



# Church Women United in North Carolina

*Agreed to differ, resolved to love, united to serve*

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## A Message from the President

Emily Sprague

These pictures help answer the question "What is CWU?" Women from all denominations gather together several times a year to learn about needs in the world. At right, ladies from Hickory area churches spent months learning about Slovenia and preparing for their World Day of Prayer observance on March 1.



CWU recognizes women who go the extra mile in advancing its mission. In January, two ladies in Salisbury were presented with the Valiant Woman Award—Dorothy Gill Smith in center and Twanda Mitchell at right. Also pictured are Doris Brown, Jean Kennedy and Vickie Kotlarz.



CWU is passionate about bringing communities together in mission, as the Asheville Unit did on April 27 when they sponsored a Rise Against Hunger event. Around 50 members of the community from all denominations, representing all ages and races pulled together to package 10,150 meals in a two-hour block of time. Hungry people will receive needed nutrition. Those who packed the meals will treasure the sense of community they felt as diverse people worked together to make a difference.

In all we do, we strive to follow Jesus' command to "Love your neighbor".

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Connie Gates

## 2019 May Friendship Day



**May Friendship Day** focuses on the first phrase of our motto: “Agreed to Differ”. We are united in spirit to do God’s work, despite our differences. This is the time of year we bring coins collected for the **Fellowship of the Least Coin** offering. Although each country’s least coin is different, women around the world unite in this act of reconciling prayer.

May Friendship Day has been celebrated since 1933 when it focused on children’s health and the children of migrant families. Today this celebration includes opportunities for women to cultivate friendships they have developed within CWU, often including fellowship over a meal. Remember that half of the offering stays with the Unit and the other half is sent to the State treasurer.

Note below how many different denominations are represented in the host churches for this Celebration!

## May Friendship Day Celebrations

Asheville	May 4, 9:30	St. Paul’s UMC, Asheville
Chapel Hill/Carrboro	May 3, 10:30	First Baptist Church, Chapel Hill
Charlotte	May 3, 10:30	Church of Jesus Christ of LDS, Charlotte
Fayetteville	May 3, 9:00	St. Luke AME, Fayetteville
Greensboro	May 3, 10 AM	Emmanuel UCC, Greensboro
High Point	May 3, 11:00	New Bethel Baptist, High Point
Jacksonville/Onslow	May 3, 11:30	Lutheran Church of Our Savior Jacksonville
Martin County	May 3, 11:30	Mt. Shiloh Baptist Church, Williamston
Raleigh/Wake	May 4, 10:00	Pullen Memorial Baptist
Salisbury/Rowan	May 3, 12 noon	Trinity Presbyterian, Salisbury
Wilmington	May 3, 10:00	St. Stephen AME, Wilmington
Wilson	May 3, 12 noon	First Christian, Wilson
Winston-Salem Forsyth County	May 3, 6 PM	St. John CME, Winston-Salem

**Church Women  
United 2019 Dates  
to Remember**

**May 3 and 4**  
May Friendship Day

**August 3**  
CWU-NC Board  
Salisbury

**October 19**  
State Assembly  
Chapel Hill

**Connie Gates**  
CWU Farmworker  
Advocate  
[conniegates@hotmail.com](mailto:conniegates@hotmail.com)

National Farm Worker  
Ministry  
[www.nfwm.org](http://www.nfwm.org)

Farm Labor Organizing  
Committee  
[www.floc.com/wordpre  
ss/boycottvuse/](http://www.floc.com/wordpress/boycottvuse/)

Student Action with  
Farmworkers  
[www.asf-unite.org](http://www.asf-unite.org)

Farmworker Advocacy  
Network  
[www.Ncfan.org](http://www.Ncfan.org)  
includes the "Harvest of  
Dignity" campaign

**Send contributions  
to the Farmworker  
Fund to:**

**Nancy Bumgardner**  
Treasurer  
1203 N. Gregson St.  
Durham, NC 27701

**Migrant Farmworker Ministry**     **Connie Gates, Farmworker Advocate**

Since the beginning of CWU, concern and work for migrant farmworker justice has been an important aspect of our ministry. Connie Gates is our Farmworker Advocate, serving as an ex officio member of the CWU in NC Board. The State has a Migrant Fund with income generated from local units and denominational partners.

In March, **Local Units** received a letter from Connie which: encouraged engagement with farmworker issues and organizations; requested information about what the local unit is doing so she can support efforts and share ideas with other units to inspire them; and urged units to contribute to the Migrant Fund.



participated in monthly rallies at Circle-K in the Triangle and in Goldsboro, including a letter to the manager. Since the local stores have become more unwelcoming to rally participants and dismiss the letter, FLOC rallied at the Coastal Carolinas Circle-K corporate office in Raleigh on March 28. The office door was locked, and staff refused to talk with FLOC and CWU representatives. They instead referred them to the parent company in Canada! FLOC's current plan is to meet with a relevant person at the regional Circle-K and to have supporters call the national Circle K office.

We are fortunate to have the **National Farm Workers Ministry (NFWM)** national office in Raleigh. They support farmworker labor groups throughout the US, as does national CWU. CWUnc supports efforts in other states as farmworker issues are similar everywhere.

In March, the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW) from the tomato fields of southwest Florida had a nationwide tour, with a rally on March 5 in Carrboro and a march at the UNC-CH Wendy's. Women from our Chapel Hill/Carrboro Unit participated. You can help by **boycotting Wendy's** until they sign the Fair Food Agreement [www.allianceforfairfood.org](http://www.allianceforfairfood.org) which among other things would give workers 1 cent more per pound of tomatoes.

CWU was a co-sponsor for the **NC Farmworker Institute** on April 25 in Chapel Hill.

At the CWU table, Connie Gates and Emily Sprague talked to numerous people about ways to collaborate. Sessions included Immigration Options, Issues Affecting Poultry Workers, Creating a Database of Labor Camps, and Emergency Preparedness. The funds CWU provides for FLOC, SAF, and the Institute itself are both appreciated and well used.



A year ago, CWUnc endorsed FLOC's effort in requesting **RJ Reynolds** to discuss improvement of conditions of tobacco workers. FLOC's current priority is to impact the supply chain by having **Circle-K** remove VUSE e-cigarettes, a product with high profit margin, from their shelves. CWUnc has



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212-870-2347

**Church Women  
United in North  
Carolina**

[www.cwunc.org](http://www.cwunc.org)

**Send Celebration  
Reports to:**

**Annie Purcell**  
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Greensboro, NC  
27401

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## North Carolina Council of Churches Events

**Clergy Breakfasts for the Opioid Crisis: The Faith Community Responds** is an informational session for clergy and church leaders who are interested in learning more about the state of our state when it comes to opioids. At these breakfasts, you will learn about overdoses in North Carolina, what harm reduction means, and what congregations can do to get involved. These events happen across the state:

- May 7- [Chapel Hill](#)
- May 8- [Durham](#)
- May 9- [Wilmington](#)
- May 21- [Waynesville](#)
- May 22- [Boone](#)
- May 23- [Hickory](#)
- June 5- [Louisburg](#)
- June 6- [Winston-Salem](#)



Please sign up by clicking on the name of the city you are interested in attending. More cities and dates will be added. For more information, contact Elizabeth Brewington, Opioid Response Program Coordinator, at [elizabeth@ncchurches.org](mailto:elizabeth@ncchurches.org).

### May 1st March for Public Schools

The NC Council of Churches endorses school system closings for the May 1st March in Raleigh. Local congregations can support the effort by providing lunches, childcare, and moral support to teachers. Please offer your endorsement as well.

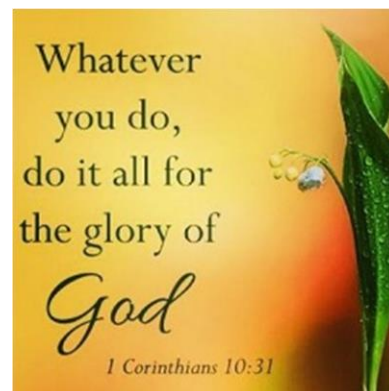
#### Key Issues:

- Hire enough social workers, counselors, nurses, psychologists, and librarians to meet the national standards.
- \$15 minimum wage for all employees. 5% raise for educators and retirees.
- Expand Medicaid to cover the 500,000 North Carolinians who don't have access to healthcare.
- Reinstate retirement benefits for educators joining the profession after 2021.
- Reinstate Master's and advance degree pay.

For more information about this march, contact Allison Mahaley, the Council's Public Education Committee Chair, at [allison.mahaley@gmail.com](mailto:allison.mahaley@gmail.com).

### Final Thoughts

As two of Jesus' followers were walking on the road to Emmaus, feeling distraught about Jesus' crucifixion, Jesus joined them on their journey. We know people who are walking through a dark time of grief or disappointment or hardship. Jesus gave us an example of being present, walking beside those confronted with life's uncertainties, instilling hope and peace. Walk with your CWU friends who are grieving. Show compassion to farmworkers, to those caught in the opioid epidemic, to your local teachers. This is who we are as Church Women United.



**Save the Date!** CWU-NC State Assembly and Leadership Training  
Saturday, October 19 ~ Church of the Holy Family ~ Chapel Hill ~ Be there!