



Together

Website: www.cwudaytonoh.org

Church Women United in Greater Dayton — February 2024

IMPORTANT: CWU BOARD MEETING

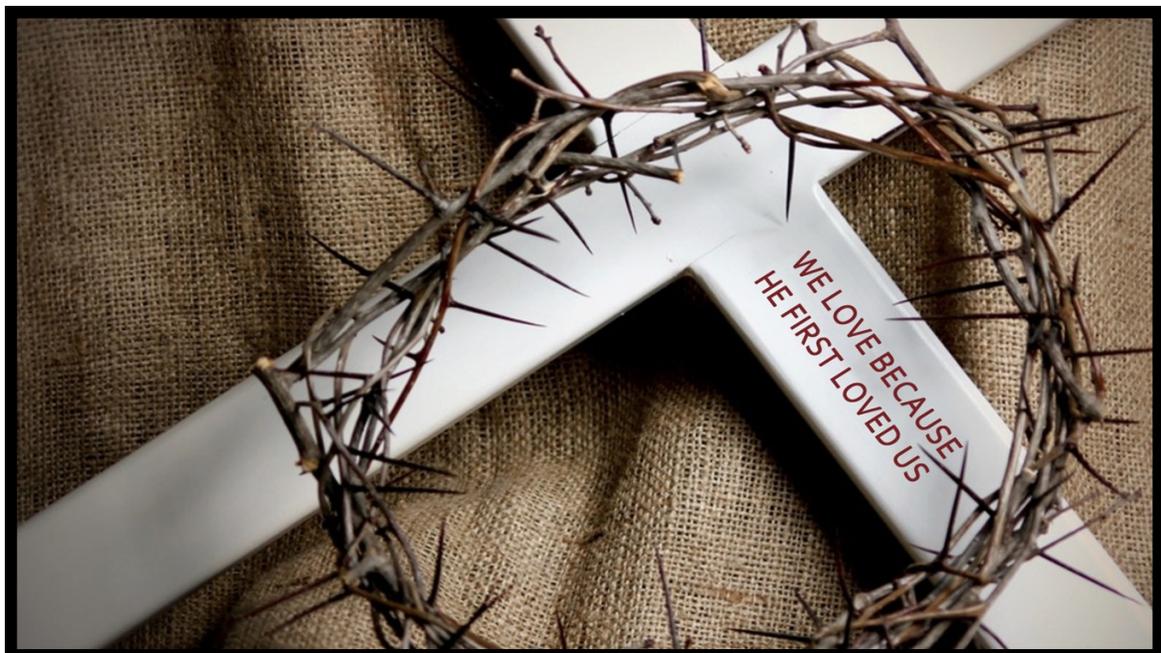
Tuesday, February 27, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.

Dorothy Lane American Baptist Church
960 West Dorothy Lane Kettering, Ohio 45409

Remember that ALL board meetings are OPEN to ALL CWU members!

We welcome your attendance!

Also save the dates for the remaining 2024 Upcoming
CWU Board Meetings: April 23, 2024 and May 22, 2024



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE...

Abide with Me

*"If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you,
you will ask what you desire,
and it shall be done for you."*

John 15:7



I did not know much about the song, "Abide with Me," until it was sung at Rosalynn Carter's Memorial Service. It was one of her favorite hymns. It was written by Henry Lyte, a vicar in Lower Brisham, Devonshire, England in 1947. I will not share all the words to the hymn but please read it in its entirety on your own. This troubled vicar truly did abide with God even when afflicted with tuberculosis that ended his life. "The darkness deepens, Lord, with me abide! When other helpers fail and comforts flee, Help of the helpless, O abide with me!" (Part of verse 1)

What does it mean to abide in Christ? It is keeping constant close communion with Him by walking in faith, spending focused time, engaging in intentional actions and prayers and reading the Bible. It is trusting and depending on God during good and bad moments. It is loving God with all our heart, soul and mind and our neighbor as ourself. We read in I Chronicles 16:23-25 "Sing to the Lord, all the earth, tell of His salvation from day to day...for great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; He is to be revered above all gods." As we are in the early days of 2024, let us try to abide in Christ. For each of us, it may mean a different path for as each of us have our own trials .

Remember:

"You are strong and the word of God abides in you (I John 14b.) In verse 3 of the song, "I need Thy presence every passing hour, What but Thy grace can foil the tempter's power? Who, like Thyself, My guide and stay can be? Through cloud and sunshine Lord, abide with me." My prayer for each of you in this new year: May God our Creator, sustainer, Lord bless each of you as you abide with Him each day. There may be difficulties, but you are not alone as He guides and watches over you with love.

Peace and joy,

Jerri Wood,
CWU President
Jswood3gk@gmail.com, 937-279-4550

CWU in Greater Dayton has a WEBSITE!

Find MANY resources at www.cwudaytonoh.org: Photo collages from our meetings; membership forms, CWS forms, programs and meeting information, officers, purpose, logo, bylaws, more!

Questions? Contact Webmaster Martha Shields (martha.shields@earthlink.net).

www.cwudaytonoh.org



CWU Newsletter *Together* is published quarterly by Church Women United in Greater Dayton.

This Issue: February, 2024. Address corrections to Member Care, Donna Middlebrook, (937)367-6654.

Questions? Contact Editor Donna Middlebrook: middlebrookdonna@gmail.com.

The next CWU Newsletter will be mailed in April. Submission deadline: March 15, 2024.

SNAPSHOTS OF OUR UPCOMING SPEAKERS

Come and hear Roberta and Bill to learn about area missions. Support your local chapter of Church Women United. (Speakers are arranged by Ecumenical Action Chair, Linda Ginter-Brown.) See you soon!

FEBRUARY 27, 2024: Roberta Longfellow and HOPE Letters Pilot Program

Purpose Statement

- The first purpose of HOPE Letters Pilot Program is **to give hope and guidance through regular correspondence to women who are incarcerated.** We have learned about the profound positive impact of a letter upon incarcerated men and women from the testimony of those who have experienced incarceration, prison chaplains, and corrections professionals. Most people who go into prison sooner or later come out, returning to the community.
- Through correspondence, HOPE Letter's second purpose is **to build faith-based relationships that will ease the transition from prison to community.** From previous experiences, we know that the likelihood of successful reentry is greatly enhanced by positive, trustworthy relationships that can provide encouragement, direction, and support in accessing services to meet concrete needs such as transportation, housing, food, and employment. Both experience and research have shown that the transcendent values of faith, hope, love, and forgiveness, which lie at the core of the Islamic tradition, are essential for lasting personal transformation. The Dayton Muslim community nurtures these spiritual values that support HOPE Letter's third purpose. This purpose is **to increase the likelihood that the inside correspondents find wholeness and meaning while incarcerated, and when released, permanently return to the community as restored, productive citizens.**



HOPE Letters in Action

Grace UMC initiated HOPE Letters in November 2018, so it is very new and we are finding our way with counsel and prayer, and to some extent by trial and error (hopefully not too much error).

Here is what the shape of things looks like now:

This is a group effort and the expectation is that participants will gather at Grace church monthly for supper, info/sharing, logistics like receiving letters, and letter writing. There are protocols to observe that are taught there. We typically meet on a Wednesday from 5:30 to 7:00 pm. A meal is included. (Donations are appreciated.) In order to identify women, we wrote a proposal that was submitted to the Ohio Reformatory for Women. That proposal was accepted last month and we received contact names.

APRIL 23, 2024: Bill Davis and Single-Payer Action Network (SPAN)

Bill Davis became an activist devoted to seeing our healthcare system become more equitable and accessible for healing the sick, supporting the weak, and comforting the afflicted — no matter what a person's circumstance.

Since 2009, Bill has attended the annual SPAN Conference in Columbus with others from inside and outside of Ohio. He attended two national Single Payer strategy conferences as well as multiple training seminars sponsored by Physicians for a National Health Program (PNHP).

Although not a clinician, Bill is a member of PNHP and spent the last nine years of a career in information technology working for a health system and has first-hand knowledge of what goes on in hospitals and doctors' offices. Since retiring in June 2016, he has spent much more time speaking to people, listening to their concerns about healthcare, and working on non-partisan issues aimed at fixing our faith in democracy. Bill is a member of Westminster Presbyterian Church in downtown Dayton.



CHURCH WOMEN UNITED, INC.

2024 QUADRENNIAL ASSEMBLY

JUNE 19-22, 2024

**DOUBLETREE
BY HILTON HOTEL
1909 SPRING RD.,
OAK BROOK, IL 60523**



ALL THINGS NEW
“New Beginnings, New Perspectives”

Preliminary Schedule:

**Monday and Tuesday: Pre-Assembly
Quadrennial Assembly Opens on Wednesday.**

Wednesday, June 19:

7:00 a.m. Morning Prayer
8:00—8:00 Registration
4:00—6:00 President-Elect Reception
7:00 p.m. Opening Worship

Thursday, June 20

7:00 a.m. Morning Prayer
8:00—6:00 Registration
9:00—12:00 Business Session;
Common Council Meeting
12:00—1:00 Lunch
1:30—2:30 Workshop Session I
3:30—5:00 Plenary Session
5:00—7:00 Dinner (on your own)
7:00—9:00 Young CWU Program

Friday, June 21

7:00 a.m. Morning Prayer
8:00—3:00 Registration
9:00—11:55 Business Session
National President’s Report
Regional / Comm. Reports
12:00—1:00 Lunch
1:15—2:15 Workshop Session II
2:30—4:30 Plenary Session I; Ecumenical & Partner Reports
6:30 p.m. President’s Gala

Saturday, June 22

7:00 a.m. Morning Prayer
8—9:30 a.m. Closing Worship

Departure—Safe Travels home

Quick facts:

- Online or Manual (Paper Registration)
- Early Registration ends February 15 (\$345)
- Regular Registration (\$375)
- Late Registration: May 26-June 7 (\$475)
- There is no on-site registration!
- Add-on:
Common Council Member / Observer (\$100)
- CWU Choir fee / material only (\$10)
- Registration Includes: Badge, Conference kit, Workshop materials, All digital reports, (3) meals: one Gala Dinner and two Lunch options, and daily hotel-breakfast vouchers.
- Registration is two-part process:
 1. Complete registration.
 2. Create CWU WHOVA Event Account to connect to the Event Website to see sessions, etc. You’ll also need to complete a Photo Waiver Release
- Lodging: Room rate is \$159
Sales tax: 9% - \$14.31 + Eco Green Fee of \$.97/
day
Incidental fee: \$30.00 / day. Parking is free for hotel guests.
- Transportation is \$53./ trip to/from airport via Templar VIP Transportation LLC.
- Assembly Attire information is in the packet.
- The speakers and their bios can be found here:
<https://whova.com/web/t7Ycb%40WzKuaDjo%40YnQHIsjA22oejXVqvwAJVKINKB-4%3D/>

NOTE: To obtain the complete Quadrennial Packet, go to <https://www.churchwomenunited.net/> and scroll down to the yellow document Click on the black “View Now” button and you will find the complete, 32-page document with “all things Quadrennial”!!

CWU: World Community Day Celebration

Saturday, November 4, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.
First Baptist Church, Dayton

Speaker: The Reverend Doctor Georgia Alexander,
Associate Pastor, Zion Baptist Church, Dayton, Ohio



CWU Christmas Tea

St. Paul AME Zion Church

Saturday, December 9, 2023



Mercy Manor Banquet

Saturday, March 16, 2024
Presidential Banquet Center
More Information to come!

To learn more about Mercy Manor, please visit the website
<https://mercymanor.wixsite.com/mercymanor>

Save the Date:
Saturday March 16, 2024
Mercy Manor Banquet
Presidential Banquet Center



“Judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy.
But mercy triumphs over judgment.” — James 2:13

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN

One of our CWU projects each year is to collect coins for the Fellowship of the Least Coin (FLC) Offering. FLC is a worldwide ecumenical movement of prayer and reconciliation. We collect our donations at the May Friendship Day Celebration, which of this year is on Saturday, May 18, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. at United Christian Church, 8611 Hoke Road, Clayton, Ohio 45315.

As Christian women around the world meet and pray with each other, they are reminded to live a forgiving life with others. "Least coins" are given with each prayer. The movement is focused on prayer and reconciliation rather than money. Anyone who wishes to do so, makes a commitment to spend time in prayer whenever she has a strained relationship with another person, and to uphold in prayer others who are victims of jealousy, hatred, violence and injustice.



Women world-wide set aside on "least coin" of her currency as a tangible token toward her prayer being answered. These coins are sent regularly to her country's FLC collections point, where the collection is forwarded to the FLC Fund. The amount collected by each country is never publicized: only the total sum collected each year is announced. You can find online what projects are globally funded. <https://www.fellowshipoftheleastcoin.org>.

The idea of the Fellowship of the Least Coin (FLC) logo came from the late Rayann Ma from Hong Kong, the first Chairperson of the first assembly of the Asian Church Women's Conference (ACWC). The actual design was gifted by her brother-in-law, James Ma, who was a commercial artist.

The logo includes six folded hands in prayer that encircle a small plum flower. The hands are different colours to represent people of all backgrounds. Together, these praying hands form the image of a lotus flower.

The lotus plant grows in muddy ponds but its flower rises above the murky water and opens beautifully, without blemish. In the same spirit, although women and girls all over the world face oppression and injustices of many kinds, with prayer and support they, too, can rise above these circumstances with dignity and grace.

Church Women News... is Back!!!

Church Women News will feature news about CWU from around the country including information on advocacy, celebrations, programming, inspiring stories, and more.

Subscribe today for your digital copy!

Go to: <https://www.churchwomenunited.net/>

Subscribe now to receive Church Women News in 2024! Read it for news about Church Women United around the country, for advocacy and Celebration information, ideas for programming, inspiring stories, and much more.

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED IN GREATER DAYTON — 2024 EVENTS:

Feb. 27, 2024 (Tues)	1:00 p.m.	BOARD MEETING at Dorothy Lane American Baptist Church, 960 W. Dorothy Lane
March 12, 2024 (Tues.)	9:30 a.m.	EMMA MURRAY PRAYER BREAKFAST (Reservations <i>via</i> your own Key Woman) Christ United Methodist Church, 2440 Shroyer Rd., Kettering, Ohio 45429 Key Woman: Kathy Fellows. Cost: \$10.00 at time of reservation.
April 23, 2024 (Tues.)	1:00 pm.	BOARD MEETING at Dorothy Lane American Baptist Church, 960 W. Dorothy Lane
April 26-27, 2024		98TH CWUO LEADERS COUNCIL & ANNUAL STATE ASSEMBLY Church Women United in Ohio's Leaders Council Location TBD Contact: Cecelia Long (937) 972-7045
May 18, 2024 (Sat.)	1:00 p.m.	MAY FRIENDSHIP DAY United Christian Church, 8611 Hoke Rd, Clayton, Ohio 45315 (Key Woman, Gail Penney)
June, 2024		ANNUAL MEETING time and location TBD

NOTE: HUMAN RIGHTS CELEBRATION WILL BE HELD IN THE FALL OF 2024

JUNE 19-22, 2024		QUADRENNIAL ASSEMBLY Location: Doubletree by Hilton Chicago/Oakbrook, 1909 Spring Rd., Oak Brook, IL. Other details: TBD
DATE TBD in 2026		2026 REGIONAL ASSEMBLY East Central Regional Event: Theme/date/Location: TBD Regional Coordinator: Barb McCoy (barb.mccoy@frontier.com).