Women’s Week in the UCC

This week is recognized as Women’s Week in the UCC. What woman has been instrumental in your life? I hope that each of you have a woman in your life that was/is as encouraging and loving as I have experienced.

I have been blessed to have strong women in my life. My grandmother was an amazing woman. I remember her like it was yesterday! She would stop whatever she was doing to spend time with me. There was a porch swing on the front of my grandfather’s home. She would sit and swing with me for hours talking about whatever I wanted to talk about. Or answering any questions I asked, and I asked a lot of questions—still do. She would play badminton or just throw a baseball, whatever I wanted to do. I hold those memories to this day deep within my heart and soul. I still wear her bracelet from time to time when I need confidence and assurance. She was my rock, taken away much too soon from a stroke.

My mother, her daughter, was also an amazing woman. A woman caught between the changing of times. As a young woman, she worked at a drugstore downtown, but when she got married, she gave up any thoughts of being a career woman to become a stay-at-home mother. She kept things going at home on the small farm. My Dad was a rural mail carrier and left the house at 3 a.m. each morning. She was responsible for feeding the animals and chopping ice on the pond, so the animals had plenty of water on those very cold winter mornings. My mom had aspirations of something more, but she gave all of that up for my dad, brother and me. To the day she died, she was a strong woman who worked hard and did what she needed to do.

I’m so thankful to have had these women in my life. I’m so thankful to have had such amazing women as my role model. To this day I model my grandparenting from my grandmother.

Take time this week and call or visit with that woman in your life that has made you who you are. Take them out to lunch, or just for coffee. Maybe send them a card letting them know how important they have been in your life.

History has not always treated women well. There have been and still are places that do not value women in leadership, even the Church. The women who have gone before us have worked hard to pave the way for us today and I thank God for every one of them. I thank God for those women who were willing to forge the way into ministry for women. Because of their courage and their willingness to follow their calling, women in ministry benefit today.

I believe that God has created us all in the image of Godself. Each of us is a child of God. No matter where you are or what you do, let us as women make a difference wherever we may live and move and have our being.

-Rev. Sharon S Morris, Associate Conference Minister