



Church Women United in North Carolina

Agreed to differ, resolved to love, united to serve

FEBRUARY 15, 2019

VOLUME 45, ISSUE 1

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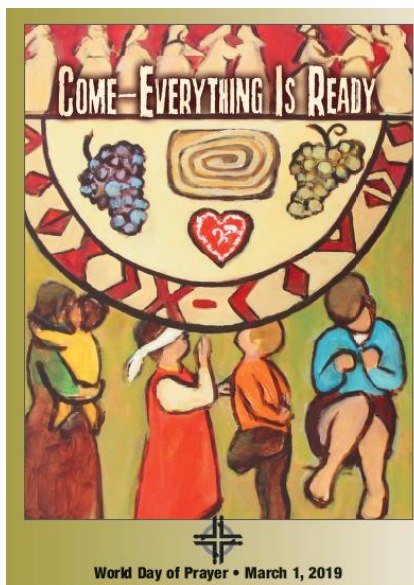
A Lenten Message from the President

Emily Sprague

Lent, which begins on March 6, is a time of prayer and fasting. Pope Francis suggests we pray for the resolve to fast from these things that separate us from God and from one another:

- Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
- Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
- Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
- Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- Fast from worries and have trust in God.
- Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
- Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
- Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.
- Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.
- Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
- Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.

World Day of Prayer 2019



World Day of Prayer is observed around the globe on the first Friday of March, or close to that time. The 2019 service was written by the women of Slovenia, the smallest and newest country in Europe, formed from the former Yugoslavia in 1991. The theme *Come – Everything Is Ready* is based on the parable Jesus told about a great dinner which was attended by people called off the streets, because the ones invited gave excuses not to be there. The host continued to send his servants out to invite more guests as there was plenty of room. The service calls us to action, considering how to address the issues of democracy, education, care for the elderly,

substance use prevention and inclusion of those on the margins in our own communities. These are timely areas of concern in North Carolina. As you observe World Day of Prayer, reflect on who is missing from *your* table—in your CWU Unit and in your community. Share your hospitality! Invite others! There is room for everyone at God's table.

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Connie Gates

World Day of Prayer Observances across the State

Asheville	March 2, 10 AM	TBA
Chapel Hill/Carrboro	March 1, 10 AM	Binkley Memorial Baptist, Chapel Hill
Charlotte	March 2, 10:30	St. Luke Missionary Baptist, Charlotte
Fayetteville	March 1, 9 AM	Mt. Sinai Missionary Baptist, Fayetteville
Greensboro	March 2, 10 AM	St. Mary's Catholic, Greensboro
Hickory/Catawba	March 1, 7 PM	First United Methodist Church, Hickory
Jacksonville/Onslow	March 1	Northwoods UMC, Jacksonville
Raleigh/Wake	March 2, 10 AM	West Raleigh Presbyterian Church
Salisbury/Rowan	March 2, 9 AM	Moore's Chapel AME Zion Church
Wilson	March 1, 10 AM	Forest Hills Baptist, Wilson
Winston-Salem Forsyth County	March 1, 11 AM	TBA

Ecumenical Celebrations

The theme for 2019 celebrations is *The Time Is Now!* based on John 4:23a "But the time is coming—and is here!". Each of our three Celebrations will focus on the Church Women United motto:

May Friendship Day – Agree to Differ
 World Community Day – Resolve to Love
 Human Rights Day – Unite to Serve

Look for details about each Celebration in upcoming Newsletters.
 Celebration materials may be ordered from www.churchwomenunited.net.



National Fundraiser

The National CWU Finance Committee is looking ahead to the 79th Anniversary, exploring ways to fund the 2020 Quadrennial Assembly. Each Unit President has received a pledge form, asking for the Unit to contribute \$395 (\$5 x 79 years) or whatever amount they can between now and October 2020.

Here is one successful fund raiser idea. Invite CWU friends of the Unit to a dinner with different menu options, each with a suggested donation between \$15 and \$50. There is actually no dinner. Potential donors give based on what they would normally spend for dinner and the money goes to CWU. If 26 people respond with at least a \$15 donation, then \$390 is collected.

Sign the [electronic petition](#) in support of our state's children:

Mail paper petitions to:

Sheryl Forbis
117 W. Carr St.
Carrboro, NC 27510

Church Women United Dates to Remember

2019

March 1

World Day of Prayer

March 30

CWU in NC Board
Meeting
Raleigh

May 3

May Friendship Day

October 19

State Assembly
Chapel Hill

Ecumenical Action

Brenda Wills, Chair

Here are some current issues to follow:

- NC has passed a law to improve foster care and child welfare.
- Teacher pay in NC is central to a social justice agenda.
- Partisan gerrymandering is a major flash point right now. In January, CWU in NC Board members heard Dr. Jennifer Bremer, the State Chair of the Fair Elections Action Team of the League of Women voters of NC explain how the current system of drawing congressional districts is a threat to democracy. She suggested ways to improve the system. Visit www.FairDistrictsNC.org to endorse the 5 principles for establishing a reasonable redistricting commission. She is available to speak at a Unit or Area Meeting.
- One in three adults has a criminal record which produces a lifetime of barriers and exclusions. Criminal justice needs reforming. However, First Step Act, a criminal justice reform bill, contains harmful provisions and you are urged to ask your US Senator and Representative to vote NO on this version of the bill.
- Children endure lockdowns at school, and many are traumatized by them. Universal best practices need to be studied and implemented.

North Carolina Council of Churches Events

www.NCChurches.org

Recovering Hope Conference – March 7,
Campbell University

A one-day conference to discuss the possibilities for a faith-driven response to the opioid crisis. The event will help to empower faith leaders to mobilize their communities to better respond to the epidemic.

Come to the Table Conference – March 12 and
13, Friendship Missionary Baptist Church in Charlotte

Faith leaders and laypeople, hunger relief advocates, farmers, farm workers, community organizers, community gardeners, food council members, extension agents and others are invited to examine the root causes of hunger and collaborate to build a more just food system.

Legislative Seminar – March 28, North Raleigh UMC

Whether you are new to grassroots advocacy or have been engaged in this critical work for some time, the NC Council of Churches' Legislative Seminar offers the opportunity to hear updates on issues being discussed at the General Assembly, network with others who share your concerns, and learn how you can make a difference. This seminar is unique in North Carolina in bringing together people of faith to learn ways we can impact legislation in our state.

A United Methodist Women Opportunity

Summoned to Serve Boldly – March 16, Garners United Methodist Church,
Fayetteville

A racial justice event, focusing on challenging the school to prison pipeline, presented by the United Methodist Women of the NC Conference. Keynote speaker – Clara Ester. For more information, contact JoAnn Barbour joannsbarbour@gmail.com.



Connie Gates
CWU Farmworker
Advocate
conniegates@hotmail.com

Fair Food Tour

Alex Schelle

The Coalition of Immokalee Workers' (CIW) is a farmworker-led human rights organization devoted to ending cycles of poverty, sexual assault and modern-day slavery in the fields. They are coming to **Chapel Hill** this March to join students, people of faith, and community members for a march on the 5th, calling on the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to end business ties with Wendy's. For the last five years, Wendy's has turned its back on a United Nations-

recognized solution to ending the human rights crisis in agriculture today. The CIW's award-winning [Fair Food Program](#) has eliminated modern-day slavery and sexual violence on agricultural fields in seven states including North Carolina, substantially improved farmworker wages, and guaranteed basic protections for workers. Fourteen of the world's largest corporations – including all of Wendy's major competitors, like Burger King and McDonald's – have already signed onto the Program, committing to use their market power to ensure that farmworkers are treated with dignity and respect.

Farmworkers will embark on the [4 for Fair Food Tour from March 2-14](#), traveling across the nation to four of the country's top public universities – starting with the University of North Carolina (UNC) in Chapel Hill – to join students and community members in calling on these institutions to end their relationships with Wendy's until the fast-food giant joins the Fair Food Program. UNC Chapel Hill has a responsibility to send a clear and unequivocal message to Wendy's: Until you put human rights on the menu, you cannot sell food on our campus. Farmworkers, who themselves have confronted first-hand the abuses that take place in the absence of responsibility and leadership from corporations like Wendy's, will join with students, people of faith, and community allies at **UNC Chapel Hill for a march on March 5, 2pm at 101 W. Weaver St. Carrboro, NC 27510. The march will conclude with a 3:30 pm rally at South Building, Chapel Hill, NC 27514.**

Communities and individuals of faith from all across the country have contributed spiritual uplift, grounding in religious tradition, and the moral weight of voices of faith in society. Denominations have passed national and state-wide resolutions calling on corporations to join the Fair Food Program (and most recently, [endorsing the Wendy's Boycott](#)); religious bodies and others have helped to pass shareholder resolutions at corporations' annual general meetings; and thousands of people of faith have joined farmworkers year-round in putting their faith in action through prayers, pickets, pray-ins, fasts, and marches. **Right now, farmworkers and students are calling on you to join the march in Chapel Hill on March 5.** Contact Alex Schelle at alex@allianceforfairfood.org or 239-255-8418 for additional information.



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Receive a mailed copy of this Newsletter by sending \$3 to:

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Treasurer
1203 N. Gregson St.
Durham, NC 27701

Send news to the Newsletter Editor

Emily Sprague
esprague@nc.rr.com

From the Nominations Committee

Leona Whichard, Chair

Members of the Nominations Committee are the five Area Chairs:

- Dorothy Funderburke, Area I, Charlotte
- Maxine Baxter, Area II, Greensboro
- Barbara Vought, Area III, Kure Beach
- Susie Heath, Area IV, Raleigh
- Doris Hutcherson, Area V, Wilson

This committee has the responsibility to present a slate of officers to be elected at the CWU NC Leaders Council in the fall of 2019 to take office in January 2020.

The committee is in the process of identifying the officers who will continue to serve another year and which offices will be vacated and will need new officers to be nominated. Once we have defined the need for nominations, we will welcome suggestions of potential leaders from all units to serve our state organization.

As we work, we will attempt to recruit women from around the state to fill the positions. Also, we will be mindful of diversity by denomination, age and race. Your prayers for divine guidance will empower us. Pray that we will find leaders with hearts prepared for the positions that need to be filled. It is my hope that we will be united by God's Spirit through this effort to secure the future of our Church Women United organization in North Carolina. Let us serve joyfully and with confidence that God is with us.

Publicity

The CWU in NC website has been updated. Check it out at www.cwunc.org.

The National website has changed its address to www.churchwomenunited.net. Look there for Celebration materials, awards, and news.

Crystal Rook, CWU in NC President Elect, spoke at the city council meeting on January 7 at City Hall in Winston-Salem and appeared in the newspaper!

Share this Newsletter with own Unit, with your church women's groups and with anyone else who may like to join our Church Women United movement.

Final Thoughts

In this time of polarization, when people tend to associate only with those who share their own world view, there is a deep longing to be part of a wider, unified community. Church Women United is there, providing a precious opportunity for diverse women of faith to develop friendships and to address social justice issues together. We agree to differ, resolve to love and unite to serve.

Emily

City Council Meeting Confederate Statue



Crystal Rook speaks during the city council meeting Monday, Jan. 7, 2019, at City Hall in downtown Winston-Salem, N.C.

Allison Lee Isley/Journal

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