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# MICHIGAN CHURCH WOMAN



## Message from President Gurtie...

STATE PRESIDENT, GURTIE CRATER

Hello to my sisters and friends. What a wonderful 92nd State Assembly we had in April which was well attended by zoom. I hope you have received your wonderful, colorful bag of goodies by now. Thank you to all who worked with me to make the assembly a success. Such a wonderful group of women to work with.

It seems like we are still trying to turn the corner from covid 19. I know many of us have been vaccinated and others are getting theirs done. The Lord has blessed us in many ways. Let's keep the prayers going - this is



something that all Church Women United members can do.

The summer retreat will roll over to 2022 at Fahalo in Grass Lake. More will be coming from our Vice-President, Terri Benten-Ollie.

If you have not signed up to receive our newsletter, please do.

God bless you all and please be safe and prayerful.

Gurtie

## News from Church Women United of Greater Lansing

As the Coronavirus pandemic has continued, challenges have been experienced. From March, 2020 -January, 2021, contacts were made, with the membership either by telephone or by other electronic means, ie: e-mail.

**February 8, 2021.** A "Heart Health Checkup" presentation was provided by Cathy Scott Lynch, MSN, BSN, RN, Certified Cardiac Care Nurse. Pertinent information was shared to promote quality living.

**March 5, 2021.** President Turner attended the virtual World Day of Prayer observance sponsored by the Detroit Unit of CWU.

**March 8, 2021.** A workshop on prayer was presented by Anita Turner. Resource materials included "Prayer Clinic 101" prepared by Rev Pamelajune Anderson, DMin Retired US Navy Chaplain Corps–National Chaplain. The presentation was done by conference call.

**April 12, 2021.** The theme for April was "Literacy". An informative presentation from the Coordinator of the Literacy Coalition of Greater Lansing provided insight as to how to encourage both young and old in promotion of reading skills. Volunteers are needed and the donation of the appropriate books were accepted."

**April 22-23, 2021.** Two Unit members attended the Virtual CWU-Michigan State Assembly hosted by the Detroit Unit.

**May, 2021.** Due to death in the family of the President there were no activities held. Until further notice, Unit activities-promoting the mission, vision, and goals of CWU -will be conducted in a virtual manner.

Anita Turner, President  
CWU of Greater Lansing

*Each year we honor our Church Women United Sisters who have made their transitions. Today we remember 26 of our Sisters who have passed away since our 2019 State Assembly. Each has uniquely served our Church Women United movement as well as serving many others - each in her own unique way during her time on earth. I have asked someone who has known each Sister well to give me one word to describe her. I know one word isn't enough to encapsulate a life but I've been amazed at what beautiful words are used to honor such beautiful ladies. So this year...*

## 2021 MEMORIAL MOMENTS CEREMONY

From Area 1, the Flint Unit, we remember Kathryn Blake (69) - Activist

From Area 2, Detroit, we remember - Mable Diamond (98) - Honest

From Area 2, Downriver, we remember - Helen Sakey (102) - Dependable

We remember - Naida Scharboneau (93) - Gregarious

We remember - Hazel Woodruff (91) - Valiant

We remember - Priscilla Howey (85) - Unique. From Area 2 WOW,

We remember - Ivy McClurg (86) - Reserved

We remember - Lorraine Murdoch (70) - Giving

From Area 3 Ypsilanti, we remember - Helen Birdsall (89) - Bright

We remember - Margaret Johnston (104) - Longevity

We remember - Marjoire Krakker (93) - Faithful

We remember - Sylvia Gibbs (95) - Motherly

We remember - Johnie May Weathers (91) - Devoted

Form Area 3 Lansing, we remember - Margaret Henderson Brown (88) - Dedicated

We remember - Rosemary Severance (93) - Willing

We remember from - Janet Hoyt (96) - Loyal

From Area 5 Kalamazoo, we remember - Margaret Kehoe (90) - Devoted

We remember - Elaine TenBrink (97) - Faithful

We remember - Rev. Molly Clements (86) - Fighter for underdogs

We remember - Edythe Buskirk (101) - Loyal

We remember - Helen Brown (84) - Thoughtful

We remember - Jeanette Jupp (92) - Faithful

From Area 5 St. Joseph/Benton Harbor, we remember - Beverly Lawton (84) - Accomplished

From Area 6 Traverse City, we remember - Corinne Plough (96) - Enthusiastic

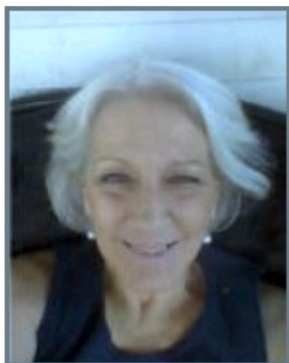
\*In the Memorial Moments Ceremony, I accidently did not include two beautiful ladies from Area 5, St. Joseph/Benton Harbor. We also remember Marion Crossman (102) and Elizabeth Runkel (93) - both personify LOVE

## 2021 Memorial Moments Prayer

*Heavenly Father, we are so very grateful that the Church Women United Sisters we are remembering have been a part of our lives. They have accomplished so much in their lifetimes. They have unselfishly and lovingly served their families, their churches, their communities and their world during their time on earth. We know that they now walk with You in heaven. Our faith assures us of this. But know, Heavenly Father that they are still greatly missed here on Earth. AMEN.*

*Submitted by  
Jan Longton*

## 2021 CWU VALIANT WOMAN



### **2021 VALIANT WOMAN**

**WAYNE-OAKLAND COUNTY WOMEN  
CHURCH WOMEN UNITED (WOW Unit)**

**AREA 2**

**MARTI BOYNTON TAMAROGLIO**



A member of Good Shepherd United Methodist Church, Dearborn Michigan and she serves as Administrator at Dearborn First United Methodist Church.

Marti has served in some capacity or another as volunteer, as paid staff, as intern, for the bulk of her life. She has served at Good Shepherd UMC, Redford UMC, and Franklin Community UMC, Garden City UMC and Dearborn First UMC., where she became acquainted with Church Women United WOW Unit. She has shared her skills by conducting Bible Studies sessions with them.

Marti now volunteers as chaplain at Oakwood Commons (serving residents 80 -90yrs old) every Sunday morning. She has also officiated at many funerals and memorial services. Her statement: "In the past 20 years I have learned a lot...some from books and classes, but most from people I serve ! Mostly I learned that God loves us all, regardless .....God will take care of us.!!



## **2021 VALIANT WOMAN**

**DOWNRIVER UNIT**

**CHURCH WOMEN UNIT**

**AREA 2**

**PASTOR HELENE WALKER**



Pastor Helene Walker is a dynamic, strong and amazing woman of God. She praises God both through her words and her singing. As a co-author with several others, she has written four books published by Habakkuk Publishing .

Rev. Walker is very proud of her work as Chaplain for the UAW-FORD Local 600 in Dearborn. Because her love for God was so apparent and her love of people as well, she was asked to accept a position to build a chaplaincy program in her plant.

Rev. Helene Walker currently serves President of Area 2's Downriver Unit of CWU and secretary of International Christian Education Association in Southfield.

She has said, "Words cannot express how I felt about being tasked with such a great honor....I had to create a plan since I was given no training and had no roadmap to follow....I am so grateful to God who guides us along life's highway.



## **2021 VALIANT WOMAN**

**DETROIT UNIT**

**CHURCH WOMEN UNITED**

**AREA 2**

**BARBARA ELAINE SIMMONS CHESTER**



Sister Chester lived in East Moline, IL , where she was raised Baptist and received a solid foundation in the Lord. She is currently a member of Oak Grove AME Church, Detroit, where the Rev. Dr. Cindy Carr Rudolph is the Pastor.

In 2008 Sister Chester retired from WK Kellogg Foundation and in 2009 Sister Chester began part-time work for Arrowhead Conference in CA, a non-profit Christian organization that does event planning.

Some of her community work involves President of Northside Association for Community Development, Boards of New Year's Fest, YMCA Black Achievers, Family Institute, NAACP and other organizations in Kalamazoo.

Her motto: "As God has blessed you, be a blessing to others".

Her hope and prayer is that at the sunset of her life someone might say she has helped somebody so he living was not in vain.





**2021 VALIANT WOMAN**  
**GREATER FLINT UNIT**  
**CHURCH WOMEN UNITED**  
**AREA 1**  
**ALEXIS MURPHY-MORRIS**



Alexis Murphy-Morris describes herself as "Quiet, though happy to help those that feel a little under water."

She is a lifelong member of Quinn Chapel AME Church where she serves on the Steward Board, Turner Missionary Society and Praise and Worship Choir; she is also a Board member of the Quinn Chapel AME Afterschool Program and Trustee Board.

She has been an active volunteer with Church Women United for more than 10 years serving on the State Board of Directors, Chair of the Update/Bylaws Committee and Assistant Publications Chair, she has been maintaining the unit's list of participants and distributing meeting notices both by e-mail and postcard.

Her community involvement is with youth and families, sharing time and talent and assets as a positive force in the prevention of violent crimes.

Between 2011 and 2019 she served as a member and chair of the WOW (With Out Walls) Outreach Board. Established in 2007 as a venue, connector, and convener that reaches out and connects people and organizations that are doing similar good work to create opportunities for greater synergy in addressing the problems of interpersonal violence in Flint.

**SUBSCRIPTION OPTIONS**  
**(Check One)**

- ☐ **\$3.00 Annually - Digital**  
☐ **\$5.00 2 Years - Digital**  
☐ **\$6.00 1 Year - Postal Mail**

**Thank you!**

*What a great gift for your CWU Board,  
 Pastors, friends and family ~ and don't  
 forget yourself!*

**MICHIGAN  
 CHURCH WOMAN**



NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_

STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

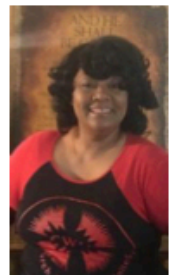
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According to Deuteronomy 30:3, then the Lord your God will restore you from captivity, and have compassion on you, and **will gather you again from all people where the Lord your God has scattered you...** I am proud to announce that the 2021 Summer Retreat is postponed until... **Monday and Tuesday, August 22-23, 2022 at the FAHOLO site, Grass Lake, MI!** After a long contemplation of SAFETY/Relevance/God's Plan/Responsibility, we together (FAHOLO and CWU leaders), are optimistic and believe we **will be safer in 2022...** Noteworthy rationale that, **1Corinthians 11:33...so then, my brethren, when you come together to eat, wait for one another.**



**We welcome 60 donated items for the 2022 pre-registration bags;** yes, you have 1 year to complete 60 small arts and craft items, collect trinkets/bookmarks/jewelry, decorate commemorative pens/pins/pencils, attach magnets, and bring all things that remind us that **HE is worthy!!!** We all host Faith, Hope, Love, and more, so please add to this momentous upcoming festive occasion. Thank you all for all of your input, sincere concerns, and **above all, the optimism for in-person fellowship, in the upcoming summer, 2022.** Respectfully Submitted, Terri Benton-Ollie, VP of Church Women United, Michigan, Chairperson, Summer Retreat



Stay tuned for details about our local KALAMAZOO & VICINITY unit of CWU WTF, We The Flag awareness campaign; more details are posted on **Facebook, Church Women United Kalamazoo** 😊





**Kalamazoo Unit Celebrates May Friendships, Valiant Women, and CommUniTy Quilt.** Area 5 Chairperson, Janet Nichols, presented this VW award to Shauntrece Stokes. Emeritus, Dora Mann and daughter, Emily Mann Ritsema, present Barbara Goodwin as Adele Paxson witnesses the festivities. Songs were lead by renowned vocalists.

**The beautiful “MASTERPIECE” bags and the lovely items** received from the Michigan CWU Valiant Women Committee, were befitting; and the affirming Valiant Woman written insert was so inspiring. **Shauntrece Stokes and Barbara Goodwin, Valiant Women Kalamazoo, 2021**, were celebrated locally on Saturday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at the Radison Hotel ballroom, downtown, Kalamazoo, Michigan.



Our May Friendship Day also hosted a backdrop of over 1400 t-shirts that were connected into the “**CommUniTy**” Quilt. Our local response to the recent resurgence, public outcries, and media coverages of systemic racism and climate injustices; compelled us to mobilize as we realize that “silence is violence” and we must “act” and demonstrate HIS presence. This QUILT is our unique “Kalamazoo Way” of was to celebrating the threads of our community that intertwine our purposes to be empathetic, active, steadfast, and immovable with fervor and zeal. We thank the donors, cutters, and sewing queens for all of their support; while we continue to demonstrate that **no weapon formed against us shall prosper**, Isaiah 54:17.