



Together

Website: www.cwudaytonoh.org

Church Women United in Greater Dayton — April 2021

IMPORTANT: CWU Board Meeting **Tuesday, April 27, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.**



Please join us for our April Board meeting. Cecelia will update Key Women just prior to the April 27 meeting regarding the agenda and any late-breaking news. We will be laying out final plans for the May Friendship Day and Fellowship of the Least Coin (FLC). Key Women will be asked to make preparations for the transfer of the FLC collections from their local churches to our CWU unit in May so that we can submit the funds to FLC. (Please get your collections by May 28 to CWU Treasurer Judith Philpot, indicating that those are FLC collections.)

The **Fellowship of the Least Coin** is a world-wide ecumenical movement of prayer for peace, justice and reconciliation. Through this movement, Christian women around the world seek fellowship with each other and are reminded to live a reconciled and forgiving life with others. To learn more about this organization, please visit <http://www.flc.net.ph/index.html>.



The Logo: The idea for the FLC logo came from the late Mrs. Rayann Ma from Hong Kong, the first Chairperson of the first Assembly of the ACWC. The actual design was the gift of her brother-in-law, James Ma, a commercial artist. It is hand, folded in prayer, encircling a small plum flower, and which together form a lotus flower. The **Lotus plant** grows in the muddy pond, but its flower rises above the murky water and opens beautifully and without blemish.

IMPORTANT: CWU Board Meeting **Tuesday, May 25, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.**



Please join us for our May Board meeting; President Cecelia Long will send Key Women an agenda with any last-minute changes just prior to the board meeting. At this meeting, we will be finalizing plans for our Human Rights Celebration in June. NOTE: The speaker's name / organization was not available at the time of this newsletter; please watch your email INBOX for information. NOTE: Chairpersons are reminded to submit reports ASAP for the Annual Report.



Valiant Women to be announced at the May Friendship Day Celebration!

Traditionally two valiant women will be named for this prestigious award. Please join us in honoring them for their valiant work and steadfast dedication to Church Women United in Greater Dayton!



CWU Newsletter is published quarterly. This issue: April 2021.
Address corrections to Member Care Chair, Ina Green, 5285 Torch Ln, Dayton 45417
Questions? Contact Editor Martha Shields: martha.shields@earthlink.net.

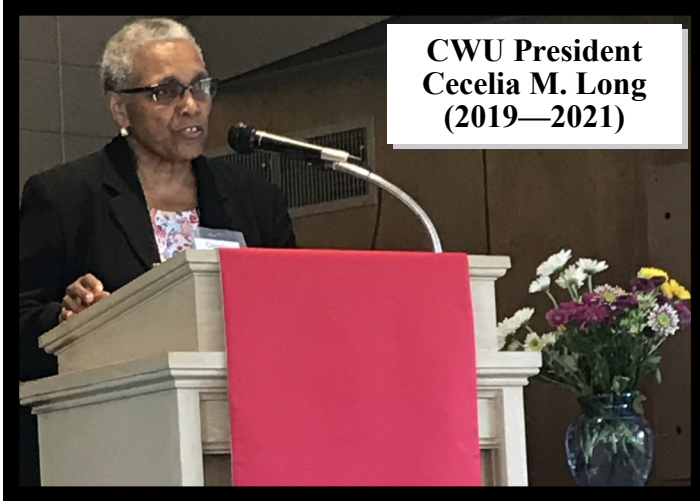
CWU in Greater Dayton has a WEBSITE!

Find MANY resources at www.cwudaytonoh.org: posters / maps to our meetings; photos; programs/meeting information, officers, purpose, logo, bylaws, and more!
Questions? Contact Webmaster Martha Shields (martha.shields@earthlink.net)

www.cwudaytonoh.org



President's Message from Cecelia M. Long...



Greetings, Dear Sisters in Christ:

Recently, I was visiting my brother, who had been released from a hospital in the Charlotte, North Carolina area. He shared a story about an experience that he had when he and our cousin Robby had gone to a grocery store. Robby went inside to shop and my brother was in the car waiting for Robby to return. My brother watched a woman use two parking spots to park her car. He could not resist opening his window and telling her that she might be inviting someone to hit her car. She thanked my brother for alerting

her to how badly she had parked. She then said that she had just come from prayer meeting where all of the members had been instructed to pray for someone.

She asked my brother's name and asked if it was alright to pray for him. They did not know each other. She did not know about his health issues, but she prayed for him right there at the car window. Her prayer moved my brother to such a degree that he is still talking about his encounter with her. He knew that she was having a real talk with God on his behalf!

My brother's testimonial was a strong reminder that we must "pray when the spirit says pray!!" We cannot deny that prayer can make a difference. That is one of the main reasons that the Emma Murray Prayer Breakfast has become an annual event for Church Women United in Greater Dayton. The participants were joyful as they saw or heard over 60 people gather for this year's Prayer Breakfast. For this we truly give God the glory!! The Emma Murray Prayer Breakfast speaker, Tierra Hummons gave us a strong message to encourage us to stay "Solid in Christ" as we are facing problems and challenges each day.

During the month of March, women were celebrated in many ways. Among the firsts for Women: Election of Kamala Harris as the First Female Vice President in the USA; Kim Ng is the first woman General Manager of a Major League Baseball Team; Captain Amy Bauernschmidt is the first woman to command an aircraft carrier; Class of 2021 of the U.S. Congress brings more women on both sides of the aisle to the halls of Congress including more women of color; Stephanie Bice is the Iranian-American ever elected to Congress; Susan Collins, Senator since 1997, has become the longest-serving Republican woman in U.S. history; Amanda Gorman is the youngest poet to be at an inauguration; NASA renames headquarters after Mary Jackson, its first African American engineer; Sarah Thomas was the first woman to officiate the Super Bowl.

God is still working with all of us. We are to be the role models for other women. We do not know what God has in store for us. From the biblical accounts of women who stood up and spoke out or acted on behalf of their families, their nations we have learned early on that much comes from women who learn to make a difference for others.

I urge Church Women United to "Rise Up" and stand with women and children and youth. "Rise Up" and be the faithful people of God. Pray unceasingly! God answers prayers!

Cecelia M. Long
President, CWU in Greater Dayton

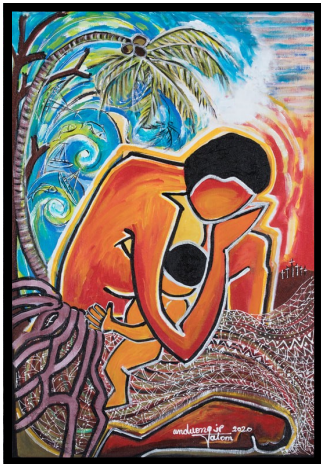
Questions?
Contact Cecelia Long,
CWU President
cealong48@gmail.com
937-972-7045

Miscellaneous Memos from State and National!

NOTES from NATIONAL — CWU National Website: <https://www.churchwomenunited.net/>

Currently, our national organization is:

- Following the theme: “Becoming One in 2021”;
- Celebrating Women’s History Month;
- Praying every Monday at noon for women around the world;
- Organizing Wells Groups.



CWU in Ohio Celebrated World Day of Prayer!

On Friday, March 5, 2021 at 7:00 p.m., over 56 women from CWU in Ohio joined together *via* Zoom to pray together. Among those present from our local Dayton unit were Ina Green, Pam Walker, Gail Penney, Martha Shields, Carolyn Joyner, Wilma Blackmon, Rosalee Bradley, and guest Joyce Green. Through Zoom’s Share-a-screen feature, attendees were able to hear the Vanuatu voices singing hymns and we some of the artwork created for this celebration. What a wonderful event this was!



This year’s featured country is the Republic of Vanuatu — a country made up of over 80 islands in the south Indian Ocean; previously the New Hebrides, Vanuatu gained political independence in 1980.

Vanuatu’s existence is challenged by earthquakes, cyclones, volcanic eruptions, and rising sea levels that cause further erosion. Less than 2% of the land is arable and is used for cattle grazing (instead of vegetable gardens), leading to malnutrition. The literacy rate is about 64%; secondary school enrollment was 35% just six years ago, but plans are now underway to increase those figures by 2030. Although their political Constitution provides for gender equality, there is little will to implement that; no women were elected in 2020. Gender-based violence is prevalent; 60% of women in Vanuatu have experienced physical and/or sexual violence. Access to healthy foods, safe drinking water, and adequate sanitation are concerns; most deaths under the age 5 are due to malnutrition. (Note: Data is taken from <https://wdp-usa.org/>)

Through Zoom’s Share-a-Screen feature, attendees were able to hear the voices of the hymns created for this celebration.

To learn more about Vanuatu, please view a wonderful seven-minute video: <https://wdp-usa.org/>



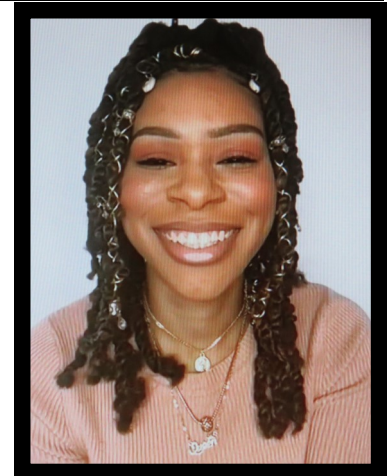
Church Women United in Ohio: **95th Annual State Assembly and Leader’s Council**

OCWU President Bennie J. Williams-Roper is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting on Friday, April 23, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. (Eastern Daylight Time). Meeting ID: 810 7375 7312 Passcode: 275634. Use a computer or smart phone by clicking the link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81073757312?pwd=Njh5WmVWOW1OaDnBZ0NwbXZSdHhnUT09> . OR, use your phone to call in with no video with this number: 1 (312) 626-6799. (Same ID / passcode.) Questions? Contact OCWU VP Ina Green at 937-344-6029 or inagreen1946@woh.rr.com.

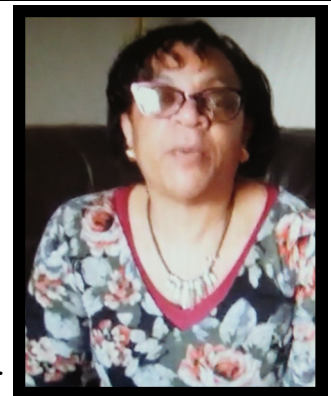


Highlights: Emma Murray Prayer Breakfast!

What a delightful young lady we found in our speaker, Tierra J. Hummons! Having received her Bachelor's degree in Public Health from The Ohio State University, specializing in Sociology, Tierra is looking forward to continuing her education in Public Health, to promote healthier lifestyles in adolescents, while helping combat health disparities among minorities in the U.S. Tierra is quite the achiever, having studied in Paris, France for a year prior to graduation. In addition to all these skills, Tierra has self-published two books, (available from Barnes & Noble, Amazon, and Kindle): *The Poetic Soul* (2017) and *Poetically Speaking* (May 2018). Her true passion is glorifying God through liturgical (praise) dance. Tierra's biggest accomplishment in life is accepting Jesus as her Lord and Savior. Tierra spoke with us about being "Solid in Christ." Her words carried great meaning for us as she spoke about a life with Jesus and one without Jesus.



Emma Mae Murray was CWU president in 1977—1979; her dream was that there would be an area-wide prayer breakfast in greater Dayton. Her dream came true! We were blessed to have two members of Emma's family present at our March 16, 2021 celebration *via Zoom* — Michelle Garner Cason and Machalea Robinson. Michelle read a prayer that Emma Murray loved, "I Said a Prayer for You Today." She reminded us that Emma was a great fan of Helen Steiner Rice's works.



Ms. Cynthia Briscoe lifted up her voice and piano for us in our celebration; she also led us in singing Emma Murray's favorite hymn, *This Little Light of Mine*, while we raised candles and/or other lights to shine in our world. Cynthia holds a Masters of Science in Education Degree and works as a general music educator for the Vandalia-Butler City Schools. She is a member of Christian Life Center in Dayton, Ohio; she has served in music ministry for over 42 years. Ms. Briscoe says "To God Be The Glory."

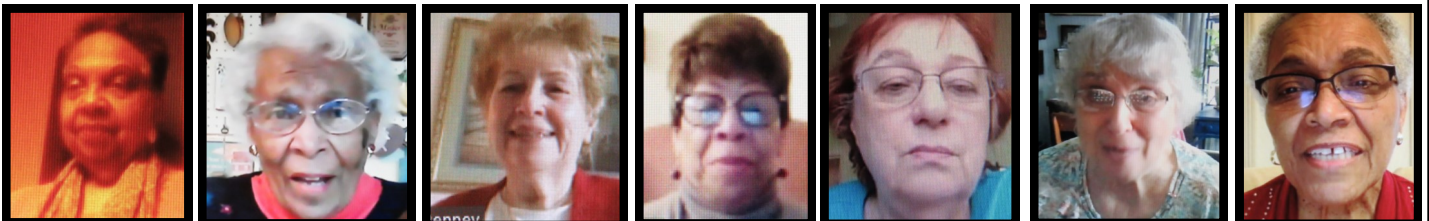
Our celebration, based on the CWU theme, "Build on a Strong Foundation" also included World Day of Prayer activities, featuring Vanuatu.



Vanuatu, a very poor island country in the South Pacific, struggles with the elements of nature. Vanuatu is featured in this year's World Day of Prayer (WDP). If you would like to contribute to WDP, CWU is still sending 100% of the offerings on to World Day of Prayer. (See page 3 for more information on Vanuatu.)

- Make checks out to "CWU" and put "World Day of Prayer" on the memo line.
- Mail checks to our treasurer, Judith Philpot, 617 Osmond Ave., Dayton, OH 45417.

Other participants included (left to right): Margaret Hunt, Martha Mundell, Gail Penney, Judith Philpot, Pam Walker, Jerri Wood, and President Cecelia Long. Over 60 people attended our celebration *via Zoom*!



Highlights from our February Board Meeting!

Board Meeting (via Zoom)
February 23, 2021 - 1:00 p.m.
Speaker: Amanda Arrington, Volunteer
Services Manager for Dayton Metro Library



Reminder:

All CWU board meetings are open to all members; you do not need to be a Key Woman or an officer to attend!

Our board meetings offer opportunities to learn about the many organizations in our area that offer services to those in need.

Please join us!

Not sure how?
Contact Cecelia Long,
CWU President
cealong48@gmail.com
937-972-7045

We had a wonderful speaker at this February Board meeting! Amanda Arrington is the Volunteer Services Manager for the Dayton Metro Library. Amanda focused on the Children's Hunger Alliance Meal Pick-Up program for our meeting, but she noted that there are many ways to volunteer — including Rock your Homework and On-line Tutor programs, and more!

For the food program, the library's two partners include Children's Hunger Alliance and Premier ProduceOne, with support by COVID-19 Response Fund for Greater Dayton, The Mathile Family Foundation, The Dayton Metro Library Foundation, Marsh and McLennan Agency, and many individual donors. By the end of 2020, 111 volunteers gave more than 2022 hours to bag and distribute 232,600 meals throughout the eighteen branch libraries.

On the library's website, Amanda speaks highly of volunteers. "Their consistent support, week in and week out, cannot be measured in hours alone. They help us expand our reach by bagging meals for children, indexing genealogy materials, helping students with homework, reading with children, supporting Library staff, and so much more. Volunteers are the core of our community connection, and **we are truly thankful** for them!"

Do you have questions for Amanda? Email her at AArrington@daytonmetrolibrary.org. You can find a list of the volunteer opportunities (with links to tell how best to do that) on the website: <http://www.daytonmetrolibrary.org/about-us/volunteer>. To volunteer:

- Complete an application online at www.daytonmetrolibrary.org.
- Complete some paperwork and a brief orientation.
- Sign up with an online calendar.



May Friendship Celebration: May 8, 2021

Please join us for this special celebration! We will also be announcing the two recipients of the Valiant Women Awards, We will also have the election of our officers for 2021—2022.

At the time of this publication, the plans are underway for the celebration to be held in-real-life. If that changes, then a Zoom meeting will be held instead on the same date and time; please watch for detail updates from President Cecelia Long. Please stay in touch with your church's Key Woman.

Location: United Church of Christ
8611 Hoke Rd. Clayton, OH 45315
Date / Time: Saturday, May 8, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.
Hostess: Gail Penney, 937-839-0909

Directions: From downtown Dayton, take I-75 north for 7 miles to north to I-70 West and drive for 8 miles; take exit 26 north (right) onto Hoke Rd.; drive 1.1 miles to UCC (on your left).

Don't forget that your church's contributions for Fellowship of the Least Coin are due at this gathering. If you are not in attendance, please submit those offerings by May 28. Make check to "Church Women United in Greater Dayton" and mark the Memo: Fellowship of the Least Coin. Mail that check to: Judith Philpot, CWU Treasurer, 617 Osmond Ave., Dayton, OH 45417.



Election of Officers for 2021—2022

Nomination / Election of officers for 2021—2022:

If you have the desire to work as an officer, chairperson, or committee member, please contact Costella Terrell as soon as possible. Are you concerned that you are not qualified? Don't worry! We can train you and will help you with any of the positions. You just need a willing heart and helpful hands! Contact Nominations Chairperson, Costella Terrell, at c53terrell@aol.com or call 937-263-2997.

NOTE: Although not an elected position, the position of Publicity Chairperson will be open starting July 1. There is MUCH help available to someone who is willing to take on that responsibility for the next year! Contact Cecelia Long if you are interested.



Human Rights Celebration: June 7, 2021

Please join us for this special celebration! We will also have the Annual Meeting following the celebration. During this annual meeting, we will announce the recipient of the Human Rights Award, and we will have the installation of our officers.

At the time of this publication, the plans are underway for the celebration to be held in-real-life. If that changes, then a Zoom meeting will be held instead; please watch for details from President Cecelia Long. Please stay in touch with your church's Key Woman.

Location: St. Margaret's Episcopal Church
531 Free Pike, Trotwood, OH 45426
Date / Time: Monday, June 7, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.
Hostess: Judy Wilson, 937-221-0684

Directions: From downtown Dayton, take Salem Rd. 3.8 miles to west (left) on Free Pike; drive 1.3 miles and St. Margaret's Episcopal Church will be on your right— at the corner of Free Pike and Rte. 49.



MEMBERSHIPS (2020 - 2021):



Church/ Organizational Memberships, and Individual memberships for 2020-2021 are still being accepted from Key Women by mail to the treasurer now. The forms may be found on our unit's website: www.cwudaytonoh.org. Click on **Who We Are**. Scroll down to Membership. The red word ("HERE") will lead you to open the individual and /or the organizational forms. OR click "Photos, Resources, Awards" and choose "Resources." You have two choices: print the form and fill it out by hand or type on the form and then print it out. Either way, please give your money and the form to your church's key woman to mail to our treasurer, Judith Philpot, as soon as possible. Key Women: Please check to ensure that your church has remitted the church / organization fee and form. Thank you! **Questions?** Call Ina Green at 937-344-6029; Ina Green is chairperson of Member Care.

NOTE: Memberships in CWU in Greater Dayton support Mercy Manor, Greater Dayton Christian Connections, Dayton International Peace Museum, Membership in State and National, and other mission projects. Special offerings support UNICEF, Fellowship of the Least Coin, and Church World Service.

Key Women: Please mail the membership forms and payment from your church to our treasurer (Judith Philpot, 617 Osmond Ave., Dayton OH 45417). Include the church and individual memberships and the membership list. All forms are located on our website: <https://www.cwudaytonoh.org/resources.html>.

**CHURCH WOMEN UNITED
IN GREATER DAYTON**
5285 Torch Ln.
Dayton, OH 45417

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CHURCH WOMEN UNITED IN GREATER DAYTON — 2020 - 2021 EVENTS:

Apr. 23, 2021 (Friday)	1:00 p.m.	STATE ASSEMBLY VIRTUAL MEETING (<i>via Zoom</i>)
Apr. 27, 2021 (Tues.)	1:00 p.m.	BOARD MEETING on Zoom. Watch for the notice from President Cecelia M. Long.
May 8, 2021 (Sat.)	1:00 p.m.	MAY FRIENDSHIP DAY. United Church of Christ, 8611 Hoke Rd., Clayton, Ohio
May 25, 2021 (Tues.)	1:00 p.m.	BOARD MEETING on Zoom. Watch for the notice from President Cecelia M. Long.
June 7, 2021 (Mon.)	1:00 p.m.	HUMAN RIGHTS CELEBRATION / ANNUAL MEETING. St. Margaret's Episcopal Church, 531 Free Pike, Trotwood, Ohio
June 22, 2021 (Tues.)	1:00 p.m.	EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING. Details to be announced.
Summer: Date TBA	Time TBA	2021 or 2022 QUADRENNIAL ASSEMBLY. Details to be announced.

Looking ahead to 2021—2022 (subject to change):

- Board meetings are typically on the fourth Tuesdays: August 24, September 28, October 26, February 22, April 26, and May 24.
- Executive Committee Meetings are typically held at 1:00 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday in August, January, and June.
- Rejoice with us in our Celebrations / Special Events (TBA): World Community Day in November; Christmas Tea in December; Emma Murray Breakfast in March; May Fellowship Day in May; and Human Rights Celebration / Annual meeting in June.

What's NEXT?



**THE NEXT NEWSLETTER WILL BE MAILED in July/August 2021. Submission deadline: July 1, 2021.
Together newsletter is a quarterly publication of Church Women United in Greater Dayton: Martha Shields, Editor.**