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www.churchwomenunited-madison.net

C. W. U. Newsletter October 2025 No. 13

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Church Women United

“World Community Day”

**Friday, November 7, 2025
9:30 AM to noon**

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

“CHOOSE KINDNESS”

All are welcome

Mt Zion Baptist Church
2019 Fisher Street, Madison WI 53713

The celebration will be live streamed on our YouTube Channel--MTZ Life Live and our Mt. Zion Baptist Church Facebook page.

Honoring Dr. Ruben Anthony



President/CEO Urban League of Greater Madison

Dr. Ruben Anthony has been the President and CEO of the Urban League of Greater Madison since March of 2015. He is leading the fight to build generational wealth for the BIPOC community through homeownership programs, and he is also co-founder of the Black Business Hub.

HISTORY OF WORLD COMMUNITY DAY:

World Community Day began in 1943 from discussions at a meeting of denominational presidents and executive secretaries asking that a day be set aside in the fall for the study of peace by church women. Although many denominations were printing their own studies on the new world order, it was determined at this meeting that their unity would be strengthened on one day of united study. World Community Day continues to emphasize peace but has been broadened to include justice, a vital partner of peace. The once clear categories of “domestic” and “foreign” were consciously blurred so the global scope of the wide range of problems could be emphasized on World Community Day.

CWU HISTORY: 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.

Review of the **CWU September Forum**
September 5, 2025 Dale Heights Presbyterian Church
“Building Housing Stability” by WayForward

Pianist: June Zeeh

Speakers: Taylor Rozman and Jill Bradshaw

Attendance: 13

10:09 AM Call to order by Ann Sowaske

Welcome – Wendy Weber, CWU Keywoman for Dale Heights Presbyterian Church welcomed us and expressed our pleasure at having the speakers from WayForward here.

1. Speakers: Taylor Rozman and Jill Bradshaw. Taylor works with people who need housing and Jill is a manager at WayForward, doing tours, speaks at churches and schools. She does the data-based work.
2. Mission of WayForward: to create food and housing security through action and advocacy. Historically, WayForward started forty years ago by the Middleton Outreach Ministry (MOM).
Last year over 15,000 people were served which is twice the historic average number. Mostly, these are families with young children.
Food pantry on Parameter St. is open five days per week, including nights. Anyone in Dane Co can shop there. Over 1500 pounds of food are donated and used per month. They also deliver food to people who can't come to the pantry because of disabilities or no transportation. There is also a free clothing center and a large back-to-school program for kids' clothes and supplies. Volunteers do the delivery to over 27,000 houses and work places.
3. Sources of Food for the food pantry: The food rescue program from several grocery stores provides food from unused kitchen surplus. Also Second Harvest Warehouse has a food bank that provides low-priced food which is part of the “Feeding America” Program (16 counties).
4. Housing Overview: Taylor gave a broad definition of “homelessness.” People staying in shelters or in cars, etc. HUD (government) conducts an annual point-in-time count on a designated night in January to count homeless numbers. This number is always lower than the real homeless number because many people double up with family members, stay with friends, self-pay for motel rooms, stay in garages or other places not meant for human habitation.
5. Why Housing Matters: If evicted, it is harder to find work, attend school, etc. Eviction leads to “toxic stress.” Is EPIC to blame? Highly paid workers may grab the lower cost housing. In Dane Co. the “fair rent” for a 2-bedroom house is too high! Most of the housing crisis is in rentals. High income renters are “buying down,” taking all the low cost housing. In Dane Co over 50% of renters pay more than 30% of their income for housing. “Rent eats first” before feeding the family.
6. Case Managers: Jill works with people who have immediate needs, like direct assistance to prevent eviction, help pay for auto repairs, utility bills, child care, etc.

How to help: Support the National Low Income Housing Coalition; donations and advocacy are important actions to take. Also Badger State Housing Alliance, United Way, various grants and foundations.

Announcements

*Ann thanked the WayForward speakers

*Josie Gobel advocated for Terrecycle to recycle plastics which regular trash pick-up will not handle, e.g. toothbrushes, empty toothpaste tubes, floss containers, old pens and Sharpies, etc.

*Next CWU Board meeting is Friday, October 17, 2025 at 9:30 AM at Bethany U Methodist Church.

***Donate pennies (and \$\$) for the Least Coin collection.**

***Friday, November 7, 2025 at Mt. Zion Baptist Church is the CWU Community Leadership Program, "Choose Kindness." Madison CWU will award our Community Leadership award to Dr. Ruben Anthony who is CEO for Madison's Urban League. Also, the CWU Valiant Woman award will be given to Ruth Hein.**

11:16 AM Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

JUDY LOVELESS
CWU Secretary

FAIR SHARE ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION &
DONOR CONTRIBUTIONS 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, 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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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.

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED OF MADISON WI

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