



NEWSLETTER

JAN 2022
Volume 23

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.

January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month. It is a key time for us all as individuals to educate ourselves about human trafficking and crucially to learn to spot the signs of trafficking.

The Children’s Advocacy Centers of Georgia CSEC Response Team knows well of the impact of human trafficking. Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) refers to a range of crimes and activities involving the sexual abuse or exploitation of a child for the financial benefit of any person or in exchange for anything of value (including monetary and non-monetary benefits) given or received by any person. CSEC is a form of Human Trafficking. In 2021, the CSEC Response Team served 494 youth and 14 was the average age of youth served.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Blessings and Happy New Year!

Although COVID-19 continues into 2022 each of us are blessed to see another year. But know Church Women United Atlanta, Inc. as a movement was blessed in 2021 regardless of COVID19 to accomplish many successes and celebrated 80 years of existence with CWU National because of committed Committee Chairs, the Board of Directors and YOU the Members.

As a movement in 2021 the unit advocated for justice and peace and raised awareness about current issues that affected the lives of CWU Atlanta members and citizens in the community.

A detailed annual report of the work done in 2021 will be sent to all members with an email on file in our current data base.

If you have not been receiving emails or calling post messages please send your contact information to Nedra Juniel, CWU Atlanta corresponding secretary ASAP: njun6344@att.net

Special thanks to members who renewed or became new members in 2021. We are 47 members strong. Our goal was 50 total members by December 31st.

Leslie McCrary is given recognition for winning the membership contest bringing in 9 new members and 1 reclaimed member. Honorable mention went to Carolyn Hart (3 new members, 1 reclaimed member), Helen Sprewer (2 new members) and Sheila Louder (2 new members). Leslie received a \$50 gift card as the contest winner.

What's coming in 2022??

- Rollout of the Girls Rites of Passage is scheduled for February 2022.
- The Church disability survey (January-February)
- The Stork's Nest Baby item collection
- And many more educational and justice oriented events and projects

Watch your emails and listen to calling post messages about new projects rolling out monthly or quarterly.

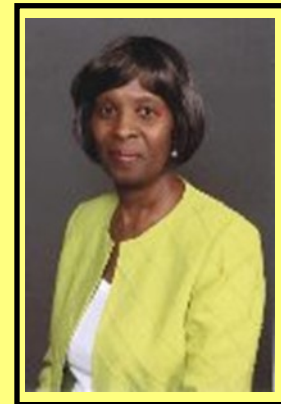
We will continue supporting old partners (Savannah Street and Interfaith Children's Movement) but we are looking forward to building new partnerships whose goals and purposes are aligned with our advocacy and work.

Last, congratulations to Leslie McCrary CWU Atlanta 2022 Woman of the Year. Leslie will be honored February 12, 11:00AM with other CWU Georgia Unit honorees at the Church Woman United in Georgia Woman of the Year Celebration via Zoom.

Below is the CWU Atlanta, Inc. ZOOM meeting information for all events and meetings: Meeting ID: 835 320 3221 Passcode: 83532032 Dial by Phone: (646) 558-8656

I ask for your prayers as we advocate in 2022 and that you continue your support as a member. Also please consider joining a committee. The rewards are great and very fulfilling.

Sheila Louder, President



VIRTUAL HUMAN RIGHTS CELEBRATION

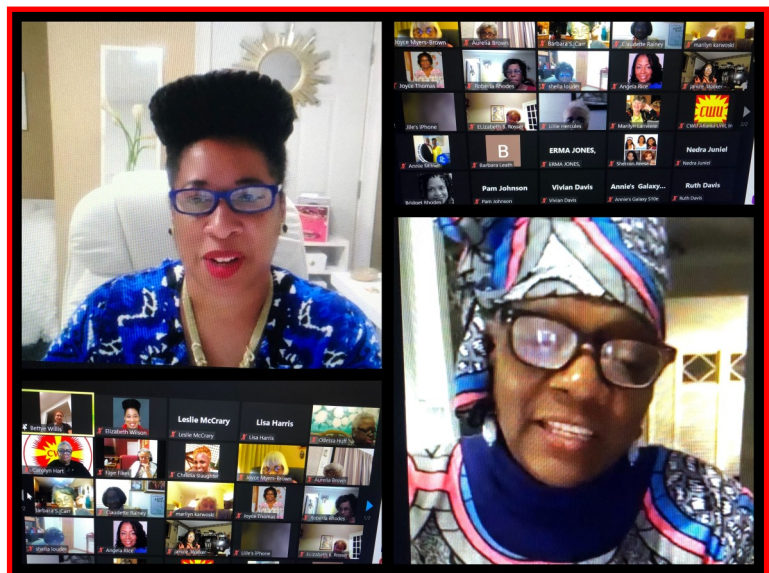


Church Women United Atlanta, Inc, was proud to honor men and women who have contributed so much to the Atlanta community and beyond at its Virtual Human Rights Celebration, Friday, September 10 at 7:00 P.M. Church Women United-Atlanta recognized persons in the community who are working for the rights of all. The theme this year is "Becoming One in 2021." Honorees included 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.

WORLD COMMUNITY DAY

On November 5, 2021, Church Women United Atlanta presented World Community Day it's final Celebrations program of the year. The theme was "New Places, New Faces at the Table." Invited guests were Lisa Harris of the Atlanta Masjid of Al-Islam, and Elizabeth Wilson of the Cathedral of Faith Church of God in Christ. The aim of the program was to include members of the large faith community. Lisa Harris discussed her Muslim tradition and Elizabeth Wilson talked about the Pentecostal faith. This was an illustration of Church Women United's mission to reach out in the community to bring in women from all walks of faith. Many who attended indicated that it was one of the best programs of the year.



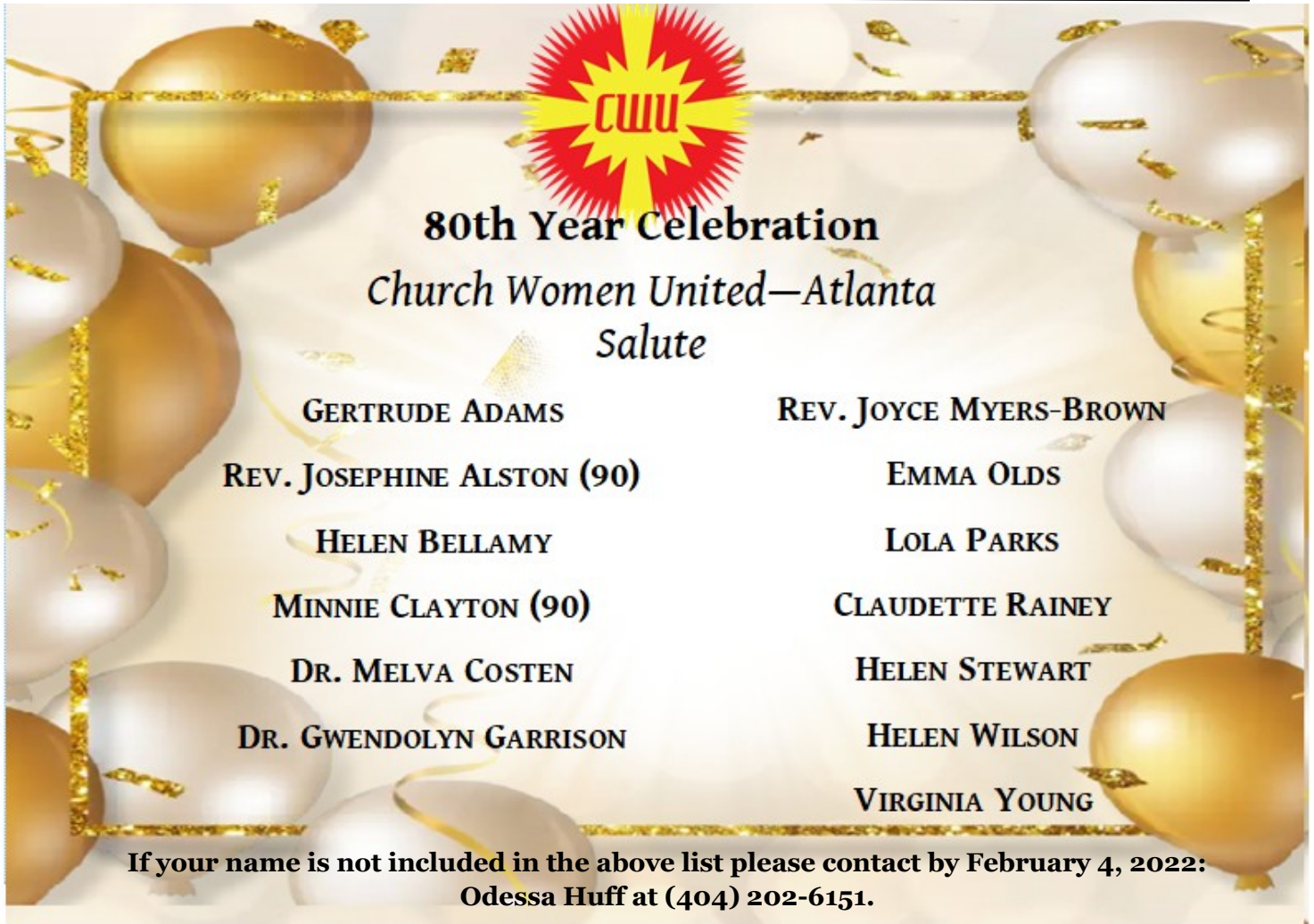
CWU STANDS FOR PEACE *by Rev. Joyce Myers-Brown*

The Friday after Thanksgiving six Church Women United members joined the weekly Stand for Peace witness at Colony Square. For almost 20 years --- ever since shortly after the tragic events of 9/11/01 --- and in an effort to stop our nation going to war -- a dedicated group of women and men have met at 14th & Peachtree streets from noon to 1:00 each week calling for peace and for justice with signs such as, "War is Not the Answer" or "Value Diversity" or "Love Thy Neighbor". Over these years, Congressman John Lewis, Rev. Joe Lowery, and many other champions of peace and justice have joined them. This time among those gathered were Church Women United members Sheila Louder, her Granddaughter Destiny, Beatrice Soublet, Lillie Hercules, Carolyn Hart, & Rev. Joyce Myers-Brown. Members had created their own signs, reading "Honk for Human Rights", Stop Climate Change", "Keep Peace on Earth". It is hoped that in future weeks, others will feel led to join this witness, reminding passersby that God calls us to love and honor one another as we work towards The Beloved Community.



CLIMATE CHANGE *by Destiny Cameron*

My grandmother invited me to create a poster and stand for peace with the Church Women United organization. I then created a poster that says "Stop Climate Change". I decided to dedicate my poster to climate change because it is a subject that is often overlooked. Climate change is any significant change in the climate lasting for an extended period of time. This includes major changes in temperature, precipitation, or wind patterns, among other effects, that occur over a long period of time. Since the 1800's humans have caused the majority of climate change by burning fossil fuels such as coal, oil, and gas. This is harmful because all essential things we need simply come from the earth. If it continues all living organisms will be put at risk by not having safe air to breathe, changes in the spread of infectious diseases, and threats to food and water quality. The smallest things can add a positive impact on our planet's overall health. Nine things that can help aid climate change are saving energy at home, walking, biking or using public transportation, eating more vegetables, throwing away less food, reducing, reusing, repairing, and recycling, and switching to an electric vehicle. All the other women I stood with also had overlooked issues. Many posters said "Black Lives Matter", "Protect Our Vote", "Keep Peace on Earth", "War is Not the Answer", "Live Peace Mourn War", "Reimage Peace" and "Honk for Human Rights". I learned that these women have been standing for peace for twenty years every Friday. Many drivers who passed us honked their horns and took pictures to show support towards the countless causes. As I stood with them I felt like a leader who is advocating for a better future.



CWU

80th Year Celebration
Church Women United—Atlanta
Salute

GERTRUDE ADAMS	REV. JOYCE MYERS-BROWN
REV. JOSEPHINE ALSTON (90)	EMMA OLDS
HELEN BELLAMY	LOLA PARKS
MINNIE CLAYTON (90)	CLAUDETTE RAINEY
DR. MELVA COSTEN	HELEN STEWART
DR. GWENDOLYN GARRISON	HELEN WILSON
	VIRGINIA YOUNG

If your name is not included in the above list please contact by February 4, 2022:
Odessa Huff at (404) 202-6151.



Fifteen new members were recruited during our Fall Membership Drive bringing us to a total of 47 members as of December 31st.

- Vivian Davis**
- Caroline Dixon**
- Phyllis Fletcher**
- Laura Heyward**
- Sharon Ingram**
- Rev. Dr. Michelle L. Madison**
- Michele Morton**



- Rhonda Peek**
- Pamela F. Perkins**
- Dr. Sadye Potter**
- Toni Reid**
- Kim G. Robinson**
- Grace Terry**
- Joyce Thomas**
- Holly Toodle**



The Stork's Nest will be an ongoing project of CWU Atlanta, Inc. The Stork's Nest is a cooperative project of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority and the March of Dimes. It has been in existence for over fifty years and its purpose is to increase the number of low-income expectant women receiving prenatal care in an effort to prevent low birth weight babies, premature births and infant deaths. The program provides incentives and prenatal education and its clients earn points towards these incentives by participating in positive healthier activities such as attending prenatal visits, participation in prenatal education classes, stopping at risk behaviors such as consuming alcoholic beverages and reducing stress. Incentives include maternity and baby care items as well as gift cards. Church Women United of Atlanta is pleased to work with the Stork's Nest which is located at Adamsville Regional Health Center in Southwest Atlanta. During the Covid pandemic classes are virtual, however, as the women complete their prenatal classes Church Women United, Atlanta continues to donate maternity and child care items as well as gift cards . *Submitted by Roberta Rhodes*

COMMUNITY GRANTS

Our local community grants are awarded through an open application process and provide funding directly from our unit to local organizations in Georgia. Four (4) \$400 grants were awarded in 2021 to :



GALEO's mission is to increase civic engagement and leadership of the Latino/Hispanic community across Georgia.



Covenant House provides housing and supportive services to youth facing homelessness. We help young people transform their lives and put them on a path to independence.



AMANI WOMEN CENTER (AWC) enriches the lives of refugee communities in Georgia and empowers them in their new environment by providing educational programs, and a variety of social services.



A co-recipient of the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize, is a 38 year old organization that is the world's most comprehensive landmine action charity.

Woman of The Year 2021 Atlanta Unit



Lillie Hercules has given her services as a volunteer for many, many years both during her church memberships and community involvement. Working and holding offices in religious organizations have always been a part of the life of Lillie Malone Hercules. She joined Cascade United Methodist Church in 2008, where she is a dedicated and working member of United Methodist Women. She served as UMW treasurer for two rotations, a total of six years. Lillie was a member of the African Methodist Episcopal Church (AME) for more than thirty years. She served as, president, treasurer, and secretary of local Women's Missionary Societies (WMS) in Atlanta and South Georgia. She grew up in the Baptist Church serving as secretary of the Sunday School, secretary for church services, and delegate to church union meetings.

Lillie's civic and community involvement includes Girl Scout Troop Leader for more than twenty-five years beginning in Brunswick, Georgia and ending with the Ben Hill Service Unit here in Atlanta. In 2012 she traveled to Port Au Prince, Haiti on a mission trip. The group divided food for distribution, helped in a clinic, gave clothing to orphanage children and some adults. In 2015 she was one of a team of fifteen from Cascade who traveled to Eleuthero, Bahamas to share in building and improving a private, and the team worked toward completing a building for dedication as a job training facility.

In 2017 Lillie trained and was sworn in as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Volunteer with the Foster Care system of Fulton County. She continues as a CASA Volunteer serving as a supportive voice in court for a child/children and the family assigned to her.

She joined Cascade in 2008 and served as treasurer of United Methodist Women for four years. Lillie is also a long-time member of Church Women United in Atlanta (1985) where she serves as treasurer. In 2021 she was elected treasurer of Church Women United State of Georgia.

Thank you ladies of CWU Atlanta, it is my honor and pleasure to represent this unit during the States annual celebration and recognition of women within the movement.



HER 12TH YEAR

DR. LISA T. SISTRUNK, ED. D. AUTHOR & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT EXPERT

Dates: April 24, May 1, 7, 15 & 22 and June 12 – virtually

Price: Sponsored by CWU Atlanta Unit. Parents must purchase the book

Includes:

- 6 weekly sessions of 2 hours discussions, group & individual activities, and community service
- 2 parent sessions, 1 hour each
- An autographed copy of *“Her 12th Year: She’s not so little anymore”*
- Official I AM GIRL GREATNESS™ T-shirt
- Loaded swag bag filled with other GIRL GREATNESS™ goodies: examples: notebook, pens, water bottle, or wristband
- The culminating GIRL GREATNESS Showcase celebration! (conducted 2 weeks after the 6th session)

Mission:

To provide a supportive, God-centered environment for girls, 10-15 years old from diverse backgrounds, in which they can develop and experience a sense of positive selfhood through meaningful conversations, intentional thought enhancement, positive peer engagement, and fun individual and group activities.

Purpose:

This program seeks to enhance the trajectory of the overall wellbeing-spirit, mind, body, and soul of each girl who participates. Young girls will be able to develop and hone interpersonal and intrapersonal skills to serve them throughout their own lives and gain a bond of sisterhood knowing they are not alone and are more powerful than they know with Christ as their foundation.

Goal:

- 1.To positively influence the healthy development of 10-15 year old girls by providing an open and nurturing space to discover their individual and collective strength to be and do good for themselves and in the world as servant leaders.Gain knowledge and skills to be leaders in their own lives and servant leaders within their communities.

TO REGISTER

<https://www.her12thyear.com/cwu-girl-greatness-rites-of-passage-experience/>

~ Save the Dates ~

Spiritual Formation Virtual Events ***1:00 p.m. (EST) Saturdays***

"I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf and give thanks for them." ~ 1 Timothy 2:1 (NLT)

February 26, 2022

May 21, 2022

August 20, 2022

November 19, 2022

All events will be held though Zoom and registration is free.

Contact Rev. Lillie Holman • CWU Spiritual Formation Director at cwu.LillieHolman@gmail.com for more information.



Church Women United

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



The Ecumenical Action Committee is partnering with a 501c3 nonprofit organization, **SHOWAbility, Inc.**, where Myrna Clayton serves as Founder/ Executive Director, to help expand awareness of the opportunity for the church to accommodate people with disabilities and the families who love them. We believe that GOD gives us all gifts and as it says in 1 Corinthians 12:4, “There are different gifts, but the same Spirit.” Thus, GOD’s spirit flourishes in all people and all abilities. Because the disability community is the largest minority population in the country (20% - 64 million people) and it is the only minority group that anyone can join at any time, we want to support opportunities that welcome this vibrant population of people and their families into the church fold without any unintended barriers.

**Survey Instructions will be sent to emails on file with CWU Atlanta, Inc.
February 7, 2022.**

Survey Submission Deadline: Monday, February 28, 2022

Questions or Concerns: Contact Myrna Clayton at

SHOWABILITY1@GMAIL.COM

As an incentive, Myrna is offering a \$25 gift card for each CWU member who completes 10 or more surveys that include other churches (including the original survey) by February 28, 2022.

Thank you for your willingness to help raise awareness of the need to accommodate people with disabilities and their families who are members of or guests at your local church.

LEARN MORE ABOUT SHOWABILITY: <https://showability.org/>



LIVES TAKEN, LIVES REMEMBERED

FULTON COUNTY REMEMBRANCE
COALITION QUILT PROJECT

A Community Partner of the Equal Justice Initiative

STORIES OF VICTIMS OF RACIAL
TERROR TOLD IN FIBER ART

JANUARY 2022

GALLERY 992

992 R.D. ABERNATHY BLVD, ATLANTA, GA.

PRODUCED BY
ROBIN BLACK - TANYA HELDMAN -
ODESSA HUFF - KRISTI MCDONOUGH
- JANET SABOOR



Quilters: Robin Black, Odessa Huff and Tanya Heldman

Church Women United member Odessa Huff is one of five quilters who participated in the Fulton County Remembrance Coalition Quilt Project, “Lives Taken, Lives Remembered.” In partnership with the Equal Justice Initiative (EJI) in Montgomery, Alabama FCRC was formed to recognize over 36 known victims of lynchings in Fulton County.



The fiber art exhibit opened in January at Gallery 992 in the Historic West End. Presently, the exhibit tour schedule will include The Roots Festival in Roswell, GA in February; The Wren’s Nest in April; Juneteenth Festival at Southwest Arts Center and the Atlanta Quilt Festival in August.

Mrs. Huff has been quilting over 40 years and for this project she completed the quilt on Morehouse student, Dennis Hubert who was lynched in the 1930’s and the Atlanta Massacre of 1906.

Submitted by Odessa Huff



Church Women United Atlanta, Inc 2022 Award Nominations

Valiant Woman: Nomination Deadline - March 18, 2022

A Valiant Woman has through the years given of her personal time and resources for the ongoing mission of Church Women United.

A Valiant Woman of today is on a conscious journey toward wholeness, knowing that the journey is commanded and guided by God, taking into full account the potential joys, risks, and pain of such a journey. She persists along the journey in face of criticism, ridicule, danger, and threat because she knows she is about God's work, enabled by God's spirit, supported by God's people.

A valiant woman attends the Church Women United meetings, celebrations, and assemblies, where she receives new directions, inspiration, and fellowship with people from around the world.

Young Church Women United: Nomination Deadline - March 18, 2022

Young women in your church/community who demonstrate their love for Christ through their service, ministry, and leadership can be nominated for this award.

Key Woman: Nomination Deadline – March 18, 2022

Church Women United depends on a woman from each affiliating church to serve as a link between her women's association and Church Women United. The name for this linkage implies the association is the key to bringing together the church and CWU unit. Each key woman will be recognized and honored at the May Friendship Celebration. Please notify Awards Committee of the Key Woman for your church.

These awards will be presented at May Friendship Celebration.

Human Rights: Nomination Deadline – May 1, 2022

The Human Rights Award is an award that recognizes individuals who have been working in the field of human rights in our community. We would welcome your help in nominating an individual to be considered for this award. It does not have to be someone who has been in the public eye, but a person who has consistently demonstrated a high regard for the dignity of others. It could be a person who has taught Sunday School for thirty years and treated every student with dignity regardless of race, ability, or economic status. It can be a leader in the community who has advocated for health and economic justice. It could be a teenager who works for the Special Olympics. Obviously, the list is endless.

This award will be presented at Human Rights Celebration

Woman of the Year: Nomination Deadline – November 18, 2022

Camera ready picture and bio. Bio should include personal ministry (includes community service, awards, etc.); contributions made to and through her church and her denomination. Her contribution to Church Women United (may include local, state, regional, national).

This award will be presented at the Atlanta Unit's December Meeting



CWU Atlanta, Inc. Award Nomination Form

Name (person completing this form): _____

Address: _____

Telephone number: _____ Email: _____

Name of Nominee: _____
(include any titles)

Address: _____

Telephone number: _____ Email: _____

Place a "X" by the Award Category and include all the required information. Applications will not be considered without all of the information.

Valiant Woman: Attach a bio and picture. Bio should include information about her participation in Church Women United, her accomplishments, awards, community service; her fulfillment in life through qualities explained above for a Valiant Woman.

Young Church Woman: Include a brief biographical description of your nominee-- with information about family, community, CWU membership and a picture. Include a statement on why you recommend this individual for the CWU Young Church Women Award.

Key Woman: Attached personal information, name of church and involvement with church and CWU membership.

Human Rights: Information about the person's participation in the community working in the field of human rights. Include a **brief biographical description of the person** - include information about family, faith community activities, community activities, and educational background and a picture. **Please answer, "why you feel this individual should receive the Church Women United Human Rights Award."**

Woman of the Year: Attach a bio and picture along with why you feel this individual should be the Atlanta Unit's Woman of the Year

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 2—WIN WEDNESDAY—Noon

For More Information-Visit the CWU website: www.churchwomenunited.net

February 3—THURSDAYS IN BLACK

February 4 - UNIT MEETING - 6:00 PM
Zoom

February 12—CWU Georgia Woman of the Year Awards Celebration
Zoom —11:00 AM

To Purchase Tickets:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/d/online/cwu/>

February 26 - Spiritual Formation—1:00 PM
Zoom



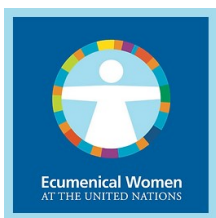
April—June - ZOOM

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

MARCH 18th for the

APRIL NEWSLETTER to cwuatlanta@gmail.com

SUPPORT OUR PARTNERS



Church Women United, Inc.

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

Win
WEDNESDAY

January 5, 2022–March 30, 2022

All are invited to gather EVERY WEDNESDAY for a virtual hour of power to discuss social issues and concerns to help redress the national, and global problems that impact Youth, Women and families. The platform discussions are facilitated by various professional experts. Our goal is to WIN more voices to advocate for better healthcare, improve educational systems, eradicate racism and promote healthy lifestyles and more.

Lunch & Learn

Join our Lunch & Learn Wednesday @12PM (EST)
ZOOM
Meeting ID: 810 5538 0600
Passcode: 258057
Find your local number:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/885NWX8C>
For more information, please email info.churchwomenunitedinc@gmail.com or call National office (678)705-3711
To learn more about us check out our website www.churchwomenunited,inc

CONNECT WITH US

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

P. O. Box 311795 Atlanta, GA 31131

404-696-3247

cwuatlanta@gmail.com

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.

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!