

# CHURCH WOMEN UNITED - ATLANTA UNIT

## FEBRUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER

Quilt by CWU member  
Odessa Huff



Joyce Thomas, CWU Atlanta  
Woman of the Year

Woman of the Year Luncheon to be held Saturday, February 17, 11:00AM in Macon, GA, Anderson Conference Center, 5171 Eisenhower Pkwy. Cost: \$50pp. Visit [CWUGEOORGIA.ORG/Events-Celebrations](http://CWUGEOORGIA.ORG/Events-Celebrations) to purchase a ticket.

## Quilt Display for Black History Month

CWU Atlanta is joining with **Hope AME Zion Church** with a quilt display for **Black History Month** of quilt creations by **Ms. Tanya Heldman** and beloved CWU member Mrs. **Odessa Huff** who died in 2022. Mrs. Huff was a past vice president of CWU and was the founder of the **Welcome All Quilters' Guild**. This display will be held on **Sunday, February 18** at 2 pm during **Community Day at Savannah Street**, 196 Savannah Street, Atlanta. Pictured on the left is one of Odessa's quilts that has gone to a show in Alabama.

## CWU Atlanta Woman of the Year - Joyce Thomas .

**Joyce Thomas** has been a vital member of CWU in Atlanta for 2 years, during which she has consistently demonstrated her dedication and leadership skills as **Chair of the Ecumenical Development Committee** and serving as a participant in celebration programs. In each role, Joyce has shown a deep understanding of the importance of the movement's work and has worked tirelessly to advance its goals.

At the **2023 CWU Georgia State Assembly** Joyce took the lead with identifying 20 women for the skit "Women of the Bible Speak". She also served on the decoration committee.

In addition to her involvement with Church Women United in the community, Joyce is also a founding and active member of **Faith A.M.E. Zion Church**. She is currently the Prayer Coordinator of the Intercessory Prayer Team of the Atlanta District and a member of the Atlanta District's Special Events Committee. Joyce established and served as the former leader of the Altar Guild and as an Usher, a member of the Acolyte Ministry, Chancel Choir, Lay Council, Women's Home and Overseas Missionary Society, and the Stewardess Board. She also serves as the head of the Culinary Ministry and Leader of the Daniel Ministry. Joyce volunteers her time with Girl Scouts of America having served as a Troop Leader over 30 years and is always willing to lend a helping hand to those in need.

Joyce Thomas' commitment to the movement of CWU make her an ideal candidate for the 2024 CWU Woman of the Year in Georgia.

## Calendar Items

### February is Go Red Month

Promote equal access to health care, including mental health, affordable care, and preventive medical services. For more info go to [churchwomenunited.net](http://churchwomenunited.net) & click on Priorities

**Thursday, February 15** - 8:30am -

3pm - CWU Atlanta joining

### Interfaith Children's Movement

"Day at the Capitol" (to include the Pink Tax Bill - markup & luxury tax on period care products) **A**

**link is being sent to CWU members to register for meals & updates.**

**Saturday, February 17** - Willie C.

### Jones, Jr. Scholarship Fund

**Benefit Concert** - 2pm at

Peachtree Christian Church, 1580

Peachtree Road, Atlanta, Tickets -

\$60 on [eventbrite.com](http://eventbrite.com)

**Sunday, February 18 Community**

### Day at Savannah Street

**featuring quilts by Ms. Tanya**

**Heldman and Mrs. Odessa Huff**

(see separate article)

**Friday, March 1, World Day of**

**Prayer Service**, 7 pm on Zoom.

This year's service was written by

an ecumenical group of

**Palestinian Christian women** who

invite the world to pray for peace,

justice and freedom of religion

and freedom of movement.

## President's Message

Greetings Church Women United in Atlanta, Inc. Members and Friends!

**Health and Wellness is priority #1** this quadrennial for CWU.

February is the observance of Heart Health month. Heart disease is the leading cause of death for women in the United States. The average age for women to have a heart attack is 70 but statistics show that heart disease and death is rising in women 50 years of age and younger. Cardiovascular disease disproportionately affects African American women more than any other race regardless of age. To decrease your chances of cardiovascular disease it is suggested that you make healthy lifestyle changes such as moving more, eating smart and managing blood pressure. Learn the signs of a heart attack and educate yourself on family history. Google "Go Red" to take action and join the movement to learn ways to prevent and reduce your risk of cardiovascular disease!

**Please Save the Date! February 15** Interfaith Children's Movement invites CWU Atlanta, Inc. to join their "Day at the Capitol" (see calendar items) Don't miss the opportunity to meet with your elected officials to advocate for or against bills affecting Georgia's children.

**Join Church Women United** in person or virtual as an NGO (Non-governmental organization) at the **68th United Nations Commission on the Status of Women**, March 11-22, 2024 in New York City. Priority theme "Accelerating the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective". Watch your email and listen for calling post messages for updates

**Don't forget to renew your membership for 2024.** go to our website [www.cwuatl.com](http://www.cwuatl.com) for ways to pay.

Blessings and thanks for your support.

Sheila Louder

## Reproductive Justice Webinar

**Thursday, February 15**, 7 pm sponsored by **Justice & Peace Committee of Presbyterian Women**. Join Zoom Meeting - A diverse panel to help open up the way for conversations to happen in the church. Join on ZOOM:

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89097355979?](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89097355979?pwd=v9jQlvdqCegr0EFobNqR1M7SsJbrVR.1)

[pwd=v9jQlvdqCegr0EFobNqR1M7SsJbrVR.1](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89097355979?pwd=v9jQlvdqCegr0EFobNqR1M7SsJbrVR.1)

**Meeting ID: 890 9735 5979**

**Passcode: 129186**