



# HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

## See and Hear *Truth Is Power*

### February 6, 2026

#### ANCHOR VERSES

Proverbs 31:8-9 (NIV): “Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly, defend the rights of the poor and needy.”

Proverbs 23:12 (NIV): “Apply your heart to instruction and your ear to words of knowledge.”

#### WORDS OF WELCOME

Unit President and Host Church Representative

**HISTORY OF CWU:** Since 1941, women of the Church Women United (CWU) movement have held a vision of Christian unity and prayerful action. CWU was founded as a racially, culturally, theologically, inclusive Christian women's movement to celebrate unity and diversity and work for peace in the world.

At its founding, the movement was named the United Council of Church Women (UCCW). Women of faith from three interdenominational women's groups representing 70 denominations convened in Atlantic City, New Jersey in December 1941 as bombs were being dropped while the world was at war. The United Council of Church Women's first action was to circulate a petition signed by 84,000 church women urging the United States at the signing of the United Nations Charter to join and take full responsibility in a world organization.

The action received wide publicity in the media, and Eleanor Roosevelt later involved the UCCW in a conference at the White House on “how women may share in post war policy making.” Such action remains typical for CWU today, as its quest for information and prayerful action continues. Women of the movement affirm that prayer and action are inseparable and that both have immeasurable influence in the world.

#### OUR MISSION

Church Women United is an inclusive ecumenical Christian women's movement celebrating unity in diversity and empowering women to work towards a world of peace and justice.

#### OUR VISION

Women of Faith cultivating Love, Hope and Peace for all Creation.

## **OUR CORE VALUES**

### **FAITH**

We are visible witnesses to God's love and draw upon the power of the Spirit.

### **SERVICE**

We serve our neighbors near and far for the common good.

### **EDUCATION**

We enlighten ourselves to grow and share with others through engagement across cultures.

### **ADVOCACY**

We act to empower women of all ages and to influence decision makers.

### **DIVERSITY**

We welcome, respect, and appreciate others and their God-given gifts.

### **SOCIAL JUSTICE**

We work for a fuller implementation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

## **HISTORY OF HUMAN RIGHTS DAY:**

Church Women United must remember and respect that “all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood. Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms... without distinction of any kind, such as race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status” (Excerpt taken from the “Universal Declaration of Human Rights” written by the United Nations in 1948). These words should be in the forefront of our minds as we support, work towards, and fight for human rights of all people. This is the same message that Jesus gave to his followers: Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind and all your strength and love your neighbor as you love yourself. He did not mean for us to love just some people. He truly meant for us to love everyone. This has been the message of CWU since our inception in 1943 and will continue to be one of the pillars that supports and drives our movement.

## **PROGRAM ORDER OF WORSHIP**

### **PRELUDE MUSIC:**

### **OPENING PRAYER:** (by Rev. Billie J. Simmons)

Dear Lord, We pray for those deprived of their human needs and their human rights that they may be given the dignity which You confer on all Your people. We pray for those who

are forgotten or thrown away, the poor, the sick, and the aged, that You will change hearts and move us to love them as the image of Christ. Amen.

### **OPENING SONG**

**CWU NATIONAL SONG: O CHURCH WOMEN UNITED**

(Tune: The Church's One Foundation by Samuel S. Wesley, 1864)

1. O Church Women United, we work and pray as one. With hearts and hands together, until our task is done. Our purpose, love unbounded, our aim to follow you. Our lives of living service, we dedicate anew.
2. We come with hearts united, our race and creed as one. Our friendship and our witness have only just begun. To spread across this nation in reconciling love. The peace that we are sharing comes only from above.
3. We celebrate together, we work for unity. We pray that all your people from hunger will be free. For justice for your people, for peace and harmony. O God bind us together in one community.

### **HUMAN RIGHTS DAY LITANY: (by Deacon Antonia H. Daniels)**

**L: Lord thank you for allowing us to see another Human Rights Day.**

**P: Thank you, Lord, for your grace and mercy**

**L: As you know, God, the world can be an ugly place. Unfortunately, recently, it has gotten uglier. As you helped the blind, the abused, and the lepers we need your help to the help to our people.**

**P: Show us the way, Jesus.**

**L: The administrations of the world are kicking people out of their countries who are fleeing abusive administrations. People who are leaving their homes to get a better life without fear of war, persecution, or hunger. America is following suit in expelling people who need our help. Deporting people we used to embrace. Some who have been here as good, hard-working people, who are afraid that they will be ejected because they're not citizens. We need the strength to be the people you need us to be for your people.**

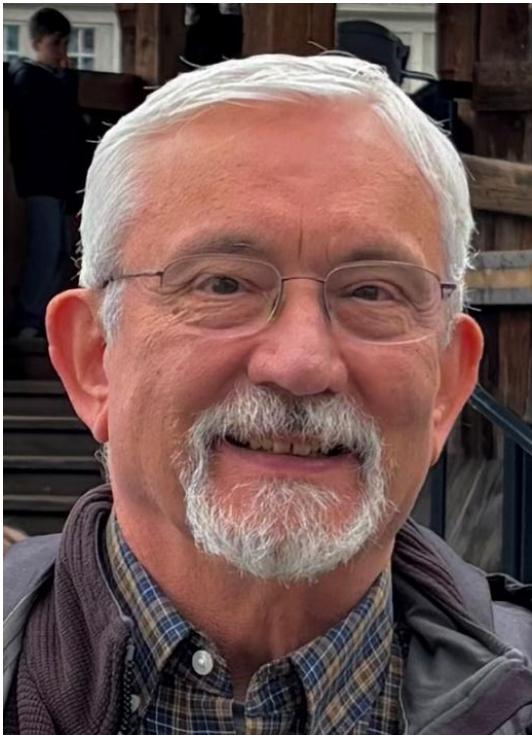
**L: Deuteronomy 10:18-20 NLT**

[18] He ensures that orphans and widows receive justice. He shows love to the foreigners living among you and gives them food and clothing. [19] So you, too, must show love to foreigners, for you yourselves were once foreigners in the land of Egypt. [20] You must fear the Lord your God and worship him and cling to him. Your oaths must be in his name alone.

**P: Help us not be afraid to speak out against unfair treatment to your people.**

**All: We want to be a loud voice speaking your word, Lord, against unfair and brutal treatment of people who only want a better life. In your precious name, we pray, Amen**

### **HUMAN RIGHTS DAY AWARD: ROD MCKENZIE presented by Ann Sowaske**



**Rod McKenzie** has lived in the Madison community for over 50 years. In that time, he has been involved in social justice, through his faith community, and beyond. Early on, he represented his congregation in meetings with Madison Urban Ministries and has supported their work in bringing justice and support to the families of incarcerated members of our society. A little later, he began to organize the volunteers from his church working with Habitat for Humanity of Dane County. Starting on one of the earliest sites on Fisher Street in South Madison, over the years the sites went from single lots, and grew to whole subdivisions where Habitat built homes were adjacent to “market rate” homes. Providing families real stability has meant that the benefits of staying in one neighborhood

and building equity have moved from the theoretical to the actual.

He has enjoyed helping the next generation of our church youth learn about social justice through a durable form of community service. Rod was part of the adult leaders who took eight youth work teams to Appalachian Service Project sites in Tennessee, West Virginia, Kentucky, and North Carolina. On those trips, the teams applied insulation, roofing, and built stairs and wheelchair accessible ramps. The youth on those trips learned how to use paint brushes, and hand tools, to fulfill the ASP goal of making housing “Warmer, dryer, and safer” for their client families.

Rod has learned along the way that social justice is not a solo act but deeply rooted in community. Every day there are opportunities to live the Golden Rule, and to act on the scriptural mandate to “Love one another, as I have loved you”. It remains for us to find them.

**Activity:** When He walked upon the earth, our Lord and Savior **Jesus Christ was the ultimate teacher-educator** of His disciples, Church Women United today, and all Believers. Jesus' teaching and portrayal of what He taught is the 'blueprint' for Believers everywhere.

**(1)** Respond to each of the following verses with either **TRUE** or **FALSE**.

**(2)** If a verse is **FALSE**, re-state the verse as Jesus would say it to make it **TRUE**.

**(3)** Discuss each where applicable and time permits.

**Jesus Christ, the Son of God, taught:**

<b>Bible Verse (From NIV)</b>	<b>TRUE or FALSE</b>
1. You can serve both God and money. Luke 16:13	
2. Love and pray for your enemies. Luke 6:27-28,35	
3. Turn the other cheek. Luke 6:29	
4. Deny self, take up Christlike suffering. Luke 9:23	
5. Pray publicly to be seen and heard. Matthew 6:5-8	
6. We can be loved and accepted by both Jesus and the world. Luke 21:17	
7. Deny Jesus before men, get exalted by Jesus before God. Luke 12:8-9, Matthew 10:32	
8. Always practice your righteousness in public view. Matthew 6:1-3	

9. Do not judge, or you too will be judged.  Matthew 7:1,2	
10. Abide in Jesus' words to align with world standards.  John 8:31-42	

**Keep in mind:** “All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for **teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness**, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.” (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

### Answer Key

**Jesus Christ, the Son of God, taught:**

Bible Verse (From NIV)	TRUE or FALSE
1. You can serve both God and money.  Luke 16:13	<b>False</b>
2. Love and pray for your enemies.  Luke 6:27-28,35	<b>True</b>
3. Turn the other cheek.  Luke 6:29	<b>True</b>
4. Deny self, take up Christlike suffering.  Luke 9:23	<b>True</b>
5. Pray publicly to be seen and heard.  Matthew 6:5-8	<b>False</b>
6. We can be loved and accepted by both Jesus and the world.  Luke 21:17	<b>False</b>
7. Deny Jesus before men, get exalted by Jesus before God.  Luke 12:8-9, Matthew 10:32	<b>False</b>

8. Always practice your righteousness in public view.  Matthew 6:1-3	<b>False</b>
9. Do not judge, or you too will be judged.  Matthew 7:1, 2	<b>True</b>
10. Abide in Jesus' words to ensure alignment with world standards. John 8:31-42	<b>False</b>

### **QUADRENNIAL PRIORITIES:**

Priority #4 Fair and Accessible Housing-- My people will live in peaceful dwelling places, in secure homes, in undisturbed places of rest. Isaiah 32:18 NIV

**OFFERING:** Human Rights Day Celebration offerings are sent to support the work of CWU National movement.

**OFFERING PRAYER – Marleen Lippert:** (by Rev. Billie J. Simmons)

God, we give thanks for Your presence in our lives. Bless this offering, that it may be used to advance Your kingdom, provide nourishment to the hungry and disadvantaged while glorifying Your name. And may our faith continue to grow stronger each day, bringing us closer to you. Amen.

**Fellowship of the Least Coin—Ann Sowaske:** Fellowship of the Least Coin (FLC) was envisioned by Shanti Solomon, a Christian woman from India, in 1956. Shanti was part of an international mission team led by Presbyterian women from the United States. Shanti asked them if they would also pray for justice, peace, and reconciliation for women and girls around the world. She asked the team if they would give a token - a least coin in their currency - whenever they prayed for justice, peace, and reconciliation.

**SONG OF PRAISE SUGGESTION:** “Power in the Blood”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y2VhXwpANgI>

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

### **CLOSING SONG:**

2026 Celebration Theme Song: “He’s Got the Whole World

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d-xK8ArLEP0>

**CLOSING PRAYER:** (by Rev. Billie J. Simmons)

Guide us, through the love you revealed, to establish the justice you proclaimed, that all people might dwell in harmony and peace, united by that one love that binds us to each other, and You. Continue to motivate us to think more and to help those who are going through trials and discontent. Lord, you created us to be in harmony with others and to help our fellow man. Guide us, Father, as we continue to do Your will. Amen.

**SENDING FORTH:**

“As we leave this place today, let us remember we are an ecumenical movement of women who have

Agreed to Differ, Resolved to Love, and United to Serve.”

**ACTION ACTIVITIES TAKE AWAY: (ideas to implement after the program)**

Our hope is that you will be inspired to take action in your community as it pertains to each Celebration. This could be helpful to increase membership in your unit.