



Home Moravian Church Women's Fellowship

Deepening relationships with God and one another through Christian fellowship and service to all.

Circle Update

Six Circles met in November, and the generosity, engagement, and spirituality of the women of Home Church were on full display. There was a fabulous potluck dinner, a presentation on the walks from Bethlehem to Salem with lunch catered by the Second Harvest culinary program, wonderful devotion and mission discussions, many lifted up in prayer, and lots of giving.

As we prepared for Candle Tea and the holidays, Circle members worked together with Women's Fellowship to:

- Donate to the Beds for New Beginnings project sponsored by World Relief Triad. With matching funds from the Women's Fellowship Benevolence Fund, the women of the church donated over \$1600.00 which will provide six beds for refugee families moving to Winston-Salem.
- Donate gifts for Sunnyside Ministries and coats for the Community Coat Closet
- In December, circles delivered Christmas bags put together by the Congregational Care Committee to our "at home" members.
- Stock (through donations, gifts, and ingenuity) and then operated the Holiday Store at Diggs-Latham, providing every student the opportunity to select a gift for an adult in their life.

In addition to those collaborative activities, individual Circles

- Bought gift cards for Diggs Latham teachers
- Bought gift cards for Jonathan Sink, the policeman who serves us so faithfully
- Provided cookies for the Prison Ministry
- Bought Sunday School supplies for The Dwelling
- Provided an Advent wreath for St Phillips
- Donated to Holiday Hens for Sunnyside
- Donated to the Moravian Music Festival
- Donated to the Family Assistance Fund at the SECU Family House

Circles did not meet in December but will resume in January. Upcoming opportunities for Circles to collaborate with Women's Fellowship in the new year include hosting the Church Women United event on January 20th, Day of Prayer on February 14th, and working with Home Missions to provide lunch at The Dwelling on February 25th.

Women's Retreat

In September, 17 women gathered at Laurel Ridge for the annual Women's Retreat. Seven were attending for the first time! The Rev. Rebecca Craver lead the group in an examination of the stories of our lives and ways that we can share those stories. It was a fun and meaningful experience for all who attended.



Our Women's Fellowship is hosting a breakfast at 9:30 a.m., **January 20**, to observe the 2024 Human Rights Celebration of the **Forsyth County Church Women United**. We have been a supporting member of the local unit of this international organization since the mid 1980's. Each year, members of our fellowship attend the four local celebrations with sisters of other churches and denominations. Plan to attend this meeting to learn more about CWU and to hear how we, as citizens in this community, can join with others to address the challenges of our neighbors.

This event is the sole fund-raiser of the local CWU; the cost is \$10.00. Reservations are requested. Watch for additional publicity. You are invited to bring canned foods to share with food pantries and an offering.

Contact Mallie Graham (336-816-0248) or Peggy Dodson (336) 813-6737 for information.

Ash Wednesday Day of Prayer will take place at 11:00 am, **February 14, 2024**, in the Home Church sanctuary. A coffee hour will precede the service and will begin at 10:00 am. Child-care will be available for children under 5 during the service. We will be welcoming the Rev. Nancy Johnson Vader as our speaker. Rev. Vader serves as Director of Outreach for St. Paul's Episcopal Church in downtown Winston-Salem and has a background in hospital and hospice chaplaincy. She is familiar with Home Church, having attended Salem Academy as a high school student and is excited about joining us for the service. **We are in need of greeters for the service.** If you are available for that day, please let Julie Atwood know, at jaatwood@gmail.com or 336-414-7154.

Thank You: In gratitude for the Women's Fellowship Leadership Team who served from July 2021 – June 2023, the current leadership team donated a Moravian star for the Unity Women's Desk Celebration and Fundraiser in October 2023.

This team served as the leadership of our newly envisioned Women's Fellowship. We are deeply indebted to our sisters for their affirmation of our vision and mission and for their implementation of the new governance, organization, and operations. In appreciation to Harriet Wood, Katrina Bodford, Cara Shaffner, Katherine Vogler, Elaine Peddycord, and Laura Watson who, during a time of change, called us *to deepen our relationships with God and one another through Christian fellowship and service to all.*



Candle Tea

A sincere thank you to Jean Craddock, chair, and her team of resolute committee members who for two years have led us back not only to an “inside” Tea but also to a Tea with new components and new volunteers. We look forward to a report that will be shared with fellowship members.

Our Candle Tea does not happen without the commitment of members of our Women’s Fellowship. Thank you, also, for your continuing devotion to *kindling a flame of love for the Christ child in the hearts of our visitors.*

Interest Groups

- Watch for information on the Lent *Praying in Color* opportunity for personal and group reflection.
- Our **“walking sisters” group** will pick up in March. Plan to join this healthy, happy bunch!
- **The Soup Group** is busy chopping, stirring and simmering wonderful soups for you to deliver to anyone in your life in need of a little comfort. The frozen soups are available in quart sized containers in the Fellowship Hall freezer. Please pick some up, sign the sheet on the freezer door and deliver with love and blessings from you and The Soup Group! If this sounds like a ministry you’d like to be involved in - we’d love to have you join us in the kitchen! Contact Debbie Drake (debbtide75@gmail.com) or Lucy Strawsburg (Lucystraws@gmail.com), and we’ll add you to our roster.

If you are inspired to bring together a group for study, ministry, fun, service, entertainment - you name it, contact Peggy Dodson at peggypdodson@gmail.com or (336) 813-6737.