

XX

www.churchwomenunited-madison.net

C. W. U. Newsletter January 2026 No. 14

XX

Church Women United Human Rights Day

Friday, February 6, 2026

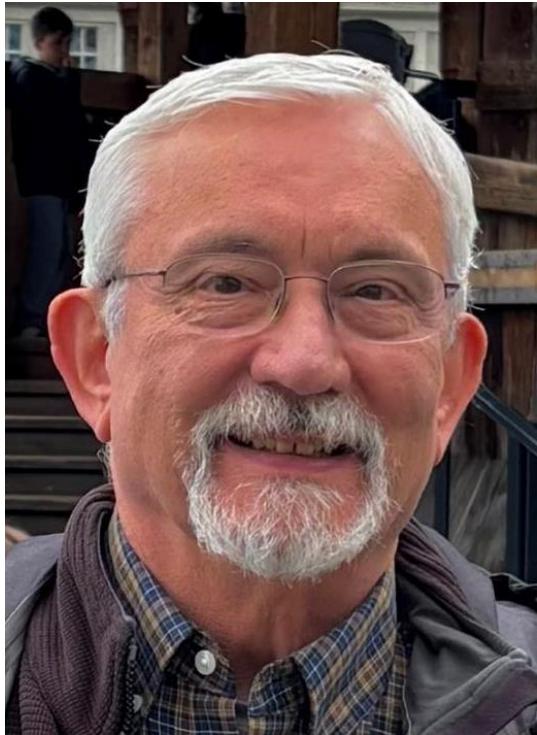
9:30 AM to noon

All are welcome

First Baptist Church
518 N Franklin Avenue, Madison WI 53705

Honoring Rod McKinzie

**A Zoom link will be provided to the email list closer to the
Friday, Feb. 6th date**



HUMAN RIGHTS DAY AWARD: ROD MCKENZIE

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.

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.

SCHEDULE OF CWU CELEBRATIONS AND EVENTS FOR 2026

***Feb 6, 2026 Human Rights Day** at First Baptist Church, 9:30 to Noon

***March 6, 2026 World Day of Prayer** at Church of Christian Scientist, 10 to Noon

***May 1, 2026 May Friendship Day** at Mt Zion Baptist Church, 10 to Noon, lunch Noon

***September 11, 2026 CWU Forum** at Dale Heights Presbyterian Church, 10 to Noon

***November 6, 2026 World Community Day** at Mt Zion Baptist Church, 10 to Noon

FAIR SHARE ANNUAL CONTRIBUTIONS
& 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.

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

EMAIL: _____

CONTACT PERSON: _____
For church or organization.

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____ EMAIL: _____

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
% Ann Sowaske
6720 Century Avenue #317
Middleton, WI 53562
Email address: cwumadison@gmail.com