WITH OLD FRIENDS, MAKING NEW ONES, ORGANIZERS, FAITH COMMUNITIES AND FAMILIES. WELCOME!

[REGISTER](http://www.churchwomenunited.net)
[WWW.CHURCHWOMENUNITED.NET](http://www.churchwomenunited.net)


"Agreed to Differ, Resolved to Love, United to Serve."

Church Women United, Inc.
80th Year Celebration
"The Legacy Continues"

Join us to celebrate this momentous occasion of the history and future of CWU founded on the vision and mission of committed, persistent and compassionate women of faith!

Virtual Zoom Event
Saturday - December 11, 2021
2:00 p.m. (EST)

Help us recognize and honor the legacy of our sisters who began the movement and ensure it continues to faithfully move forward by donating \$80.00 per person to commemorate our 80th year.

Make checks payable to:
Church Women United
(Please indicate 80th Celebration on the memo line.)
3605 Campbellton Road, SW • Atlanta, GA 30331
or
Donate Online:
www.churchwomenunited.net

We look forward to your celebrating with us!

Register Online
https://whova.com/web/cwuqc_202110/

Submit News for our next newsletter to Leslie McCrary, Roberta Rhodes or Rev. Angela Rice by NOV 1 to cwuatlanta@gmail.com



 [cwuatlantainc](https://www.facebook.com/cwuatlantainc)

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**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.

Church Women United in Atlanta
Church Women United
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!