

Church Women United in Madison, Wisconsin

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www.churchwomenunited-madison.net

C. W. U. Newsletter October 2024 No. 12

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WORLD COMMUNITY DAY

Forum

FRIDAY, November 1, 2024

9:30- 11:30 A.M.

Honoring Dr. Marcus Allen, Community Leader

**Mt. Zion Baptist Church
2019 Fisher St Madison, WI**

streaming on YouTube (MTZ Life)
and **Facebook Live (Mt. Zion Baptist Church)**

The banner features a dark blue background with a repeating pattern of "MT. ZION BAPTIST CHURCH" in white. On the left, there are four small, overlapping photographs showing people in various social settings: a man and woman at a table, a woman hugging a man, a man and woman talking, and a group of people. On the right, the church's logo is at the top left, followed by the name "Mt. Zion Baptist Church" in a white script font. Below this, the text "LIVE OUR FAITH", "LOVE OUR FAMILY", and "LIFT OUR COMMUNITY" is displayed in large, bold, white capital letters. At the bottom right, there is a QR code, the website "www.mtzlife.com", and social media handles for Instagram (@MTZLIFE) and Facebook (Mt. Zion Baptist Church). A small line of text reads: "Visit the app store on your phone and search 'MTZ LIFE' to download our app."



Dr. Marcus D. Allen Sr.: A Life of Service and Faith

Dr. Marcus D. Allen Sr., born in Clarksdale, MS, and raised in Milwaukee, WI, has dedicated his life to faith, service, and community. Licensed to preach in July 1997 and ordained in July 2005 at Mt. Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church under Pastor George H. Jolly, Dr. Allen has been a beacon of spiritual guidance and leadership. His early years at Mt. Pilgrim shaped him into the impactful preacher he is today.

Dr. Allen honorably served in the United States Army for over a decade as a Petroleum Supply Specialist. His military journey took him to Germany, where he deployed to Iraq in 2003. In 2004, he joined the 101st Screaming Eagles at Fort Campbell, KY, completing two more combat tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. As a Staff Sergeant, he led numerous soldiers in combat, ensuring their safe return. His final duty station was at Fort Lee, VA, where he served as an instructor at the Petroleum and Water Department. His military accolades include the Army Achievement Medal, the Army Accommodation Medal (5), the Bronze Star Medal, and numerous other awards.

During his military service, Dr. Allen also ministered to soldiers in Afghanistan and Iraq, providing spiritual support and motivation amidst the challenges of war. His dedication to God and country changed lives and saved souls, guided by the Holy Spirit. From September 2012 to October 2016, Dr. Allen served as the Senior Pastor of Union Branch Baptist Church in Prince George, VA. His passion for youth and young adult ministry led him to create and establish the Young Adult Ministry at Tabernacle Baptist Church in Petersburg, VA, under Pastor Robert A. Diggs. This ministry focused on helping young adults navigate life's transitions and deepen their faith.

Dr. Allen holds a Master of Divinity from the Samuel Dewitt Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University and a Doctor of Ministry Degree from Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary, which he received on May 19, 2018. He is married to Terra Cook of Cordova, AL, and they are blessed with three children: Alexandria, MeKiyah, and Marcus Jr., a son-in-law, Minister Richard Jones Jr., and granddaughters, Lily and Layla.

In 2019, Dr. Allen became the president of the African American Council of Churches and received the Outstanding Community Service Award from the Madison Metropolitan Links, Inc. His first book, "I Got Next," was published in June 2020. This book focuses on pastoral leadership and transition. He received the Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice "Voice for Justice" Award in 2022 and initiated the 1st Annual Gospel Preaching Summit in collaboration with Upper House at the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

Dr. Allen was the keynote speaker for the state celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day at the Wisconsin State Capitol on January 15, 2024, and received the city of Madison Rev. James C. Wright Humanitarian Award on July 16, 2024. He is also a professor at the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary and Moody Theological Seminary. Dr. Marcus Allen's profound love for God's word and people, coupled with his generous spirit, defines his ministry. He is devoted to proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ, making the Word of God relevant in believers' lives, and building the Kingdom of God within his congregation and community.

The September 6, 2024 Forum was JustDane, presented by John Givens at Dale Heights Presbyterian Church in Madison. There were 19 participants in attendance. Wendy Weber, the host key woman of CWU provided the welcome and gave several announcements.

Ann Sowaske introduced the speaker, John Givens and Jackie from JustBakery. John first described his personal history. He was born in Mississippi, grew up in New Orleans, LA, served in the Air Force. On his 18th birthday at Lackland AFB he smoked his first pot. He was stationed at several bases including Guam, Thailand and Vietnam. He was honorably discharged at Niagara Falls, NY. He became involved with heroin use and committed three armed robberies to support his drug habit. He was sentenced to 56 years in Waupun prison. He took HS courses, got his GED, became a skilled printer and upholstery repairman. In 1972 he got out of prison and moved to Madison where he worked for the Urban League with released prisoners. At age 33 he completed a college degree in business. He has been married 44 years and has 10 grandchildren. John got a pardon from Gov. Tony Evers in 2021. John retired from his business in 2008 and works for Madison Urban Ministry (now JustDane). He directs a support group for prisoners 6-9 months before they get out (Release Plan). They identify housing, banking, education (MATC) and work plans. He uses simulation, role play and peer support.

Jackie volunteered with John for four years. She has taught and is an administrator, teaching life skills, time management and self-care. She also works with employers. This program has a 93 percent success rate!

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED OF MADISON CALENDAR November 2024 to May 2025

Friday, Nov 1, 2024 World Community Day Forum, 9:30-11:30 AM. Mt Zion Baptist Church, 2019 Fisher St., Madison. Community Service Award for Dr Marcus Allen. Celebration Chair: Carolyn Rumph

Friday, Jan 10, 2025 Human Rights Celebration Forum, 9:30-11:30 AM. First Baptist Church, Award for (TBA), Celebration Chair: Carolyn Rumph

Friday, Feb 7, 2025 **CWU Board Meeting** 9:30-11:30 AM. Bethany United Methodist Church, Room 205, Key Woman: Linda Snell

Friday, March 7, 2025 World Day of Prayer, First Church of Christ. Scientist, 610 S, Segoe Rd, Madison. Key Woman: Cymbre van Fossen; Celebration Chair: Carolyn Rumph

Friday, April 18, 2025 9:30-11:30 AM. **CWU Board Meeting**, 9:30-11:30 AM. Bethany United Methodist Church, Room 205, Key Woman: Linda Snell

Friday, May 2, 2025 MAY FRIENDSHIP DAY 9:30-11:30 AM. (TBD), Celebration Chair: Carolyn Rumph

FAIR SHARE ANNUAL CONTRIBUTIONS &
DONOR ONTRIBUTIONS FORM
FOR CHURCH WOMEN UNITED OF MADISON

Please Note: These contributions will be used for the general operating expenses of CWU of Madison, as well as for the Celebration materials, choir music, annual donations to selected community social services, and annual contribution to Church Women United of Wisconsin. GENERAL OPERATING EXPENSES include, in part, the cost of producing and mailing the CWU newsletter.

Please send in contributions by November 30 of each year. Our financial year ends on December 31 of each year.

FROM: _____
Name of church/organization or individual donor.

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CONTACT PERSON: _____
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Please make your check(s) payable to: **Church Women United of Madison** and send to:

Marleen S. Lippert, Treasurer,
CWU of Madison
6329 Scandia Lane
McFarland, WI 53558

Thank you for your financial assistance in carrying out the various projects of CWU. Your contributions are sincerely appreciated.

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