



UNITY

The Official Voice of Church Women United in New Jersey

“Agreed to differ, Resolved to love, United to serve”

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Since 1941, the women of the Church Women United movement have held a vision of Christian unity and prayerful action. CWU was founded as a racially, culturally, and theologically inclusive Christian women’s movement to celebrate unity and diversity and work for peace in the world.

A Message coming from Our President Sara Joslin

“Celebrating Our Past, Embracing Our Future”

CWU-NJ continues to celebrate its 80th year as a state unit. We are “Telling our Stories” Past and Present. We celebrated our history and the legacy of CWU Presidents “Along the King Highway” including our first President, Mrs. Alfred Robie Driscoll of Haddonfield, Peg Stewart and Dr. Carolyn Hill Jones of Moorestown at our Fall Gathering at my home church, St. Andrew’s UMC in Cherry Hill.

We engage together to strengthen our skills, serve others, and build communities. Lilisa J. Williamson led “Servant Leadership” zoom training in September. Gerry Harvey presented an interactive fundraising workshop at the 2023 Fall Gathering in October. The ingathering of donated items was distributed through Little Hands, Little Feet children’s clothing ministry, the Cherry Hill Food Pantry, Neighborhood Center of Camden and the Maker’s Place diaper depot in Trenton. Our CWU National President Elmira J. Washington visited New Jersey in November where she facilitated New Jersey CWU Financial training at the Cranford Community Center, engaged in a “Meet and Greet” in Plainfield, and attended Sunday worship service at Franklin St-Johns UMC in Newark followed by lunch and conversation among the members.

Our CWU-NJ 2023 Fall Gathering's speaker Jose Sanchez, Director of Immigration, Refugee and Migrant Services for Catholic Charities, Diocese of Camden, explained about the dangers of crossing the 60 mile wide roadless Darlen Gap and shared his experiences in service helping migrants arriving at the Catholic Respite Center in Brownsville Tx. Worship leader Rev. Cricket Denton, Director of Student and Missions at Haddonfield UMC and GNJ Conference Disaster Response Coordinator, challenged us to act to address climate change, seek justice, and eradicate racism in disaster response and recovery from natural disasters. We move forward "Living our Faith" in pursuit of peace, wholeness and justice. We Stand UP and Speak OUT for human rights of all God's children, serve others and pray for the sojourners displaced by war, violence, poverty or climate change "Finding Refuge, New Beginnings." **We Advocate for Peace, We Act to Cultivate Love, Hope and Peace for All Creation.**

Welcome to the new members and our CWU-NE Regional Coordinator Leslie Grantberry. We celebrate civil rights and climate activists, mentors and peace-builders, advocates and active listeners, engage all hearts and hands to pray, heal, and serve. We welcome new ideas, new faces, celebrate Unity in new places and Core Values of Faith, Service, Education, Advocacy, Diversity, and Social Justice.

Journey together with us as this inclusive ecumenical movement of Christian women celebrating unity in diversity and empowering women to work for a world of peace and justice. The Church Women United National Quadrennial Assembly "New Beginnings, New Perspectives" gathers June 19 to 22, 2024 at the Doubletree by Hilton in Oak Brook IL. (Register early for a discount until FEBRUARY 15, 2024).

**Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new Creation has come.
The old has gone, the new is here ! 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV)**

We Are Church Women United: Women of Faith
"Agreed to Differ, Resolved to Love, United to Serve."

Blessings Sara Joslin

"Get Up. Get Ready. Take Action" Erza 10:4



Valiant Woman Cindy Williams

The Toms River Unit held their World Community Day Celebration

On November 10th at St. Andrews UMC Church in Toms River. Twenty-nine women gathered first for refreshments (of course) and then moved on to worship together. The Bible Study that the National Celebrations Committee provided was used and enjoyed. The jeopardy game on Women of the Bible was played also. It was a lot of fun and we found out that our State President Sara Joslin was the most knowledgeable CWU woman in the room that day. If we did not know some names when it began, we do know now.

The most important part of the celebration was presenting the Toms River Unit President, Cindy Williams with the Valiant Woman Award. Cindy is a member of Holy Cross Lutheran Church of Toms River. She has been the President of the local unit for three years, since 2019. Cindy has also served on several committees of CWU-NJ. In her spare time she drives people to doctor's appointments, etc. She is a Caregivers Volunteer for Ocean County. She also serves as Chairman of the Board of Directors of your Grandmother's Cupboard, an organization that feeds and clothes people who need help. Cindy is highly deserving of this award and the unit was very proud to recognize her for her service.

Respectfully Submitted By
Marilyn Russell

Each unit is encouraged to annually recognize at least one woman who is living the gospel message in her everyday life through service in CWU, her church and her community with the Church Woman United Valiant Woman award.

Plainfield and Vicinity CWU Unit - World Community Day Celebration



and Anna Booker(sitting) Sara Joslin and Jackie Lunch (standing)
Members of Plainfield Unit (in the back)

Charles

On November 3, 2023 the unit Honored Charles and Anna Booker of Plainfield at the Mount Olive Baptist Church, Plainfield

After many attempts against the Board of Education failed to correct the imbalance in Education for African American students in Plainfield, Charles and Anna Booker with the help of the NAACP overturned the decision of segregation in the Plainfield schools in 1965. **Charles B. Booker v Board. Of Education Plainfield NJ.**

The Plainfield Board of Education voted 5 years ago to name a new Elementary school building after Plainfield hidden figures **Charles and Anna Booker**. The new school which was opened this year 2023 was opened in their name. Also streets surrounding the new school have been renamed in their honor **Charles and Anna Booker**.

Mr. Booker celebrated his 100th birthday this year (2023) and Mrs. Booker has celebrated her 98th birthday. Both are functioning daily at their home, attending church, community meetings, etc. They both give all praises and thanks to God who they state "gets all the Glory for the great things He has done." Amen!

Jacqueline Lynch, Unit President
Evangelist Janet Jasper, Unit Celebration Chair
Submitted By Unit Secretary, Maxine Husbands Brown

**Newark Unit World Community Day Celebration Report from
Patricia Jones Unit Celebrations Chair**

Celebration Programs are special and we look forward to participating and inviting others to attend our programs. A National Celebrations Committee meets and makes celebration plans that are spiritual, uplifting, and enjoyable. Whenever members are asked to take a part on the programs they readily agree.

Our 2023 World Community Day Celebration was held on Friday, November 3rd at 11:00 a.m at the Bethany Baptist Church in Newark in the chapel of the church. The theme was “Living a Legacy of Love.” Five women attended the program who learned about our CWU for the first time. We are always reminded to tell someone else about the CWU fellowship and what our mission is all about.

Newark Unit president, Cheryl Walker welcomed everyone in attendance and invited new persons to join us at our monthly meetings. Then our program was followed in the outline that was given by the National Celebration bulletin. Everyone in attendance enjoyed and participated in the program.

Our 2023 Human Rights Celebration program was held on Friday, December 1 also at our home church Bethany Baptist in Newark with a festive holiday meal that followed in the Fellowship Hall. The theme is Labor with Love, Respect to Heal.



(Pictured from left to right Keith Hill, associate of Dennis Porter, Patricia Jones, Newark’s celebration chair, Unit President, Cheryl Walker, and our Honored guest Dennis Porter)

Introducing our New “CWU-NE Regional Coordinator”- Leslie Grantberry

Leslie was born and raised in Brooklyn, NY, a product of the Public School System 161, International School 320 and Samuel J. Tilden High School. A proud Blue Devil out of Brooklyn, NY. Received her BA and Master’s degree in Criminal Justice from Monroe College. Leslie is a member of the CWU-Brooklyn unit where she has served on the Justice Committee.

“Retired as a New York Correctional Officer, after 21 years at the Rikers Island Facility. During that time, I needed an outlet to keep myself grounded and I found it with the Girl Scouts of greater New York. I have ended up being a girl scout leader with great pride for over 25 years. I have watched my daughter, cousins and nieces and now granddaughter morphed from little girls to beautiful women and their dreams and inspirations come true. Some of my former” scouts have become nurses, police aides, and culinary chef. Just recently I helped one former scout acquire a position in the House of Representatives and one received a White House internship. How rewarding this position has been.

I think it is important to expose people, children especially, to things that exist outside of their neighborhoods. These experiences may have a lasting impact on them that could shape their future. It has shown so many positive events in the African American culture where they were made aware of the number of female judges we have in our history.

The same energy that I put into helping my young girls, I also put into working, talking and helping my senior citizens. I am still learning from them. The stories I am told, I can relate. My great-grandmother lived to be estimated 102 years. She was born before their birth certificates were given out. (The federal government did not start issuing birth certificates until 1907). Our family Bible states grandma was here since 1905. She passed at the age of 83.

I am also a Guardian AD Litem for housing court. I’ve received calls from Kings or Westchester Housing court to assist a person, the majority seniors, who doesn’t understand or know anything about the housing court system. I have a soft spot in my heart for people and I try to protect them as much as possible. I put on my armor and prepare for war. No one is going to take advantage of my senior. I go above and beyond to make sure all of their needs are taken care of. I make it very clear even though the court has sent me to assist them, I am here for them. Those smiles and thank you fills my cup. To God be the Glory!!!! ”

2024 FUNDRAISER: “Hats Off to CWU”
report from Gerry Harvey and Coleen Williams Lewis as Co-Coordinator

2023 is rapidly ending which provides this opportunity for CWU-NJ to reflect on our goals and aspirations in the area of fiscal responsibility and sustainability:

We thank Ernestine Harrield for serving as our CWU-NJ state Treasurer and Evelyn Jacobson for facilitating the Treasurer transition after her many years of faithful service.

Steps have been taken towards fiscal actions at the state and local unit levels:

- (1) transition of the Treasurer role and responsibility at state and local levels.
- (2) Review/update state and local bylaws consistent with CWU National bylaws.
- (3) obtain/provide training & affirm non-profit status for our state and local units.
- (4) fundraising for sustainability of our state/local budget and programs/projects.

CWU- NJ approved a proposal at the June 2023 annual Retreat to hold a major fundraising event that will include participation by the local units and serve as a celebration of our 80th anniversary as a state unit. It was recommended that the event be held in Spring 2024. The “Hats Off to CWU - 80 years of Service” will include a luncheon with Tabletop Competition, recognition of former CWU leaders, highlights of our accomplishments, prizes and entertainment. Further details will be provided from the event committee at the Jan 18 CWU meeting.

CWU-NJ Finance Committee member Gerry Harvey provided a Fundraising 101 training at the CWU-NJ Fall Gathering in Cherry Hill NJ on October 21, 2023. Topics covered included benefits of fundraising, types of fundraising, and steps in executing a successful fundraiser. The workshop was well received and will be held again in the near future.

Another significant accomplishment was providing financial training to unit treasurers and other interested CWU members to clarify financial practices and procedures. Our CWU National President Mira Washington came to NJ for the November 11 & 12th weekend. Mira provided training packets and led a hybrid financial management training event from 10am to 2:30 pm at the Cranford Center in Cranford NJ. Topics which were addressed included financial controls, banking, 501 (c) 3 status, financial reporting, and submission of funds to the CWU National Office. Thank you to Gerry Harvey, Maxine Husbands Brown, Coleen Williams Lewis, Danielle Lewis Thompson (zoom host) and Bertha McPhaul for facilitating this training event & hospitality. Gerry Harvey hosted a dinner reception for Mira Washington. Members of the Newark Unit, as well as Maxine Husbands Brown and Gerry Harvey of the Plainfield unit, attended worship service at Franklin-St. John UMC together with President Mira Washington who was also the guest of the Newark Unit for “brunch” following church. Mira provided a “thank you” note for the opportunity to train CWU members and for the hospitality she received from New Jersey. She wished us success in our state and unit projects and is available to assist us if needed.



Attending the **November 11th Training** in person at the Cranford Community Center were:
Standing (left to right): Danielle Lewis Thompson, Maxine Husbands Brown, Sara Joslin, Cindy Williams, Judy Hood, Ida Rogers, Rev. Vivian D. Cook, Cheryl J. Walker, Maureen Santaro, Rose Hudgins, Tina Harrield, Susan Haag McLaughlin, Lorraine Cuffie
Seated (left to right) Gerry Harvey, CWU National President Mira Washington, JoAnne W. Mettle

CWU National President Mira Washington facilitated her New Jersey Training Day presentation on Saturday, November 11th to about 25 CWU-NJ officers and CWU members from the Cranford, New Brunswick, Newark, Plainfield and Toms River units. CWU-NJ state President Sara Joslin introduced President Washington and presented her with a thank you gift bag of foods from New Jersey.

Members of the CWU-NJ Finance Committee are Susan Haag McLaughlin (Chair), Tina Harrield (Treasurer), Gerry Harvey, Evelyn Jacobson, Barbara Look, JoAnne Woltz Mettle, Cindy Williams, and CWU-NJ state President Sara Joslin (ex officio). CWU-NJ Finance Committee meetings were held at St Matthews Lutheran Church in Mooretown on May 23, 2023 and at Whiting UMC on October 10 2023 .

2024 CWU-NJ CALENDAR

******CWU Celebrations theme for 2024 is “What does the Lord Require of CW-You?”**

January 11: Wear Blue Day for Human Trafficking Awareness Month

(CWU is partnering with Shared Hope International)

January 12: CWU Finance Committee ZOOM meeting @10:00 a.m. Cindy Williams, Host

January 18: CWU-NJ Executive Board meeting - ZOOM

January 18-25 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

2024 theme: “You Shall Love the Lord your God...and your neighbor as yourself”

January 21/28 Church Women United Sunday (churches/local units)

February Share the Love (Individual & local units)

March 1- World Day of Prayer 2024

(2024 Theme: “I beg of You, Bear one Another in Love” by the women of Palestine

March 7th CWU-NJ Executive Board meeting

TBD “HATS OFF TO CWU”

May 3/4 May Friendship Day Celebration- “Love Mercy”

June 4-5 CWU-NJ Retreat

June 19-22 CWU 2024 National Quadrennial Assembly- register online

“New Beginnings, New Perspectives” Doubletree Hilton at Oak Brook IL

Early registration (\$ 345) by FEBRUARY 15, 2024 - Registration is \$375.00 in 2024.

Assembly registration includes breakfast vouchers, one dinner, two lunches and reception.

NOTE: Common Council is integrated within the Assembly (no extra fee)

Wednesday: opening & reception for incoming CWU National President Margaret Rushing

Saturday morning: closing worship (8am to 10am) to allow for traveling home

Assembly packets are available on the CWU National website

A link to make the hotel registration will be sent with your Assembly confirmation

Transportation can be reserved from O’Hare or Midway airports or Chicago train station

Please submit Assembly questions by email to: CWUqa2024@gmail.com

Registrars are Nicole Walker CWUqa2024@gmail.com and

Norma Borgmann nborgmann1658@charter.net (678-705-3711)

(Norma will process any paper registration, if necessary)



Fellowship of the Least Coin

A fellowship of the Least Coin grant went to the Middle East for Emergency Relief aid for Children refugees and Lebanese minor girls at the Preventive Center of NNABAA, House of Light and Hope in Lebanon. This was to support the most vulnerable Syrian and Lebanese girls in order to prevent and protect them against violence, exploitation, and delinquency and ensure education and schooling for them. (This was a 2022 grant before the current problems in the area).

Please submit FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN donations to:
CWU-NJ State Treasurer Tina Harrield, 40 Broad St in Summit NJ 07901

CWU-NJ FACEBOOK <https://www.facebook.com/cwunj/>

GIVING FROM THE HEART (2023-2024)

Please submit donations for the CWU Inc. "Giving from the Heart" campaign:

Church Women United Inc
3605 Campbellton Rd SW
Atlanta GA 30331

CWU Inc. website <https://www.churchwomenunited.net/>
CWU Inc. FACEBOOK <https://www.facebook.com/churchwmunited>